



Newsletter

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SUMMER 2021

Camp Transports Families Into The Wild



Camp Happy Days finally made our long-awaited return to our camp home, Camp Bob Cooper in Summerton, for four amazing days of Family Camp from July 3-7. More than 21 families joined 50 volunteers, counselors, and staff members for our 2021 camp, enjoying the beautiful weather over the long Fourth of July weekend. Although Family Camp looked a little different than our typical week of camp, we carried on classic camp traditions like Fourth of July fireworks, team-building activities, tubing, and cooking s'mores over a camp fire. Campers visited with old friends, and introduced their parents to program areas like early-morning fishing, boating, the rock wall, Painter's Pit, arts and crafts, and woodworking. Family Camp featured a petting zoo and a visit from the Kona Shaved Ice truck, movie night, and a golf cart crawl, and wrapped up on Monday night with a competitive night of family Bingo.

Meanwhile, our virtual Camp in a Backpack helped 130 campers at home and in the hospital join in the fun. Even campers who could not come to camp participated virtually in Tea Time with the Sea Queen, a tour of the South Carolina Aquarium, a Pig Derby, cooking, crafts, painting, yoga, and tie-dye and even joined in live for family Bingo. They had time to bond with friends and counselors through cabin chats and bedtime stories, and we look forward to the day we can all be back together in person! (Cont. on Page 2)

Camp Happy Days To Host Night at The RiverDogs

Camp Happy Days is excited to partner with the Charleston RiverDogs for Pediatric Cancer Awareness Month! Please join us on Sunday, September 12 at 5pm for this home-run event that will be fun for everyone! Our families, volunteers and campers will fill the stands, enjoy ball-park treats and watch some great baseball on this special night.



We invite our supporters to join us at The Segra Club, which overlooks the ball field and provides unparalleled views of the Ashley River. Tickets include complimentary drinks and delicious food from RiverDogs executive chef Josh Shea. There will also be an exciting silent auction with some great items to add to the fun. Families, volunteers, and campers can email Emj at Emj@CampHappyDays.com for free tickets. To purchase your tickets to the Segra Club, please visit camphappydays.org and look under Events.

Camp Transports Families Into The Wild (cont.)

Every day during camp, Camp Happy Days staff delivered free meals to MUSC's pediatric oncology patients, family members, and staff. We cannot express our gratitude enough to the nurses and doctors who work so hard for our kids, and this is a small way to make sure they, and families with a child currently hospitalized, are included in the warmth and joy of camp. More than 670 meals were discounted or donated by The Kickin' Chicken, Mosaic Catering and Events, Maple Street Biscuit Company, Swig & Swine, Apple Spice, Dunkin' Donuts and The Peanut Gang.



Camp Happy Days is thankful for the support of our partners and sponsors who make camp possible. Our 2021 camps, virtual and in-person, showed how life-changing this fun, love, and laughter can be for kids facing cancer and for their families. We could not have accomplished it without our dozens of passionate volunteers and supporters.

Camp Happy Days Launches Campaign For New Facility



This artist's rendering shows Camp Happy Days' new building at 933 Dupont Road, which will have a playground, garden, family lounge, and activity rooms.

This year, Camp Happy Days will be moving to a new, bigger and more program-focused home: a facility that allows us to increase our services to include more frequent and consistent on-site programs that will benefit each individual in the family. These programs will be in addition to our 14 cost-free, year-round programs for children and families.

Previously, we were limited by the restricted size of our office space and could not hold in-house programming. This new building, located at 933 Dupont Road in Charleston will transform how we can support kids with cancer, offering more space and flexibility to host activities that were impossible in our old office.

Camp will still be our signature program, and we will continue to host programs at our favorite places as we always have. Our new home at 933 Dupont Road will have a family lounge, multi-purpose and large activity room, kitchen, backyard and garden, and playground equipment for kids to enjoy every day of the year as well as additional storage and meeting space for our camp equipment and committees. This space will let Camp Happy Days significantly expand what we offer, giving families a welcoming place away from the hospital all year long. We hope to offer arts and crafts, cooking, yoga, team-building exercises, overnight lock-ins, movie nights, clubs and support groups in the 4,500 square foot space.

You can be a part of this transformational effort by donating to help us create a place where children and families can escape the devastating stress of dealing with cancer. 933 Dupont Road will be a place where kids play, learn and make new friends – and where families share their questions and concerns. It will be a haven where Camp Happy Days can provide the best programs, in the best location, as we carefully tailor our efforts to the needs of our families.

Please join our fundraising effort today! Visit camphappydays.org and select 933 Campaign from our menu.

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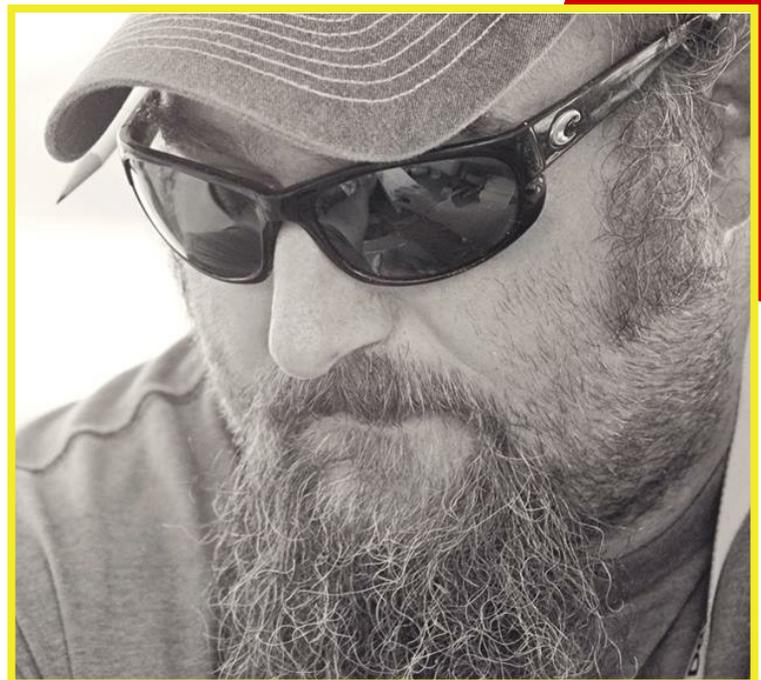
Volunteer Spotlight: Mike Joyner & Alicia Meadows



Alicia Meadows has been a familiar face at Camp Happy Days for nearly 20 years. She first came to camp in 2000, when her former brother-in-law was a camper. “I heard him talk about it and I thought, as soon as I’m old enough, I’m coming—you guys are having too much fun without me,” she said.

The next year, she couldn’t get time off from her job, so she didn’t return. “I felt off, all year, and I couldn’t figure out why it was,” she recalled. “And then the next year I went back and said, oh, this is what I missed. This is the reset that I needed.” She hasn’t missed a summer since. Her partner, Mike Joyner, joined her in 2015.

Now, during camp, Alicia can be found at the lake waterfront and Mike is in woodworking helping campers with their derby cars. They are dorm leaders for the teen girls and boys. Both plan their summers around camp.



“Sometimes I wonder if camp does more for me than it does for the kids,” Mike said. “It’s good to know that you’re a part of something bigger than just you. It’s cool to help, and to know that you’re giving people a chance to be normal when their whole world is upside down.”

“None of the kids act like they are sick there,” he said of camp. “And that’s the great thing—to see somebody, especially a kid, who’s going through such traumatic times just be able to be a who-cares kid.”

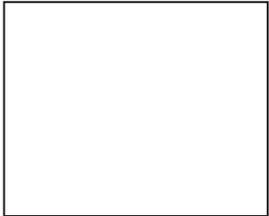
Mike and Alicia stay engaged with Camp Happy Days year-round. They shop for gifts during the Holiday Giving drive, help pack boxes, lead activities, and provide tech support for virtual camp. They also serve on the Camp Planning Committee. “You don’t just dip your toe in,” Mike said of their commitment to Camp Happy Days. “If you think you want to try it, come and try it. Once you experience it, there’s no question after that.”



Through Camp in a Backpack, campers at home and in the hospital got to participate in yoga, bedtime stories, cabin chats, and more. Camp was held virtually and in-person this year. Here we see the campers learn about the South Carolina Aquarium and meet the Sea Queen (AKA: EmJ)!



1064 Gardner Road, Suite 205
Charleston, SC 29407



UNTIL THERE'S A CURE...



**THERE'S
CAMP HAPPY DAYS!**
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Camp Happy Days' mission is to offer support and encouragement to children diagnosed with cancer and their families by providing cost free year-round programs, special events, and access to crisis resources.



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