Virtual Camp
By Kate Stepnick, Camp Director

While Camp Victory may have closed its physical location for the season, this has not stopped Camp Victory and our Partner Groups from keeping the spirit of camp alive by hosting virtual camps. Many of our Partner Groups are getting together with their campers through Facebook, Zoom, and other social media outlets. Camp Cranium, KDKC, PA Vent Camp, Camp Kydnie, Camp Dost, Camp JRA, Camp Spifida, Camp ENERGY, Camp Ability, Camp Echo, and Camp Discovery have already or will be hosting sessions throughout the summer camping season. Some of our Partner Groups have sent their campers a “Camp in a Box” that has provided the campers with everything they need to participate in the virtual camps, including arts and crafts supplies, notebooks, and abundant camp swag.

While our Partner Groups are hosting their camps, Camp Victory has also been providing many fun activities through our Facebook page and YouTube channel (Camp Victory Millville, PA). Camp Victory staff has jumped into the video editing world and is posting story time sessions and “Adventures with Scampy the Squirrel” filmed all over camp! Camp Victory has also partnered with Bloomsburg University Child Life Practicum students to provide videos covering numerous subjects ranging from arts and crafts and wellness, to nature and music activities. These students were slated to start at Camp Victory this summer as counselors and Camp Victory staff to provide these activities but with the help of Bloomsburg University professors, Michael Patte and Colleen Cameron, they made the switch to the virtual platform as well. These students are earning practicum hours by creating the videos, while Camp Victory provides the videos to our families, friends, and anyone else who is interested!

While this is not how we wanted to have the 2020 camping season happen, it has been a great way to try to stay connected to everybody. We have received a large amount of positive responses and feedback from our families stating that they are excited about each new video while currently missing the physical nature of their camp and what Camp Victory provides. We are looking forward to having all our Partner Groups back in 2021 for a safe and fun camping season.
Dear Camp Victory Friends

By Debbie Snyder, Camp Dost

Unbelievable, after 38 years of Camp Dost, I am home sitting in front of a computer screen rather than present at the beautiful campus of Camp Victory. Already I miss so much of seeing the thrill our campers experience with the first steps of coming onto Victory’s grounds. The happiness they feel of knowing they are not alone in their journey with childhood cancer, the friendships made, the pacts they make to improve their own self image, self assurance and independence. A place where they share a common bond because they all have faced a common battle. A place that fosters normalcy for them after being deprived of so many childhood experiences.

I have been so blessed to witness their weakened body, mind and spirit be rekindled, rebuilt and healed at Camp. When faced with adversity, a camper’s sense of wholeness regenerated and rebuilt. The true wisdom of the human spirit alive once again because of Camp. A message coming from one of our campers-“It’s not a battle to be won or lost-but a challenge to conquer. Camp Dost gave me that incentive for hope.”

To all of the Camp Victory families who help write the stories, share and treasure the memories, and continue to bring so much happiness to so many special children, I am forever grateful and thankful.

As we all travel this Virtual Camp road this summer, let me say, behind us are memories, beside us are friends, before us are future dreams.

Love to you all.

A Moment in Nature

By Gail Truax, Assistant Camp Director

What a year 2020 has turned out to be! Our way of life has completely changed, defeated with cancellations, restrictions and frustrations. No one could have predicted this pandemic and its unfavorable consequences. Here at Camp Victory, there are no cheers, there are no competitions, there are no dances or contest. There are no excited campers arriving to the Welcome Center anticipating a week of exciting adventures. The atmosphere is very strange and still for Camp Victory, which historically would be brimming with exhilaration during the summer months.

But is there a positive in every situation? My response is, yes there is! First, Camp is getting a facelift. Painting, cleaning, organizing and preparing are being completed. We are improving the facility in anticipation of the 2021 camping season. We are confident and optimistic for a bright future. Secondly, Painting, cleaning, organizing and preparing are being completed. We are improving the facility in anticipation of the 2021 camping season. We are confident and optimistic for a bright future. Secondly, Painting, cleaning, organizing and preparing are being completed. We are improving the facility in anticipation of the 2021 camping season. We are confident and optimistic for a bright future.

By Jamie Huntley, Executive Director

Touched by an Angel

We are touched by Angels, walk where Angels tread. They will guard and guide us through the days ahead. In times of sorrow and in days of joy, They bring us hope and comfort nothing can destroy. In hours of darkness, when our dreams have flown, They bring us peace and healing, we are not alone. Through times of doubting, still they understand, We are touched by Angels, walking hand in hand.

In loving memory of Jesse Hoffman.

Uncle Walter’s Treehouse

By Jamie Huntley, Executive Director

We were able to do some needed renovations to Uncle Walter’s Treehouse this summer! When West Pharmaceutical Services funded and built Uncle Walter’s Treehouse back in 2007, their amazing employees donated money to maintain this wonderful structure. Friends and family members of Harold Fisk, our beloved treehouse builder, also contributed money to that fund; a fund that is part of Camp Victory’s Endowment Fund. We had many of the supporting posts replaced, as well as some work done on the roof and many of the interesting hand rails were also replaced this summer. All of the expenses were covered by the “Uncle Walter’s Treehouse Maintenance Fund”! And, there is still money in the fund to cover the maintenance of this beautiful structure for years to come!

Thank you so much to West Pharmaceutical Services for the gift of this treehouse, and to their employees and friends and family of Harold for making it possible to always have a beautiful and safe treehouse for our campers!