

CAMPfire connection

A Brand New Summer

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!



Camper Ambassador



On August 25th, CCK hosted the first **Mission Minded Leadership Luncheon** at The Charleston in Bowling Green, KY. Nearly 100 attendees, all personal guests and invited by the CCK Advocacy Committee, showed up to share a meal and learn about serving their community from keynote Speaker **Derek Young** (left).

“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*

Mission Minded

Small in Number, Volunteers Make a BIG Impact

In light of all that has been happening in our community and around the globe, when programming returned at CCK, we knew we would need volunteers who were just as dedicated as us when it came to providing safe and consistent activities. Lauren Roby, a student at Western Kentucky University and a future physical therapist sat with Krista Reece, Volunteer Recruiter at CCK, and answered these questions about her time as a volunteer staff member at CCK.

Krista Reece: Why did you decide to volunteer at CCK?

Lauren Roby: I love having the opportunity to serve and work with kids. I had heard that CCK was a special place and it was indeed!

KR: You have been to CCK several times now. What is your favorite part about being a volunteer staff member at CCK?

LR: I have enjoyed building relationships with the kids and their families. It has been so special to be a part of place that makes a great impact on others' lives.

KR: There are so many activities at CCK, the fun just keeps going and going. Which activity do you enjoy the most?

LR: The activity that I like the most at CCK is the carnival. I was usually tasked with painting faces and it is always so sweet to see the kids' smiling faces when they look in the mirror!

KR: How has volunteering at CCK impacted your life?

LR: CCK has provided me with a wonderful opportunity to serve others in need. This experience has been very rewarding and has expanded my capacity to love others to a greater extent.

Lauren Roby

A Community Driven to Help

Whether its crayons, paint, pharmaceutical supplies, or wash cloths, CCK volunteers proved they were ready to support us with any supply we needed! Several local businesses, schools, churches, and individuals worked with our Volunteer Recruiter to organize item drives across our community. CCK would like to wholeheartedly thank Indiana University MAPS Program, Coral Hill Baptist Church Ladies of Faith, Carol Crowe & Brian Jarvis, Sumner County Elementary School, and the WKU Nursing Program.



Friends in Healthcare

Adrian O'Hagan, M.D. is a Pediatric Pulmonologist and Adult Cystic Fibrosis Physician at the University of Louisville Norton Children's Hospital. Every day he spends time treating children with various respiratory conditions. In his time as a physician, a common theme he has noticed is, "Patients with chronic illnesses try to maintain a sense of normalcy in childhood."

“We are lucky to have a camp in Kentucky like CCK, that is designed just for kids with chronic illness and special needs.”

Dr. O'Hagan has three children, Brynna (aged 17), Zuzu (aged 6), Charlie (aged 2). Brynna attended The Center for Courageous Kids as a camper in the past. Since then, Dr.

O'Hagan has been a supporter of CCK's mission. Most recently, he attended a family retreat weekend in July with his wife and children.

Dr. O'Hagan describes the facilities, organized activities, food, and location as impressive. "Meeting other kids that share similar challenges is an invaluable gift that helps us realize we are not dealing with these issues alone," O'Hagan says. The advice he has for any parent considering sending their child to CCK as a camper is, "We are lucky to have a camp in Kentucky like CCK, that is designed just for kids with chronic illness and special needs. Just do it!"

Adrian O'Hagan, M.D.



**11-20-21
Highland Stables**

Moonshine & Music is CCK's signature annual event bringing the community together to enjoy a memorable experience while raising funds that may redefine a child's life through a fully-accessible camp experience. This year, our 400 attendees will enjoy an elegant plated dinner, wine pull, raffle, silent and live auctions, moonshine tastings by Sugarlands Distilleries, and live music by A Thousand Horses and Eric Paslay. It is sure to be a night to remember!



2019's Guest Speaker,
Laura Childers

Make Your Impact
Email: volunteer@centerforcourageouskids.org

CCK
BECOME A
PROUD NEW MEMBER
OF THE CAMPFIRE



Ember
MONTHLY GIVER

JOIN THE MOVEMENT:
courageouskids.org/donate

In 2021, we set a goal to build a CCK Campfire: a community of, at least 100, Ember Members on fire for our campers. We need you to fan the flame and join as an Ember Member today! Commit to just \$10 a month and give the joy of camp to children facing serious medical conditions.

ORDERUP
Make your Change Count

A community based fundraiser involving a different restaurant collaboration each month

Restaurants like:



To Participate is Simple:



• Dine at the participating restaurant



• Ask your waiter to round up the total to the nearest dollar at checkout



• Make your change count!



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.



Marieka Aboagye

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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