Four hundred eighty-eight days had come and gone since the final camper attended a family retreat in 2020. On July 9, 2021 the fun filled days at camp began again after months of developing an inclusive and safe re-opening plan with up-to-date cleanliness and distancing standards. Five different illness groups were served with the promise of being transported into the Wild, Wild West! Our country western theme was brought to life for all our camper families this summer. These families participated in many activities during their time here. Some of the highlights include the Courtyard Carnival, Stage Night, and Bingo tournaments in the Adventure Lodge tree house. The attending families were recruited with the help and support of our dedicated Healthcare Partners. These partners include: Norton Children's Hospital Foundation, Norton Healthcare's Institute for Health Equity, Down Syndrome Association Middle Tennessee, and Spina Bifida Association of Kentucky.

**Special Delivery: Cubby Crates**

New in 2021, CCK developed a way to give the joy of camp to children at home and in the hospital with an outreach program called Cubby Crates. With the help of our sponsors, we filled this camp-in-a-box full of fun and interactive activities for children. Drop off locations in our community included: Norton Children’s Hospital, Children’s Hospital at Vanderbilt, Kentucky Children’s Hospital, Spina Bifida Association of Kentucky, and The Kidz Club in Bowling Green. Nationwide deliveries were made possible with the help of the Healthcare Partner, The Coalition Against Pediatric Pain (TCAPP).

**Leading the Way**

CCK ROAR Camper Ambassador, Blake Harston, is a Scottsville, KY native. To celebrate the end of the school year in May, Blake invited the Auntie Anne’s Pretzel Truck from Elizabethtown, KY to join him in a community fundraiser for CCK. With his leadership and hard work, Blake was able to raise $374.26. We are proud of Blake and the other CCK ROAR Camper Ambassadors like him!
“A major factor in becoming a phenomenal volunteer is to ‘Clarify Your Why’ for serving the community. This is a simple and profound step to help ensure that both you and the organization are maximizing your time, talent, and treasure.”

-Derek Young, author of Make My Hindsight Your 20/20
Uncertainty Equals Opportunity

It is often said that when things change, or life becomes uncertain, there is opportunity right around the corner. The Center for Courageous Kids, like everyone, experienced change and uncertainty in abundance this year. In the midst, we took the opportunity to update and renovate our facility. During this time, we have freshened up our Dining Hall with new furniture, paint, and artwork (pictured, left), replaced siding on program buildings, updated sections of roofing, and so much more. When the time comes, we are excited to show it all off to our friends, supporters, families, and campers!

CCK Camper: Getting Involved & Shining Bright

Earlier this year, a very special camper showed interest in being involved with CCK in any way she could. It is no secret to anyone that Marieka Aboagye has one of the biggest hearts and bubbliest personalities of any kid to roll through our gates. Marieka is 10 years old and her full name means “Miracle born on Friday”. She was born with a condition called sacral agenesis, which simply means that her spine is missing from the T11 vertebrae down. Most of her life must be lived with the use of her wheelchair and the assistance of her care-providers. However, none of that inhibits her ability to make friends, get involved, and try new things. Some of Marieka’s favorite CCK activities include; horseback riding, art therapy, swimming, and the all camp food fight called Messy Games. In her own words, Marieka says, “I love to come to camp at CCK! It’s a place where I can be around kids just like me.” We are so thankful for Marieka’s involvement at CCK and can’t wait to see how she continues to grow with us.

Are You Inspired by Marieka’s Story?

Share Your Own with Us!

Email: Emily@courageouskids.org re: My Camp Story

Marieka attends the awards ceremony of the 2nd Annual Shooting for a Cause clay shoot tournament at the Nashville Gun Club. Presented by M & L Electrical, Inc., this fun event featured over 20 teams on the outdoor course, raising $72,275 and making a difference for the courageous kids we serve!

Instilling inspiration and empowerment while enhancing the lives of children with serious illnesses.

www.courageouskids.org

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