



Until there's a cure...there's Camp Happy Days!



# IMPACT REPORT

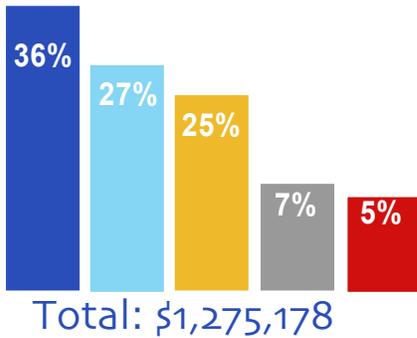
October 1, 2020 - September 30, 2021

# Financial Information

OCTOBER 1, 2020 – SEPTEMBER 30, 2021

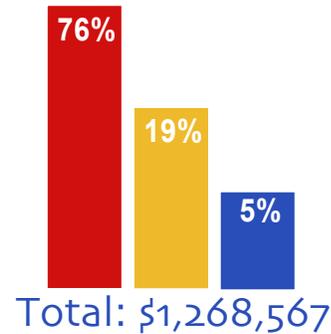
## Revenue

Grants - \$461,206  
In-Kind Gifts - \$346,887  
Contributions - \$313,691  
Investment Income - \$86,372  
Special Events - \$67,017



## Expenses

Programs and Camp - \$963,237  
Fundraising - \$237,586  
General & Administrative - \$67,644



## Our Mission

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 crisis resources. Our goal is to improve the physical, emotional and psychological health of the entire family facing pediatric cancer.

## 2020 - 2021 At a Glance....

- ★ We held 40 virtual and in-person events, including Family Camp, Teen Weekend, Doodlebug Days, Dream Dates, Bedtime Stories and Cabin Chats.
- ★ We served 623 children with cancer.
- ★ We served 1,066 children, including siblings.
- ★ We served 651 families.
- ★ We provided \$35,000 in financial assistance to families.

# Camp INTO THE WILD 2021

Camp Happy Days celebrated our return to Camp Bob Cooper by welcoming 19 families to Family Camp. Keeping campers in their family units kept Covid-19 risk low—and introduced parents and guardians to the joys of camp they don't usually get to see!

For four days families boated and fished, did woodworking and arts and crafts, climbed the rock wall, and had fun at movie night, bingo night, and a golf cart crawl. They learned about camp traditions like Team Building and Fourth of July fireworks, and got into the spirit of this year's camp theme, 'Into the Wild.' Most importantly, they got to witness the joy camp brings to kids.

We also delivered 171 backpacks full of crafts, snacks and activities to kids around the state for our second virtual camp. Camp in a Backpack brought camp to kids who couldn't be there in person, in their homes and through our four partner hospitals. Counselors tuned in between activities at Family Camp to lead online sessions, and kids even participated in fireworks and bingo night via livestream.

Camp Happy Days means belonging—to a community, a family, and a group of people who understand the challenges that come with pediatric cancer. Our 2021 camps made sure that every child facing cancer in South Carolina had a chance to be a part of something magical this summer.



“Camp is a gift for everyone, but as a medical provider, it is a true gift to us. We take care of these children in the hospital, when they are sick or getting treatments. We don’t get to see them having fun and playing like kids should—until we come to camp!”

~Dr. Anca Dimitriu, MUSC

## Family Spotlight The Ruiz Family

Izabella Ruiz, 10, first came to camp in 2019. In 2020, she and her brother Charlie participated in virtual Camp in a Box due to Covid-19. Then, in 2021, the entire Ruiz family joined Camp Happy Days for a long weekend of Family Camp—giving them every possible take on the Camp Happy Days experience!

Izabella was diagnosed with pre-B acute lymphoblastic leukemia (ALL) in 2018, when she was seven. ALL interferes with white blood cell production, resulting in pain, fatigue, infection, bruising, and bleeding. It is the most common form of leukemia in children.

Izabella is now in remission thanks to her medical team at the Shriners Hospital for Children in Greenville, S.C. It was the social worker there that introduced the family to Camp Happy Days.



“She told us about programs that could help Izabella—activities, and things we could get involved in,” said her mom, Betsy. “I signed her up for camp her first year, and then this year we attended as a family, which we really enjoyed.”

Of all the activities at Family Camp, the Ruiz family enjoyed the water most. “Flipping off the tube is something I don’t think my kids will ever forget,” Betsy said. “As kids, and as adults, it’s something you’ll always remember,” she said of camp. “It’s a nice break from the world, and from all the stressful things you have going on in your life.”

# Fall Teen Weekend



Our fall Teen Weekend was one of the highlights of the year. Twenty teens and five volunteers and staff camped at Oconee State Park for three fun-filled days of hiking, swimming, boating, and whitewater rafting in the Class Four rapids of the Chattooga River. In the evenings, campers prepared their own meals and cooked over an open fire, telling jokes and stories and taking silly Polaroids. All of the teens received a water bladder backpack and sun shirt for hiking and swimming, and earned badges for hiking, rafting, cooking, and looking for things in nature. Campers took care of their own camping equipment and learned about the Leave No Trace philosophy to be mindful of their impact on the environment. “Take nothing but pictures,” this philosophy says, and they took a lot of those!



# Volunteer Spotlight

## Chelsea McKinney



Chelsea McKinney has been involved with Camp Happy Days for 20 years—an incredible feat, considering she is not yet 30. Chelsea first came to camp as a camper at age eight. Her sister Taylor had leukemia and was treated at MUSC, where her family found Camp Happy Days and signed the girls up for their first year of camp.

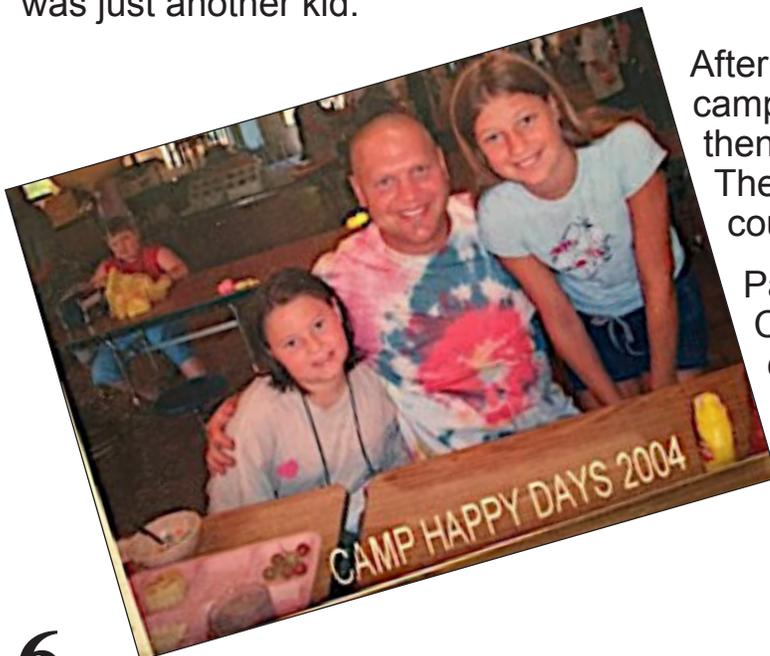
Their second year, Camp Happy Days needed volunteers to run the fishing dock. So Chelsea's dad Paul and his best friend Wes joined them. "And then, Camp became a family affair," said Chelsea. "Camp is still a very special place for me because I have those family memories there."

Taylor passed away three years later, when Chelsea was 12. "Some of my best memories of her are at camp," Chelsea said. "She wasn't really allowed to go to school or do a lot of the normal things that kids do. But at camp she was just another kid."



After finishing her years as a camper, Chelsea became a counselor and then a dorm leader for pre-teen and teen girls. The first cohort of campers she had as a junior counselor just graduated from college.

Paul and Wes still run the fishing dock. Chelsea's little brother Bryant, who started coming to camp at age four, is now 17 and in training to be a counselor. "Everyone who knows me knows that the week of July 4th, my commitment is to camp," Chelsea said. "And they know how much that means to me."



# Event Highlights



Earlier this year, Camp Happy Days threw its first benefit concert, *Hope Rocks!*. Since we could not hold our annual gala due to Covid-19, we tried something new, and Hope Rocks! was born. Nearly 500 people came out to enjoy the wonderful music, delicious food and beverages, and upbeat atmosphere.

The concert featured the South Carolina Lowcountry Music Hall of Fame inductees The Blue Dogs and DJ Natty Heavy was spinning tunes to set the mood at Firefly Distillery. Josh Marthers of Charleston's WCBD News 2 was the emcee. The event raised nearly \$215,000 for Camp Happy Days.



## Camp Happy Days Night at The RiverDogs

Camp Happy Days Night at The Charleston RiverDogs was a home run event where supporters, volunteers and families came together to recognize Pediatric Cancer Awareness Month. Prior to the game children created donut baseballs and rainbows at Hampton Park. Nearly 100 donors, sponsors, and supporters mingled, placed bids on incredible auction items, and watched the game in the beautiful Segra Club. More than 200 children, their family members, and volunteers filled the stands, enjoyed ballpark treats and cheered the team on. One of our campers, Nyeem, threw out the first pitch! Together, we raised close to \$40,000 to help kids kickin' cancer.





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