



*A place where kids
with cancer have fun!*

Camp Rising Sun Newsletter • July 2016

Congratulations To Our Newest MVP!

Hats off to Melissa Pandolfi who was honored by the New England Patriots as a recipient of a Myra Kraft Community MVP award.

Each year the New England Patriots accept nominations from non-profits from all of the New England states for a volunteer that is exceptional within their organization. From a field of over 450 worthy applicants, Melissa was chosen as one of 26 finalists and at a ceremony at Gillette stadium Melissa placed as first runner up and was awarded a \$10,000 grant for camp.

Melissa and her mom, Roseanne Pandolfi, counselor Kathy Castillo and nominator Tina Saunders attended the luncheon and ceremony hosted by the Kraft family and the New England Patriots. A special treat for the guests was a surprise appearance by Tom Brady and Rob Gronkowski. Congratulations and thank you, Melissa!



A Look Back: Mini-Camp Weekend 2016

After a long six months since last year's Camp Week, the campers and counselors of Camp Rising Sun held their mid-year reunion this past March at Camp Jewell for the annual Mini-Camp Weekend. Although Mini-Camp consists of just one full day, the staff was able to squeeze in a week's worth of fun that left the kids with just enough Camp memories until we regroup in August.

For the first time in the past four years, we had a snowless campground, but it didn't matter. We were occupied with so many activities that it wouldn't have

mattered if it was raining, snowing or 100 degrees outside.

Campers had fun doing crafts, shooting BB guns, singing karaoke, playing games, and stacking crates. Campers also enjoyed sports, tasty treats, candle making, rockets, bracelet making, the cupcake truck, a visit from our new friends at Love Your Melon, and a comedic and unusual version of "Simon Says".

With all of that fun packed into one day, just imagine what we have planned for the whole week in August!



It is our mission at Camp Rising Sun to provide a safe nurturing environment to kids who have faced the diagnosis of cancer, so that they may grow and learn from their experiences to become the best they can be.

*Camp Rising Sun Charitable Foundation
P.O. Box 472
Branford, CT 06405*

www.camprisingsun.com



SUBARU share the love EVENT

Every year, Subaru puts on its “Share the Love” event, where anyone purchasing or leasing a new Subaru can direct a \$250 donation to one of four national charities or to a hometown charity selected by the local dealership. For the second year in a row, Premier Subaru of Branford selected Camp Rising Sun as their hometown charity. And for the second year in a row, Premier Subaru and its customers shared the love with us in a big way – nearly \$50,000 big!

“Thanks to Bob Alvine and the entire Premier Subaru Team, we will be able to provide an awesome summer camp experience to even more kids with cancer,” said Camp Director Shaun at the recent check presentation. Also in attendance were Melissa, our Community Outreach Coordinator, Lucy, one of our Cabin 2 campers, and her dad, Andrew, a Premier Subaru employee.

Over the last two years, Camp Rising Sun has received over \$83,000 from Premier Subaru as part of the “Share the Love” campaign – thanks, Premier Subaru!



A Look Ahead: Camp Week 2016

Ladies and Gentlemen, children of all ages, the countdown has begun! It’s not in months, not in weeks, but start counting down the DAYS until we meet with our Camp Rising Sun family on August 21st!

The planning committee is cooking up some great activities. We will have some old favorites like the creepy Curious Creatures and a super phenomenal fireworks display on the beach. Of course there are surprises in store for you too. Keep it clean at camp – Shaun learned a new skill this winter to share in a skill clinic. Crafty is coming up with some smokin’ hot ideas for arts and crafts. Get ready for lift off!

Oh, did we mention something about C-I- R-C-U-S? See you under the big top!



Team CRS: Off And Running

Are you a runner, biker, or someone who enjoys getting some exercise while supporting a great cause? It doesn’t matter if you’re competing for age group prizes or bringing up the rear, we want you to join Team Camp Rising Sun at one of our upcoming events!

Bikers of all levels will be interested in taking on the CT Challenge on July 30, where riders can choose among 10, 25, 50, 75, or 100-mile routes. Funds raised will support CRS as well as other local cancer-related charities.

If running is more your thing, come join us at the 2016 Hartford Marathon on October 8. Runners can choose to run the 5K, half marathon, or full marathon. CRS will once again be an official charity at the event and we’ll have our own tent site with pre- and post-race refreshments. Come on out and join us!



Out And About With Camp Rising Sun!



CRS counselor Justin put on a wine and cheese fundraiser for CRS at Greenvale Vineyards in Rhode Island.



The Knights of Columbus in Hamden held a Springfest Beer Tasting, featuring a wide variety of local and regional breweries, with funds raised going to CRS.



Two Roads Brewing Co. hosted a beer-tasting benefit to raise funds for CRS. Guests – including counselor Scott celebrating his 40th birthday – enjoyed food, a raffle, and of course samples of Two Roads' beverages!



Several CRS counselors and friends spent Super Bowl Sunday at the Spin CT Challenge. The three-hour spinathon event raised funds for CRS and other services for cancer patients.



We love our campers, families, and fans – connect with us online!

Head on over to www.camprisingsun.com today!

Visit us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/camprisingsun

Follow us on Twitter: [@camprisingsun](https://twitter.com/camprisingsun)



Keeping Up With Our Campers: The Latest From Our CRS Family

• Camper **Kylie** – who CRS fans will recall as the inventor of a pediatric IV backpack – continues working to make her dream a reality. She was recently featured in Junior Scholastic Magazine, a current events magazine published for middle schools across the country. Way to go, Kylie!



• New Haven is building a new Ronald McDonald House, and guess who was asked to help out with the groundbreaking ceremony? Why, our camper **Matty** of course! The new House will replace the existing 12-bedroom House and the goal is to open in May, 2017. Love the hard hat, Matty!



• Camper **Roger** recently finished his chemo meds, and celebrated by participating in the Pawcatuck Lions Road Race to benefit CRS! Congrats, Roger, and nice work at the race!



• New Camper **Oliver** is on a mission to help childhood cancer patients like himself. He wrote letters to various officials in Washington (including Vice President Joe Biden) asking for more government funding for research into childhood cancers. Oliver received a hand-written reply from Connecticut Senator Chris Murphy with a promise to fight for additional funding. Keep it up, Oliver!

• Senior Lodge Camper **Erika** recently received her Girl Scout Gold Award! She was honored to have one of her CRS counselors, Lauren (a Gold Award alumna herself) attend the ceremony. Congratulations, Erika, well done!



• **Claire**, one of our Cabin 3 campers, recently chose to go to Costa Rica for her Make-A-Wish trip. She spent a week touring the country, zip lining through the rainforest, and white water rafting. Sounds like an amazing trip, Claire!



• Last year at this time, Camper **Alex** was in chemo and not able to participate in many spring and summer activities. This year, he's playing in the Mystic Little League, wearing corn snakes around his neck for math and science day at school, and plans to go to day camp this summer!



• Camper **Kiara** had a Superhero Day at her high school. Students could donate to CRS and then wear a superhero outfit to school. Kiara was the real superhero, though, raising over \$500 for CRS!



• Cabin 1 Camper **Ethan** made a return trip to Give Kids the World, where he found his star from his first visit in 2011.

• We love celebrating with our campers, so here's a big Camp Rising Sun "Happy Birthday" to Camper **Conlan**, who turned 10. We hope you had a great birthday!



• Senior Lodge Camper **Brandon** has been holding fundraising yard sales since he was 8. This year's sale raised over \$1,500 for the Tomorrow Fund, an organization that provides financial and emotional support to children with cancer and their families.

• Camper **Ava** was awarded the Judy Hary Angel Award at her 5th grade graduation ceremony in recognition of her compassion and kindness. Well deserved, Ava!



Childhood Cancer Alliance of CT

There is a new alliance in Connecticut and Camp Rising Sun is proud to be a part of it. The Childhood Cancer Alliance of Connecticut is an alliance of organizations serving children and families in Connecticut affected by childhood cancer. The goals of the members are to promote collaboration among member organizations, provide a resource of services for our families and to raise awareness of childhood cancer.

We are joined in this alliance by 20 other agencies including (but not limited to) Yale New Haven Hospital, CCMC, Colin's Crew, Hole in the Wall Camp, Circle of Care and the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. Camp will actively promote September as Childhood Cancer Awareness month. Get ready to wear gold!



DID YOU KNOW?

- Every day, 46 kids are diagnosed with cancer.
- One in 330 children will develop cancer by age 20.
- Each day, 7 children will die from cancer.
- The side effects from treatment can last a lifetime.

Forever In Our Hearts



Madeline Guarraia

Camp Rising Sun Calendar of Events

Wednesday, July 13
Annual Kids Night Out
Owenego Inn, Branford, CT

Saturday, July 30
CT Challenge Bike Ride
Fairfield County Hunt Club
Contact scapozza@hotmail.com

August 21-26
Camp Rising Sun Camp Week
Camp Jewell, Colebrook, CT
Contact Tina@camprisingsun.com

Month of September
Childhood Cancer Awareness Month
Go Gold for our Campers!

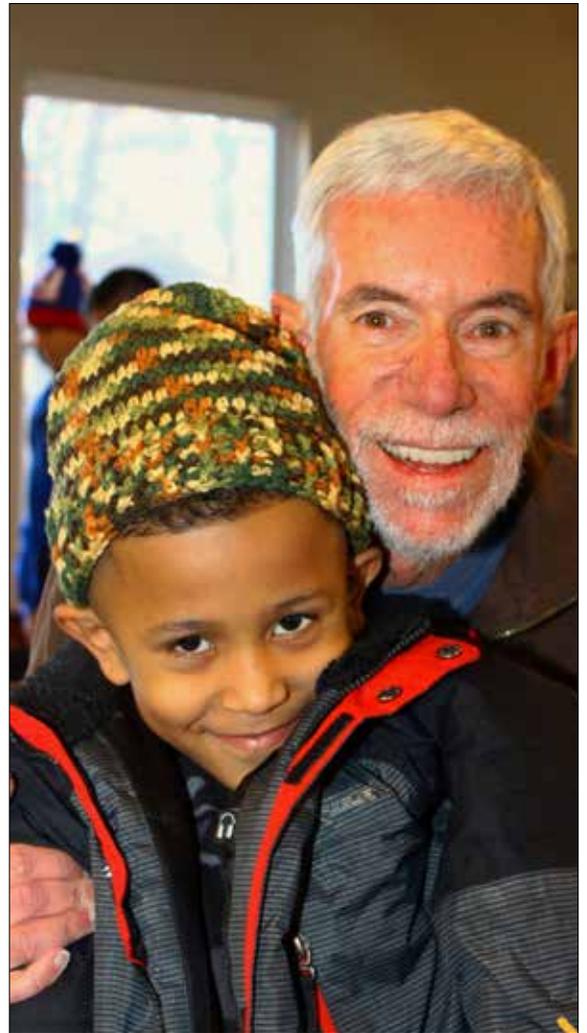
September 10
First Annual Poker Run
Start and end: Monson, MA
Contact bgdg121@aol.com

Saturday, October 8
Team Camp Rising Sun
Runs the Hartford Marathon
Bushnell Park, Hartford, CT
Contact scapozza@hotmail.com

For more information on any of these events, please visit our website or Facebook page. If you are interested in hosting a fundraiser to benefit Camp Rising Sun, please contact Shaun at shaun@camprisingsun.com



When you shop at AmazonSmile, Amazon will donate to Camp Rising Sun Charitable Foundation Inc. Support us every time you shop.







Camp Rising Sun
P.O. Box 472
Branford, CT 06405

Return Service Requested

15TH ANNUAL NIGHT OUT

to benefit



A place where kids with cancer have fun...

JULY 13, 2016 • 6-10PM

OWENEGO INN
40 Linden Ave • Branford, CT

\$25 Adults • **\$10** children (3-15)

Dinner • Cash Bar • Live Music

featuring

Mean Carlene & Vivid

for tickets:

www.camprisingsun.com or 203.481.7277



\$100,000 CHALLENGE

The Yvette and Arthur Eder Foundation
will match all donations made between
June 1st & July 13th
(including Annual Night Out Tickets and Raffle Tickets)

BUY your TICKETS ONLINE
or **BY MAIL NOW** to Help us meet
the **CHALLENGE!**