



*A place where kids
with cancer have fun!*

Camp Rising Sun Newsletter • November 2016

Camp Week 2016 – The Greatest Camp On Earth!

Another successful year has gone down in the books for Camp Rising Sun as we completed our 32nd year of providing “miles of smiles” for our campers.

This year’s theme was Circus and we pulled out all the stops for our CRS Family. The week kicked off with campers and their families being greeted by circus performers from Cirque du Jour. Throughout the week, the performers trained campers on juggling, clown tricks, walking on stilts, balancing plates, devil sticks and aerial silk.



The fun did not end there. We were treated to a circus act by the performers followed by a lot of fun activities such as carnival games, elephant rides, fishing, ziplining, indoor and outdoor activities, arts and crafts, laser tag, massages, waterfront activities, barbecue, concert, fireworks, movies, rock climbing, mountain boarding, archery, robotics and more!

Our week ended with an epic circus performed by our very own campers! After training hard all week, campers demonstrated their new skills for their parents, counselors, and fellow campers. Definitely the Greatest Show on Earth!

Of course none of this would have been possible without the generosity and support of organizations and volunteers such as Bob’s Discount Furniture, Lions District 23C, Curious Creatures, Norwich Inn and Spa, Naples Pizza, EDR, Shelton High School Cheerleaders, The Gardiner Fishermen, Two Dads Photo Booth, Robosquad558, Lisa Andrade and her “Tasty Treats” and circus performer, Steve Miller.



If you would like to become a sponsor or volunteer your business for a camp activity, please contact Tina Saunders at tina@camprisingsun.com.

The CRS staff will regroup in January for staff training as we prepare for next year’s camp festivities.

We look forward to seeing everyone at Mini-Camp in March!

Mini-Camp Weekend is March 25-26, 2017. Registration Opens in December.

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

Circle the Sun Sibling Camp Kicks Off

by: Kimberly Morgenbesser, Circle the Sun Camp Director

This summer marked the first year of Circle the Sun, a camp for siblings created by Camp Rising Sun and Circle of Care. We had a blast and made friends and memories to last a lifetime!

Our theme was “You’re a Star” and our 36 campers were able to shine! Our kick off activity was a boys versus girls game show night hosted by Hollyrock Entertainment. The campers showed off their impressive knowledge of various facts as well as their effortless athletic abilities. In the end, the girls won but everyone had a great time!

Throughout the rest of the week the campers enjoyed many activities such as the rock wall, arts and crafts, tie-dye, sports, archery, horse grooming and feeding, and our most popular game, Gaga Ball. We also had a chance to go swimming everyday. Everyone loved going down the water slide, jumping from the rope swing, and swimming with friends and counselors.

Our night activities were fun and exciting. We had a silly scavenger hunt that showed off our Hollywood talents. The campers had to act out animals, sing with their tongues sticking out, and throw

a ball like Lebron James.

The next night we had movie premier night and watched *Minions* under the stars. We pulled our mattresses outside and got cozy in our PJs.

We also had some delicious movie treats like popcorn and hot chocolate with whipped cream. The following night we hiked up Sunrise Mountain where we ate s’mores and watched the fireworks from the best viewing spot! Our final night of camp was packed with excitement. We started the night off with the All-Star Games. The funniest challenge was when the kids put shaving cream on their counselors’ heads and threw Cheetos at them! The team that got the most Cheetos to stick won! After the games we did a final campfire and got paper plate awards from the counselors. Just when we thought the night was over, an ice cream truck arrived!

Our last day of camp, we woke up to a birthday party for one of our campers and birthday cake for breakfast. Can’t do that at home! Once the parents arrived, our



theatrical campers performed a show they had been working on all week. They sang and danced their hearts out. Sadly, we then said our goodbyes and left the best week ever.

I’d like to extend my gratitude to Camp Rising Sun and Circle of Care. These two organizations realized the need for a camp for siblings and made it happen. It was such a successful week and I could not have asked for anything better.

Team Camp Rising Sun Races Through Hartford

Team Camp Rising Sun was represented again at the 2016 Eversource Hartford Marathon. For the 7th year in a row, Camp Rising Sun was an official charity for the race. 20 runners, including campers, counselors, family and friends proudly ran through the streets of Hartford covering 3.1 or 13.1 miles, all while raising almost \$15,000 for Camp. Camper Thad Allen and camper parent Marc Libow lead the way in fundraising efforts by raising over \$3,000 each. Our dedicated team of 30 volunteers, led by

counselor Dan Root, helped man the course of the entertaining Kids’ K races. It was a beautiful fall day to support Camp Rising Sun.

Time to start training for the 2017 races – please consider joining us in Hartford!



Camp Rising Sun

Spotlight

on Our Amazing Supporters

Our incredibly fun and rewarding Camp Rising Sun Weeks would not be possible without the thousands of individuals and organizations who support us. We would love to thank each and every one of you here, but then we would need to print a book instead of a newsletter! Here are a handful of those who made Camp Week 2016 extra special:

The Sisters Project

The Sisters Project is a group committed to raising funds in support of cancer patients and their families. They wanted to do something unique to support Camp Rising Sun, so they donated a substantial portion of the cost of our awesome new medical cart! Not only did this allow Dr. Joe and the nurses to travel in style, but features like the wheelchair lift helped make Camp Week more manageable for everyone.



The Patchwork Angels

The Patchwork Angels are a group of 5 women from Guilford who wanted to do something to help bring comfort to those dealing with cancer. They decided to make quilts, and generously donated many of them to our campers this year!



Ruthie Price

Instead of gifts for her Bat Mitzvah, Ruthie created a Camp Rising Sun Wish List and had her guests purchase items off of it. Thanks to her, Crafty Patty had lots of new equipment and supplies in Arts and Crafts, and we had plenty of circus-themed decorations. Thanks, Ruthie!

Our Amazon Wish List Purchasers

We wished, and you granted! From clown noses to popcorn bags, lanyards to glue guns, many of you visited our Amazon Wish List and made our wishes come true! Don't forget to use Amazon Smile for your online holiday shopping!

New Haven Bed Race

The New Haven Bed Race is an annual event where teams create beds and race them down the street – seriously! This year the event chose Camp Rising Sun as its charity partner, so of course CRS had to enter a team. Our bed did not win, but we had a lot of fun!



Al Filipone

For some of our campers, the hardest part of coming to camp is finding transportation to get there. Thanks to Al, though, we now have a “party bus” that makes multiple stops to pick up kids for the best week of the year. This year, we had over 20 campers and siblings on the bus – from the looks of it, the ride was almost as much fun as camp!



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 Zach, who just happens to be Student Council President at his elementary school, helped organize two fundraisers for Camp Rising Sun with his classmates. Twin Day allowed students to dress in matching clothes with a friend, and PJ Day had students going to class in PJs and slippers.

- Who threw the best Halloween party this year? Our camper Marik did, that's who! Joined by friends and family, including several members of his CRS family, the bash featured a pasta supper, raffles, a costume contest, and of course the Monster Mash!



- After a summer of playing lacrosse with the "Lax For Wishes" team, camper Joey has moved onto hockey season this fall. He's playing left wing for the Southern Stars Pee Wee A1 team and is clearly racking up the goals!



- Camper Catherine missed Camp Week this year due to a conflict with high school field hockey tryouts. Not to worry, she arranged to have a sleepover with several of her CRS buddies and is thriving on the freshman field hockey team!



- After starring in our circus this summer,

camper Anneliese is keeping busy in third grade, but did manage to find time to take a hike up the mountain at Sleeping Giant!



- Camper Ethan has been busy playing on not one but TWO soccer teams



this fall. His sports schedule hasn't interfered with his schoolwork, though, as he scored High Honors in his first semester!



- A number of our campers attended the Hartford Marathon this year, some as runners (Justin ran a great time in the 5K!), some, like Mateo, as volunteers, and some just to cheer on their fellow campers. Camper Thad even ran the half marathon!

Annual Night Out Another Night To Remember

On July 13th, Camp Rising Sun hosted their 15th Annual Night Out, our largest fundraiser. With perfect weather and not a chance of rain, CRS brought in over 1,300 supporters to the event that took place at the Owenego Inn in Branford. Attendees enjoyed a delicious dinner, bid on some awesome silent auction items, and danced the night away to the tunes of Vivid Rock. During the event, Doctor Joe and event organizers Jordan Mann and Melissa Pandolfi were presented with a citation for all of the volunteer work they have done for Camp Rising Sun by State Senator Ted Kennedy – who is a childhood cancer survivor himself.

Prior to the event, the Yvette and Arthur Eder Foundation put forth their 100K challenge, offering to match any and all donations made between June 1 and July 15, including Night Out ticket purchases. We are happy to say we met the challenge, having raised over \$105,000! We are so grateful to the Eder Foundation for their ongoing support.

We would also like to thank the Bloomquist Family, all of the Owenego



& CRS volunteers, Vivid Rock Band, and all of our sponsors for making the night such a success! Save the date for next year's party, July 12, 2017!

Annual Ray LaMay Memorial Golf Tournament Benefits CRS

On August 19th the LaMay Family hosted the 7th Annual Ray LaMay Memorial Golf Tournament at Timberlin Golf Course in Berlin, CT. The event supports several local and national charities, and Camp Rising Sun was honored to receive a \$5,500.00 check.

The Ray LaMay Memorial Foundation was created by his children to honor their late father. Ray was known throughout Meriden as a devoted youth sports coach for over 20 years. He loved working with children and also held board member positions such as President of Jack Barry Little League in Meriden. He was energetic and super positive, his focus as a coach was not winning, it was making sure all players had fun and sufficient playing time. He coached baseball, basketball, and soccer. He would often show up to travel league games and high school games even when his children were not playing, to cheer on players that he had coached throughout the years.



This is the third year the LaMay Family donated to Camp Rising Sun. They chose Camp Rising Sun because of its positivity. Ray had suffered from Pancreatic Cancer but never had a negative outlook. He was positive and happy throughout his diagnosis, treatment and day-to-day life.

We invited Joshua and Jason LaMay to visit Camp Rising Sun. Josh said, "Visiting the camp was a great day. The campers all had positive outlooks. We enjoyed the fact that, every minute of the day at CRS was spent having fun. From the Circus instructors to the robot demonstration the camp was non-stop fun. We met several counselors who had come to the camp as campers and then joined the camp as a staff member when they were old enough. The relationships at the camp were that of a family atmosphere. The counselors knew each child's background information, as many of them returned to camp each summer. It was great to learn that CRS had set up an additional camp for brothers and sisters of campers at CRS. We had heard amazing things about CRS but seeing it live exceeded our expectations."

Camp Rising Sun Calendar of Events

Sunday, November 6

Lions of District 23C Gala

New London, CT

Contact: lionkeith23c@yahoo.com

Sunday, February 5

Spin CT Challenge

Fitness Edge, Norwalk, CT

Contact: Melissa@camprisingsun.com

March 25-26

Camp Rising Sun Mini-Camp Weekend

Camp Jewell, Colebrook, CT

Contact: Tina@camprisingsun.com

Wednesday, July 12

Annual Kids Night Out

Owenego Inn, Branford, CT

Contact: Melissa@camprisingsun.com

August 20-25

Camp Rising Sun Camp Week

Camp Jewell, Colebrook, CT

Contact: Tina@camprisingsun.com

Saturday, October 7

Team CRS @ Hartford Marathon

Bushnell Park, Hartford, CT

Contact: scapozza@hotmail.com

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



A hundred years from now

It will not matter what my
bank account was,
the sort of house I lived in,
or the kind of car I drove.

But the world will be
different because I was
important in the life of a child.



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