



Ronald
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Danville

news from the heart

JULY



MAKING AN IMPACT THAT LASTS A LIFETIME

For 35 years I was privileged to create a tapestry of incredible memories as a nurse for Camp Dost. The care of my campers was both a serious responsibility and a serious privilege. Their medical, physical and emotional safety at camp was paramount to me.

The woven threads of each year tell stories of laughter, friendship, endurance, strength, resiliency and hope. Each memory reminding me of the role camp played in the unique healing experience of our campers and their families. Witnessing and sharing in the Camp Dost journey was so inspiring and profoundly affected my nursing practice and my personal life. To see seriously ill children and teens break loose from everyday worries and seize control of their own lives once again, was truly amazing. To believe that the impossible was possible with a little help of friends, is what camp was all about.

The golden threads of my tapestry are the treasured times I spent in the Med Shed caring for the most seriously ill campers. Many sleep there to receive Chemotherapy, transfusions, infusions or nasogastric feeds. Most asking to receive these treatments during the night time hours so they could join in on all camp activities the next day. Conversations brought stories to be told, cherished and truly admired. In listening, together we laughed, cried and even prayed. Campers that I held in my arms on a rocking chair while singing, hoping to soothe their pain or allay their fears.

The threads of my tapestry cross each other with so many memories of how campers would help one another learn to swallow pills or buddy together with their favorite counselor for Broviac dressing changes or Mediport accessing. Often, strength came in knowing they were not alone in this plight.

I marvel about all the camper and counselor lives that have touched mine with memories entwined,

those still living and some departed. There is nothing I believe in more than the power of Camp Dost, my woven tapestry of unforgettable treasures.

Debbie Snyder
Camp Dost Counselor
RMHD Founding Board Member

CAMP DOST

The Schaffner boys, Quintin and Alex, aren't keen on having their photo taken. Mom said they made a special exception for Camp Dost when they received their Camp-in-a-Box T-shirts. Camp Dost was once again virtual and counselors worked hard on a 3-evening program that ran from July 13-15.

For campers and counselors alike, not having camp in-person is like cancelling Christmas, but at least meeting virtually gave everyone a chance to catch up, play games and have a good old Woody sing-along.

Of course we have to thank our very dedicated and creative volunteer counselors who changed gears and sought new ways to entertain our campers. Also a special acknowledgement to those donors who contributed to our Camp-in-a-Box with both gifts and grants. Looking forward to 2022!



UPCOMING EVENTS:

Double Your Impact-

9/6 - 24/2021

3rd Annual Masquerade Ball-

9/24/2021

Visit www.rmhdanville.org/events to learn more about our upcoming events. You can also reach out to Renee Gerringer at rgerringer@rmhdanville.com with specific questions.



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DIFFERENCE**

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"Because of generous, kind hearted and caring people like yourselves, our daughter Chayanne has a second chance at life as she fights against cancer in her blood. Our stay at the Ronald McDonald House of Danville will forever be in our memories for you have given us hope when there was just a little left. For that we are very much thankful and will forever be grateful to you all."

~Parboo Family