



**CAMP HAPPY DAYS**  
**2025 Camp & Programming Proposal for Funding**  
**January 24, 2024**

**Names of Presenters and Supporters at Presentation**

Camp Happy Days Board Member – Douglas Jennings

Camp Happy Days Executive Director - Cindy Hay Johnson

Camp Happy Days Staff – Daniele Kockler, Development Director

Catie Stallworth, MS, CCLS, Director of Hospital & Day Programs

Camp Happy Days Family – Hope, CJ, Deidra & Christopher Miller

SC House Representative – Fawn Pedalino (Manning)

**Presentation Packet includes:**

Proposal for Camp & Overnight Programming 2025

Financials

Camps Budget

Programs Budget

Mission, History & Impact

Update on New Programming & Growth

Camp Happy Days Programs List, Calendar & Flyer

Children Served by County & Demographic Data

**Letters of Support and Strategic Partners**

MUSC Shawn Jenkins Children's Hospital

Prisma Health Children's Hospital - Midlands

Prisma Health Children's Hospital- Upstate

Program Partnerships

**Camp Happy Days Board of Directors and Staff Bios**

## The Miller Family

Lake Wylie, South Carolina



### Christopher Olon Miller, Jr. and Hope Denae Miller's Cancer Journeys

We believe that Hope's cancer journey may have started when she was in the fourth grade. As a fourth grader, she received several diagnoses of bronchitis and or double pneumonia, which we believe was masking a slow growing mucoepidermoid tumor in her left lung. Three years later, we moved from North Carolina to South Carolina and while running a pacer test in her seventh grade PE class, Hope started to feel sick, and the school nurse was called. That led to several doctor's visits, four bronchoscopies, and the discovery of a mucoepidermoid tumor in her collapsed and shriveled left lung. The tumor was subsequently removed along with some lymph nodes and surrounding tissue. We were excited! Hope was healed and although she would face life with one healthy lung- it was life nevertheless and one that we would get to continue experiencing with her.

We thought that our experience with pediatric cancer was over with Hope's surgery, but we were wrong. As we learned from a message that our Associate Pastor shared with the congregation not long after Hope's surgery "there were people who had climbed the mountain she and some friends were climbing and thought they were at the top, however, there was still more mountain to climb to reach the top." Forty-one days after Hope's treatment, our son CJ began suffering from high fevers, joint pain, and fatigue, and was subsequently diagnosed with acute lymphoblastic leukemia (ALL). He was admitted into the hospital that same morning and immediately began treatment at Levine's Children's Hospital in Charlotte, North Carolina. He underwent chemotherapy for 2.5 years, and unfortunately became a Type 1 Diabetic due to a severe allergic reaction to one of the chemotherapy medicines that he received.

Hope received her last cancer scan in December 2023 and was released as a patient from the Oncology Department at Levine's Children's Hospital. She has been cancer free for four years! CJ is in

Survivorship Treatment at Levine's; he goes to the children's cancer clinic for checkups every other month and must meet with the Survivorship Team once every 6 months.

### **Discovering Camp Happy Days**

Our family discovered Camp Happy Days through our Clinical Social Worker at Levine's Children's Hospital, Juliet Galton. Juliet would send information to us about camps, and programs that would be of interest to us and could provide opportunities for our family to rest and get away from the hectic pace of life and cancer treatment. I saw that Camp Happy Days provided programming for children undergoing cancer treatment, as well as for their siblings. They were uniquely set up to provide care and counseling to both Hope and CJ as cancer survivors but also as the sibling of a cancer survivor as well.

### **Impact of Camp Happy Programming on the Miller Family**

One of CJ's favorite memories of Camp Happy Days was attending his first Teen Weekend. As they were white water rafting, a random green plush toy airplane was seen in the water, and multiple boat crews began competing over who could win the plane. CJ also enjoys interacting with all the different people he meets at the camp, and the Teen Weekend excursions. Lastly, CJ enjoyed the food and snacks at all the Camp Happy Days events- proclaiming "the food was really good."

One of Hope's favorite memories of summer camp was the Prom. It was her first time going to the Prom and the excitement made a permanent mark on her brain. The makeup, the hair, the dresses, and even the "getting ready" was all fun. Everything was amusing and entertaining- the dancing, the food, the Photo Booth, and the bouncy house! Hope also enjoyed white water rafting for the first time at her first Teen Weekend. Although the water was freezing, she and her fellow campers, wearing wetsuits and bathing suits, rushed down the mountain and got wet. The icy water splashed on them, but they kept asking for more. It made getting sick in the end worth it as Hope will never forget the experience of white water rafting on her first Teen Weekend.

For the Miller Family, Camp Happy Days has been a continual stream of love, care, and support. We were able to go on a Family Retreat in Hendersonville, North Carolina. Rest and respite is essential when going through cancer treatment and we found out that Chris and I needed respite and rest as well as CJ and Hope. Camp Happy Days has given both Hope and CJ an opportunity to participate in outdoor activities, such as paddle boating, water-skiing, white-water rafting, camping, and zip lining, which were brand new experiences for them. Camp Happy Days also gave them an opportunity to interact with their peers while they were in virtual learning and not attending school in person. CJ is growing as a leader within the organization, serving as a Counselor In Training (CIT) for the 2023 Camp Happy Days Summer Camp, and Hope plans on joining him and becoming a CIT for the 2024 Summer Camp!

# Proposal & Financials





## **Proposal for Funding for Camp Happy Days Summer Camp, Additional Teen & Family Weekends, and New On-Site Programming 2025**

Camp Happy Days' mission is to offer support and encouragement to children diagnosed with cancer and their families by providing cost-free year-round programs, special events and access to crisis resources. Our goal is to improve the physical, emotional, and psychological health of the entire family facing pediatric cancer.

We are asking for \$250,000 for the fiscal year 2024-2025 to support Camp Happy Days' programs, including our 2025 Summer Camp for 200 children with cancer and their siblings and teen and family weekend camp. Each year, an estimated 250-300 children will be diagnosed with cancer in South Carolina. While 85% of children diagnosed with cancer will survive, even survivors face numerous challenges and a future filled with fear and uncertainty. According to the American Child Cancer Organization, two-thirds of children diagnosed with cancer will experience late effects that may impair their memory and learning, growth and development, and social and psychological adjustment. These children are also at a higher risk for secondary cancers and many other health issues. One out of every four children diagnosed with cancer will have severe or life-threatening late effects. They may also suffer from high levels of anxiety, body changes such as weight gain, amputation, scarring, or disfigurement, and low self-esteem.

The requested funds will allow us to continue to reach out across South Carolina in a strategic approach to serve all children diagnosed with cancer in our state so they will be aware of the cost-free programs and resources Camp Happy Days offers. Many of these children live in more rural areas that are not near the three primary children's hospitals in the state and thus are unaware of the many services and programs available to them. We have also developed new partnerships with hospitals in North Carolina and Georgia to ensure we have reaching families near state lines. Over the last ten years, the number of individual children Camp Happy Days has served has increased by 65%.

The funds requested will support our camp's budget, increase the number of families served and provide new programming opportunities throughout the year. Our camp is budgeted at \$514,661 and covers the expenses for children to attend our week-long residential summer camp as well as our virtual camp programming. Each summer, our camp is held at Camp Bob Cooper in Summerton, SC, providing families throughout the state a central location regardless of if they are attending from the upstate or the low country. Our weekend camps budgets are over \$107,000 and provide four different weekend camp programs. In the past, we have provided a family weekend in the spring and a teen weekend before Camp. By increasing our weekend

camp budgets, we can provide an additional fall teen weekend and family weekend, allowing more families the opportunity to participate. The camps will be held throughout the state and transportation will be provided as needed to ensure families have the accessibility needed. Typically, families are provided either a bus transportation option or a gas card if needed. For many families, this is the difference on whether their child(ren) and/or family can participate in programs. We make it a priority to limit the barriers for families to attend programming that can provide crucial support and resources.

Our goal is to continue to reach and meet the needs of families battling pediatric cancer throughout South Carolina, especially in the rural areas. We seek to restore a sense of normalcy to their lives and provide opportunities for these families to connect with others who are facing similar challenges. Our objectives are to help these children and their families find a renewed sense of hope, form new supportive relationships, experience respite and relief from stress, create lasting memories, and find encouragement and inspiration as they continue their fight against pediatric cancer. Our summer camp program is a key part of achieving these goals.

The financial, medical, and psychological effects of a cancer diagnosis can impact all aspects of a family's life, including everything from their ability to buy groceries, participate in physical activities, and spend time outdoors. These limitations consequently can negatively impact a child's overall health and well-being. Due to limitations on physical activity, many become sedentary and are at risk for weight gain and weight-related issues later in life. In addition, normal social, emotional, and psychological development may be affected by the trauma of diagnosis and treatment, disruptions to school and regular social routines, and exposure to significantly increased stress on the child and the family.

Camp Happy Days' camp program seeks to address all these areas of needs for our families. Through team-building activities, counseling, and cabin chats at camp these children will meet others with similar experiences and difficulties. The bonds formed through group participation give each child a feeling of inclusion. All-camp events, like our camp prom and talent show, create an environment that fosters positive social and emotional interactions. With social and emotional needs met and skills learned from camp, children are happier and better equipped to handle life challenges and stresses. In our most recent survey, parents were asked to rate the variables related to their children's overall health on a weighted scale and against relevant criteria. The results of the survey found 79% of parents believed their child is more confident participating in physical activity after a Camp Happy Days experience. Eighty-eight percent of parents and/or caregivers agreed that they have a support system within Camp Happy Days and with other Camp Happy Days families. Parents/guardians also agreed at 86% that their family feels more hopeful and has overall benefited in their quality of life from attending Camp Happy Days programs. Eighty-eight percent agreed that their family had also benefitted from gaining a new resource or tool to help them in their cancer journey. We consider these survey results evidence of how vital CHD programming is to these children and their families.

Each year, Camp Happy Days tracks five measures that we want our campers to exhibit following camp participation. We survey the campers through self, parent, and counselor surveys. We track the measures of independence, friendship, confidence, hope, and teamwork. Over the last five years, we continue to see increases in all five measures after camp participation. Last summer, we were able to serve 189 children at our in-person camp and an additional 100 campers through virtual camp. Our virtual camp provided an opportunity to connect with campers and serve children from the safety of their homes and hospital rooms. Overall, our camp program had positive feedback on its ability to allow campers to connect with their friends and be engaged. For new families, virtual camp allowed them to meet new kids with similar experiences while also preparing parents for sending their children to camp for the following year.

*"Welp, y'all have done it again! Just when we thought there couldn't possibly be any fun left to have after an amazing 1st camp experience last year, Brady came home from camp beaming ear-to-ear. Seriously y'all, he talked my ear off the entire way back to Charleston! Well, mostly except for the fact he had very little voice left. He excitedly told me about all the new friendships made, his amazing counselors (shoot out to Lee and Ethan), the fact that he finished the Polar Bear Plunge, the mountain of crab legs he consumed, the phenomenal inflatables, the unbelievable fireworks, his escape from the escape room, the waffle/chicken/ice cream treat at the teen lockin... and the list goes on and on and on. As always, thank you for ALL you do to create the most magical week for our kids. The friendships formed and bonds created will truly last a lifetime. As an ending note, Brady was in a real funk for about 36 hours after camp. At first, we thought he was just really wiped out from all the activity. He finally opened up that he was just really sad that it would be an entire year until he would be back at camp with all of his friends. Y'all, those are words from a 13-year-old boy. Whatever mission you set out to achieve this camp week, consider it ACCOMPLISHED. Please feel free to forward my email along to anyone who needs a pat on the back, fist bump, high five, etc." Emily, Mom of Camper*

All our programs are cost-free for the families we serve, so these funds would allow us to continue to offer camp cost-free to every child who attends. This year, we will again be offering our traditional week-long camp as well as virtual camp. Staff and volunteers are working hard to create a safe and fun in-person camp experience for 200 campers this summer. The cost of sending one child to camp is approximately \$2,573. We are working year-round to raise the funds necessary to accommodate our camp and overnight programming.

Our current office has allowed us to expand our current programming, start new partnerships in the community and increase the number of children and families served through on-site programming. Last year, our programs served 1,277 families, this was an increase of 83% of families served. During this time, we provided 99 programs and events including camp and virtual camp, family weekend, three teen weekends, doodlebug and preteen events, hospital programming, virtual events, family activities, holiday giving, and much more. CHD served a

total of 3,854 children and parents/guardians which was more than double the number of (duplicated) individuals from the previous fiscal year. We expect this growth to continue as we create more program opportunities and foster new partnerships.

Last year, we started a new partnership with Amor Healing Kitchen to provide free healthy meal deliveries to families with a child currently on treatment. So far, this partnership has helped deliver 730 meals to children diagnosed with cancer and their families. Our programs team has also focused on providing increased support to children currently in the hospital. During our last fiscal year, CHD served over 230 children and families with hospital programming that brought joy, support, and opportunities for healing to children spending long periods of time in the hospital. This has been crucial in allowing us to not only serve more families but also to connect with new families in the hospital. Another area of growth was providing new on-site programming. We were able to host our Halloween event, Kit Kid Fridays with Yoga, and family events including High Tea, game night, and a tailgating event. We also provided our first pre-teen lock in event at the office. Overall, we served over 100 children and parents/guardians with on-site programming.

Camp Happy Days strives to provide high-quality, meaningful experiences for the children and families who participate in our programs and events. To measure the effectiveness and evaluate outcomes for this program all counselors, parents, and children receive a post-camp survey designed to measure perceived changes in a child's attitude and behavior within 45 days after camp. The information gathered is used to measure progress and identify areas where improvement in the quality of the experience and operational efficiency can be achieved. Camp Happy Days is proud to share this information about our impact and effectiveness as it is received.

**Attending Camp Happy Days Programming:**

Increased Physical Activity: 79% agreed slightly or strongly  
Connected families to support: 88% agreed slightly or strongly  
Created sense of hope: 86% agreed slightly or strongly  
Learned a new resource or tool: 88% agreed

*"I was very nervous the first time I went to camp. I didn't know what to expect and was used to being close to my parents though my cancer treatment. The doctors and nurses at MUSC showed me pictures of camp and assured me they would be there for me. Reluctantly I went. It was the first time away from home, and spending so much time outdoors. When you are in treatment, you have to be careful so much and worry a lot. But at camp, you are safe to be a kid again and do so many things you would never have an opportunity to do at home. Tubing on the lake is my favorite. But also so many fun, and new things to do. But the friendships you make at camp are the most important part, and the hardest to explain to people who never went. Camp is a place where you can go and meet some of your best friends for life. Year after year, they provide a*



*break for kids who need it the most. Some of my best memories were made at Camp Happy Days! Soon I will be returning as a counselor. I can't wait to reunite with all my friends and share the week with the new kids who come."* Danny, Camper

Thank you for considering our request for \$250,000 in FY 2024-2025 funding to support our camp and year-round programs. We appreciate your partnership in bringing joy and strength to South Carolina children and families facing pediatric cancer. If you have any questions about this proposal or would like additional information, please contact:

**Cindy Hay Johnson**

Executive Director, Camp Happy Days

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FY2024 Budget	PROGRAMS FYE 09/30/24 Budget	DEVELOPMENT FYE 09/30/24 Budget	ADMINISTRATION FYE 09/30/24 Budget	TOTAL FYE 09/30/24 Budget
<b>Revenues</b>				
Individual Contributions	20,223	217,000		237,223
Corporate Contributions	19,331	74,000		93,331
Event Registration and Admission	-	20,000		20,000
Event Fees & Sponsorships	-	125,000		125,000
Promotional Merch/Auction	-	180,000		180,000
Foundation Grants	114,738	207,000		321,738
Corporate Grants	65,000	6,000		71,000
Governmental Grants	252,500	-		252,500
Third party Fundraisers	-	93,000		93,000
In-Kind Gifts Received	244,519	58,000	-	302,519
Miscellaneous Income	-	-	-	-
Interest & Dividends	-	-	10,000	10,000
Net Change in Market Value	-	-	10,000	10,000
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>716,311</b>	<b>980,000</b>	<b>20,000</b>	<b>1,716,311</b>
<b>Fundraising Costs</b>				
Bank Fees	-	11,261	-	11,261
Insurance	-	-	-	-
Entertainment	-	18,000	-	18,000
Facility Rental	-	15,500	-	15,500
Vehicle Rental and Expense	-	-	-	-
Equipment Rental	-	30,000	-	30,000
Event Supplies	-	13,330	-	13,330
Event Food and Beverage	-	6,500	-	6,500
Information Technology	-	2,200	-	2,200
Licenses, Memberships & Dues	-	117	-	117
Postage	-	2,543	-	2,543
Printing	-	15,500	-	15,500
Public Relations / Marketing	-	2,000	-	2,000
Professional Fees	-	34,000	-	34,000
Promotional Mdse	-	21,100	-	21,100
Auction expense	-	-	-	-
Mileage/Gas	-	2,430	-	2,430
Miscellaneous	-	-	-	-
Volunteer Appreciation	-	1,407	-	1,407
		<b>175,888</b>		<b>175,888</b>
<b>Expenses</b>				
Bank Charges	423	5,050	750	6,223
Workers Compensation Insurance	4,272	1,477	252	6,000
General/Liability/Property	22,900	3,400	800	27,100
Employee Benefits	27,766	9,598	1,636	39,000
Officers and Directors Insurance	3,634	782	184	4,600
Conferences & Meetings	4,628	1,600	273	6,500
Event Entertainment	28,815	-	-	28,815
Event Entertainment GIK	2,665	-	-	2,665
Facility Rental	132,240	-	-	132,240
Facility Rental GIK	15,000	-	-	15,000
Vehicle Rental	2,240	-	-	2,240
Vehicle Rental GIK	400	-	-	400
Equipment Rental	25,800	-	-	25,800
Equipment Rental GIK	20,000	-	-	20,000
Maintenance & Grounds	6,952	1,496	352	8,800
Equipment Service/Contracts	6,046	1,258	296	7,600
Information Technology	31,479	5,185	1,220	37,884
Office supplies	4,272	1,477	252	6,000
Event supplies	67,580	-	-	67,580
Event supplies GIK	46,809	-	-	46,809
Supplies Food/Beverage	57,922	-	-	57,922
Supplies Food/Beverage GIK	71,750	-	-	71,750
Family Assistance	50,000	-	-	50,000
Licenses, Memberships & Dues	2,563	886	151	3,600
Occupancy/Rent/Storage	60,962	13,118	3,087	77,167
Utilities	3,476	748	176	4,400
Payroll - Salaries	389,914	134,792	22,973	547,679
FICA/Medicare Payroll Taxes	38,991	10,312	1,757	51,060
Employee Benefits Administration	1,424	492	84	2,000
Postage/Mailings	7,067	986	232	8,285
Printing/Publications and Signage	5,430	1,020	240	6,690
Printing/Publications and Signage GIK	10,575	-	-	10,575
Public Relations / Marketing	3,480	984	168	4,632
Professional Fees	17,683	9,230	43,007	69,920
Professional Fees GIK	74,395	-	-	74,395
AmeriCorps VISTA	1,850	1,850	-	3,700
Staff Training & Education	1,780	615	105	2,500
Telephone	5,696	1,969	336	8,000
Travel & Transportation	8,164	-	-	8,164
Travel & Transportation GIK	4,500	-	-	4,500
Mileage/Gas	9,791	1,477	252	11,519
Depreciation Expense	27,650	5,950	1,400	35,000
Volunteer Appreciation	5,120	280	90	5,490
Volunteer Appreciation GIK	265	-	-	265
Volunteer Recruitment	2,000	-	-	2,000
Background Checks	1,840	-	-	1,840
Hospitality	2,848	984	168	4,000
Miscellaneous	1,674	492	84	2,250
<b>Total Other Expenses</b>	<b>1,322,728</b>	<b>217,509</b>	<b>80,323</b>	<b>1,620,560</b>
Percent of Total Other Expenses	81.62%	13.42%	4.96%	100.00%
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>1,322,728</b>	<b>393,397</b>	<b>80,323</b>	<b>1,796,448</b>
Net Surplus (Deficit)				(80,137)
Restricted program funds carried fwd from prior years				81,000
<b>Net Surplus of operating funds</b>				<b>863</b>
Add back non-cash expenditures				
Depreciation				35,000
Amortization				-
Subtract non-cash revenue (other than in-kind)				
Dividends (reinvested)				(10,000)
Change in market value (unrealized)				(10,000)
Subtract investment in capital improvements				-
Reallocation of capital campaign				-
<b>Net Increase (Decrease) in Cash</b>				<b>15,863</b>





**Camp Happy Days - Camp Budget FY2024**

	<b>Camp</b>	<b>Virtual Camp</b>
<b>Revenues</b>		
Individual Contributions	14,815	
Corporate Contributions	18,831	
Foundation Grants	73,238	
Corporate Grants	40,000	
Governmental Grants	137,790	27,300
In-Kind Gifts Received	167,865	1,700
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>452,539</b>	<b>29,000</b>
<b>Expenses</b>		
Bank Charges	300	
General/Liability/Property	7,100	
Event Entertainment	18,000	200
Event Entertainment GIK	1,365	
Facility Rental	96,240	
Vehicle Rental	1,740	
Equipment Rental	20,000	
Equipment Rental GIK	20,000	
Information Technology	7,234	
Event supplies	35,000	2000
Event supplies GIK	13,000	
Supplies Food/Beverage	40,600	500
Supplies Food/Beverage GIK	61,000	1700
Payroll - Salaries	72,300	24000
Postage/Mailings	735	100
Printing/Publications and Signage	120	200
Printing/Publications and Signage GIK	1,575	
Public Relations / Marketing	132	
Professional Fees GIK	68,000	
Travel & Transportation	6,500	200
Travel & Transportation GIK	4,500	
Mileage/Gas	2,400	100
Volunteer Appreciation	3,715	
Volunteer Appreciation GIK	265	
Volunteer Recruitment	2,000	
Background Checks	1,840	
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>485,661</b>	<b>29,000</b>

**Total Camp & Virtual Expenses: \$514,661**



# Mission & Impact



## MISSION & HISTORY

*Camp Happy Days' mission is to offer support and encouragement to children diagnosed with cancer and their families by providing cost-free year-round programs, special events and access to crisis resources. Our goal is to improve the physical, emotional, and psychological health of the entire family facing pediatric cancer.*

- Year Founded: 1982
- 2023-2024 Budget: \$1,796,448
- 2024 Camp Budget: \$514,661
- Weekend Camps Budget (Includes two teen and two-family weekends): \$107,380.
- Number Served: 3,854 children battling cancer, siblings and parents/guardians served in FY2022-2023.
- 82% of all funds raised go directly to children and families with 18% going towards administrative and fundraising expenses.
- Camp Happy Days serves more children with cancer and their families than any other nonprofit in South Carolina and is the only organization that offers these services to children with cancer and their families across the entire state.

## NEED

Imagine hearing that your child or a family member's child has cancer. You can imagine the emotions that you would feel, but do you really know what it means to a parent to hear their child has cancer. For 250 families in South Carolina this year, they will hear this devastating news. The average age of a child diagnosed with cancer is only six years old, and even though most will survive, all will deal with the physical, mental, and emotional long-term effects brought on by a cancer diagnosis. Children diagnosed with cancer are at higher risk for depression and anxiety, isolation, loss of self-confidence and independence and reduced physical activity (Journal of Cancer Survivorship, 2023). These risks can negatively impact the child's quality of life and impact the whole family. Camp Happy Days understands what these children and families go through because we have been at their side providing emotional and psychological support for over 40 years. These children and their families are a part of a much bigger family of staff, volunteers, and the community who come together for one another and fight against pediatric cancer and its consequences. We are asking for \$250,000 in funding for the 2024-2025 fiscal year. This funding will support Camp Happy Days' programs, including our 2025 Summer and Virtual Camps. We expect over 200 children with cancer and their siblings to attend in-person camp and 100 campers to participate in virtual camp. The funding will also support programs for families, teens, and young children held across the state throughout the year.

## **GENERAL PROGRAMS**

To help address the emotional, psychological, and financial needs of these families, Camp Happy Days has developed specialized programs which are available to families without cost. Our goal is to provide hope, inspiration, respite, emotional support, and access to crisis resources for all families in SC affected by pediatric cancer. We work with the entire family to help them through the complex process of having a child diagnosed with cancer. Battling cancer during childhood can be especially destructive for the child's psychological growth and development. Research has shown the positive impact programming for pediatric cancer patients has on the child and their families' overall well-being. According to the American Camp Association, "By making minor adjustments to programs and providing children with recreational activities, they are able to receive many benefits as well as learn coping skills necessary to face the many issues brought on as a result of their diagnosis and treatment process." Our families' feedback confirms program participation has provided support and created hope for their child which is crucial when dealing with the adverse side effects of a cancer diagnosis. Our programs are designed to provide a source of comfort, support, and encouragement during this frightening and chaotic time. Our new programming planned at our office and in the hospital will allow us to continue to better serve the needs of our families.

### **IMPACT**

Attending Camp Happy Days Programming:

Increased Physical Activity: 79% agreed

Connected families to support: 88% agreed

Created sense of hope: 88% agreed

Learned a new resource or tool: 88% agreed

### **CAMP**

Camp Happy Days has been hosting an annual week-long summer camp in Summerton, SC for children with cancer and their siblings since 1982. During this week-long program, South Carolina children who are facing the hardship of cancer diagnosis, personally or through their sibling, can focus on being a kid. Children with cancer often undergo treatment causing them to miss months of school and other important events, severely limiting their peer interaction. Even their siblings may have their social and educational routines disrupted if parents and caregivers must focus on providing care for the child with cancer for an extended period. Camp provides a safe and inclusive environment for peer interaction and support. Camp activities are intentionally designed to challenge physical boundaries, encourage teamwork, provide therapeutic outlets, and boost self-confidence. Campers can engage in a variety of activities, such as the climbing wall or water sports, that may not otherwise be available to them. Camp Happy Days provides comprehensive medical supervision to protect all campers, while allowing them to feel independent. The support and relationships formed during camp provide these children with a priceless experience, and the support to take with them on the journey ahead. Camp Happy Days' number one goal is always to improve the overall health of children and families battling cancer in South Carolina. By addressing their physical, social, and emotional needs, we can help our families develop the social and emotional skills that can lead to happier and more productive lives.

## **CAMP 2023**

189 children participated in Camp  
Over 149 volunteers participated for 5513 volunteer hours

## **VIRTUAL CAMP 2023**

100 Briefcases Delivered to Campers at Home and in Hospital  
160 lunches/breakfasts delivered to patients & parents in Hospital  
20 volunteers participated for 337 volunteer hours

## **IMPACT**

Attending Camp 2023:

Campers agreed to the following measures:

Friendship - I made new friends at Camp: 88%  
Independence - I was able to make my own decisions at Camp: 73%  
Confidence - I tried something new at Camp: 79%  
Hope - I feel more positive and/or hopeful about my future: 59%  
Teamwork - I worked well with my team: 86%

## **PROGRAMS GOALS 2023-2024**

Provide over 95 programs and events during the fiscal year  
Serve over 3,555 (duplicated) children and adults  
Focus on improving programming and sessions at family and teen weekends  
Host additional pre-teen programs  
Increase hospital programming and attendance of virtual programming  
Host additional parent groups and various classes (including cooking, art and music)  
Improve processes for program evaluation, communication, and volunteer recruitment  
Focus on meeting COCA-I Gold Ribbon standards and improving camp and program policies and procedures





## 2024 New and Expanding Programs

### Overnight Programs

- Counselor in Training (CIT) Program
- Host 2 Teen Weekends – fall & spring
- Pre-teen Lock-In and other pre-teen day events
- Host Family Weekends– fall & spring

### On-Site Health and Wellness Programs

- Host new programs in our 4,500 square foot building. These sessions will allow us to provide a safe and comfortable atmosphere for healing and therapeutic benefits.
- Offering therapeutic programs and activities including play and art therapy, Yoga for children, overnight lock-ins, pre-teen and teen programs, family movie nights, family day events hosted throughout the year, and so much more.
- Offer programs and events that will allow us to better serve specific populations such as siblings, teens, and parents.
- Sibling & Teen Support Groups - utilizing self-expression and emotional release activities such as journaling, painting, music therapy and wellness classes. We will also incorporate opportunities for fun through games, movie nights, cooking classes yoga, and other activities these specific groups can do together.

### Bereavement Programs

- Offer specific programming designed to support bereaved parents & siblings that lose a child to cancer. This population is at high risk of experiencing extreme guilt, depression, anger, resentment, and isolation.
- For bereaved siblings, we will offer therapeutic activities which include arts, crafts, games, and journaling. The goal of these activities will be communicating or working through the death of their brother or sister.
- For bereaved parents, it will allow for bonding and support as well as one-on-one care if needed.
- Host programming for the entire family unit so they can learn ways to cope through the grief process as a family.
- We will collaborate with similar organizations that provide grief programs such as Bridges of South Carolina and Camp Hands of Hope.

### Parent and Sibling Programs

- Host parent day and night events, sibling day programs and overnight events.
- Our future goal is to host a siblings-only weekend and parent's weekend.



## **Camp Happy Days Programs Descriptions**

### **Day Programs**

#### **Doodlebug Programs**

Programs designed for children and their siblings ages 0-9 years old. Doodlebug programs are held throughout the year and allow families to engage in fun activities with other families, Camp Happy Days staff, and volunteers.

#### **Pre-teen Programs**

Programs designed for children and their siblings ages 10-13. Our pre-teen programs are held throughout the year and provide children and their siblings the opportunity to reconnect, participate in fun therapeutic activities, and bond with other pre-teens who are going through a similar experience.

#### **Family Events**

Camp Happy Days staff and volunteers host quarterly activities for CHD families to participate in together. Activities include game nights, movie nights, and family dinners.

#### **Holiday Festival**

A signature holiday program for Camp Happy Days families to gather and celebrate the upcoming holidays.

### **Overnight Programs**

#### **Camp Happy Days Overnight Weeklong Summer Camp**

This weeklong, flagship event in Summerton, SC is for children diagnosed with cancer and their siblings, ages 5-16. This powerful, life changing experience helps children build self-esteem, courage, confidence, and trust in an incredibly active, high-energy environment designed just for them.

#### **Family Weekends**

Twice a year, Camp Happy Days host a overnight weekend programs designed for Camp Happy Days families where they have the opportunity to connect, learn, share, and experience the magic of camp together.

#### **Extreme Teen Weekends**

Teen weekends are designed for teenagers and their siblings ages 13-18. This program allows teens to interact with one another, share experiences, and engage in a variety of fun activities. Teen weekends are hosted twice a year, one in the fall and one in the spring.

### **Hospital Programs**

#### **Happy Hospital Days at MUSC**

Camp Happy Days staff and volunteers bring the CHD experience to the hospital. Once a month, we spend the day at MUSC Shawn Jenkins Children's Hospital doing crafts and activities with the patients on the pediatric oncology unit. During a hospital stay, families can request a special visit from Camp Happy Days staff and volunteers. Families can choose to receive a nice meal, make their favorite craft, play games, or have story time.

## **Outpatient Clinic Visits – FACT Clinic & Brain Tumor Clinic**

### **FACT Clinic**

Camp Happy Days provides healthy snacks and activity bags 24 times a year for patients and families who attend. Follow-up After Cancer Treatment (F.A.C.T Clinic), a comprehensive clinic for long-term pediatric cancer survivors at MUSC Children's Health Summey Medical Pavilion.

### **Brain Tumor Clinic**

Camp Happy Days brings arts and crafts activities and healthy snacks to patients and families during their clinic visit. Brain Tumor Clinic occurs monthly at MUSC Children's Health Summey Medical Pavilion for children who have recently finished treatment for a brain tumor.

## **Family Resources**

### **Family Financial Assistance**

To ease the financial strain that pediatric cancer puts on families, Camp Happy Days provides financial assistance to qualifying families to assist with bills, groceries, gas and other everyday needs.

### **Holiday Giving**

Volunteers, donors, and friends of Camp Happy Days sponsor a family or a child diagnosed with cancer, to help fulfill their children's holiday wishes.

## **Virtual Programs**

Since 2020, we have developed a variety of virtual programming that is available to all Camp Happy Days children and their siblings. Virtual programming has provided a safe space for all CHD families to interact with each other, even from afar.

### **Virtual Camp**

Virtual Camp takes place in June each summer. Each camper receives a special themed box that includes all items needed for the entire week of camp! These boxes are filled to the brim with opportunities to bring the benefits of Camp to their home and engage and connect with their camp family. Virtual Camp has not only allowed us to serve children at their homes but also to start serving children in the hospital or currently quarantined due to their treatment plan.

### **Virtual Doodlebug Bedtime Stories**

Doodlebug Bedtime Stories take place once a month for children and their siblings ages 0-9. Each month is geared toward a different theme including a fun children's book and activity. Our goal is to connect, learn, and laugh together.



## **2023 – 2024 Full Fiscal Year Programs Calendar**

### **September 2023**

- September 7<sup>th</sup>- FACT Clinic Delivery
- September 8<sup>th</sup> – Brain Tumor Clinic Delivery
- September 9<sup>th</sup>- Charleston Battery Soccer Game, Community Hero of the Night
- September 14<sup>th</sup> – Happy Hospital Days @ MUSC
- September 15<sup>th</sup> -17<sup>th</sup>- Fall Extreme Teen Weekend
- September 20<sup>th</sup>- Virtual Doodlebug Bedtime Story
- September 21<sup>st</sup>- FACT Clinic Delivery
- September 21<sup>st</sup>– Happy Hospital Days @ MUSC
- September 24<sup>th</sup>- Happy Steps for Awareness – CHD Family and Community Event for Childhood Cancer Awareness

### **October 2023**

- October 1<sup>st</sup> – Holiday Giving Program Begins
- October 5<sup>th</sup>- FACT Clinic Delivery
- October 12<sup>th</sup> – Happy Hospital Days @ MUSC
- October 14<sup>th</sup> – Pre Teens in the Park @ James Island County Park
- October 15<sup>th</sup> – Beads & Brunch – CHD Mom's Social Event
- October 18<sup>th</sup>- Virtual Doodlebug Bedtime Story
- October 19<sup>th</sup>- FACT Clinic Delivery
- October 20<sup>th</sup> – Happy Hospital Days @ MUSC
- October 27<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup> - Fall Family Weekend @ St. Christopher Conference Center

### **November 2023**

- November (all month) – Holiday Giving Program
- November 2<sup>nd</sup>- FACT Clinic Delivery
- November 3<sup>rd</sup> – Family Meal Deliveries – AMOR Healing Kitchen
- November 10<sup>th</sup> – Family Meal Deliveries – AMOR Healing Kitchen
- November 15<sup>th</sup>- Virtual Doodlebug Bedtime Story
- November 16<sup>th</sup> – Happy Hospital Days @ MUSC
- November 16<sup>th</sup>- FACT Clinic Delivery
- November 17<sup>th</sup> – Family Meal Deliveries – AMOR Healing Kitchen

### **December 2023**



- December 1<sup>st</sup> – Family Meal Deliveries – AMOR Healing Kitchen
- December 2<sup>nd</sup> – Holiday Festival for CHD Families, PJs & Pancakes @ CHD Office
- December 6<sup>th</sup> – Virtual Doodlebug Bedtime Story
- December 7<sup>th</sup> – FACT Clinic Delivery
- December 8<sup>th</sup> – Brain Tumor Clinic Delivery
- December 8<sup>th</sup> – Family Meal Deliveries – AMOR Healing Kitchen
- December 11<sup>th</sup>–15<sup>th</sup> – Holiday Giving Gift Deliveries
- December 20<sup>th</sup> – Family Meal Deliveries – AMOR Healing Kitchen

#### **January 2024**

- January 4<sup>th</sup> – FACT Clinic Delivery
- January 5<sup>th</sup> – Family Meal Deliveries – AMOR Healing Kitchen
- January 12<sup>th</sup> – Family Meal Deliveries – AMOR Healing Kitchen
- January 17<sup>th</sup> – Virtual Doodlebug Bedtime Story
- January 18<sup>th</sup> – FACT Clinic Delivery
- January 18<sup>th</sup> – Happy Hospital Days @ MUSC
- January 19<sup>th</sup> – Family Meal Deliveries – AMOR Healing Kitchen
- January 21<sup>st</sup> – Families in the Kitchen, Cooking Workshop for CHD Families at Young Chef Academy
- January 25<sup>th</sup> – Happy Hospital Days @ MUSC

#### **February 2024**

- February 1<sup>st</sup> – FACT Clinic Delivery
- February 8<sup>th</sup> – Happy Hospital Days @ MUSC
- February 12<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup> – Valentines Delivery to Prisma Health Midlands & Prisma Health Upstate
- February 14<sup>th</sup> – Valentines Delivery to MUSC Shawn Jenkins Children's Hospital
- February 15<sup>th</sup> – FACT Clinic Delivery
- February 16<sup>th</sup> – February 18<sup>th</sup> – CIT Retreat at CHD Office
- February 21<sup>st</sup> – Virtual Doodlebug Bedtime Story
- February 22<sup>nd</sup> – Happy Hospital Days @ MUSC

#### **March 2024**

- March 2<sup>nd</sup> – Preteen Lock in @ CHD Office
- March 7<sup>th</sup> – FACT Clinic Delivery
- March 7<sup>th</sup> – Happy Hospital Days @ MUSC
- March 8<sup>th</sup> – Brain Tumor Clinic Delivery
- March 14<sup>th</sup> – Happy Hospital Days @ MUSC
- March 15<sup>th</sup> – St. Patrick's Day Cooking Workshop @ Young Chef Academy

- March 20<sup>th</sup> – Virtual Doodlebug Bedtime Story
- March 21<sup>st</sup> – FACT Clinic Delivery
- March 22<sup>nd</sup> – March 24<sup>th</sup> - Spring Family Weekend, Kanuga Inn & Lodge

#### **April 2024**

- April 11<sup>th</sup> – Happy Hospital Days @ MUSC
- April 17<sup>th</sup> – Virtual Doodlebug Bedtime Story
- April 18<sup>th</sup> – FACT Clinic Delivery
- April 18<sup>th</sup> – Hold for Hope Blossoms – Bereavement Program
- April 26<sup>th</sup> – Happy Hospital Days @ MUSC
- April – Backyard Garden Party @ CHD Office, Date TBD

#### **May 2024**

- May 2<sup>nd</sup> – FACT Clinic Delivery
- May 9<sup>th</sup> – Happy Hospital Days @ MUSC
- May 11<sup>th</sup> – Garden Party @ CHD Office
- May 15<sup>th</sup> – Virtual Doodlebug Bedtime Story
- May 16<sup>th</sup> – FACT Clinic Delivery
- May 16<sup>th</sup> – Happy Hospital Days @ MUSC
- May 17<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup>- Spring Teen Weekend

#### **June 2024**

- June 6<sup>th</sup> - June 7<sup>th</sup> – Virtual Camp
- June 6<sup>th</sup> – FACT Clinic Delivery
- June 8<sup>th</sup> – Doodlebug Day
- June 14<sup>th</sup> – Brain Tumor Clinic Delivery
- June 20<sup>th</sup> – FACT Clinic Delivery

#### **July 2024**

- June 29<sup>th</sup><sup>th</sup> - July 6<sup>th</sup> - CHD Weeklong Overnight Camp
- July 18<sup>th</sup> – FACT Clinic Delivery

#### **August 2024**

- August 1<sup>st</sup> – FACT Clinic Delivery
- August 15<sup>th</sup> – FACT Clinic Delivery
- August 10<sup>th</sup> – \*Potential hold\* CHD Family Beach Day with Warrior Surf
- August 21<sup>st</sup> – Doodlebug Bedtime Story

### **September 2024 - Childhood Cancer Awareness Month**

- September 5<sup>th</sup> – FACT Clinic Delivery
- September 12<sup>th</sup> – Happy Hospital Days @ MUSC
- September 13<sup>th</sup> – Brain Tumor Clinic Delivery
- September 19<sup>th</sup> – FACT Clinic Delivery
- September 21<sup>st</sup> – Happy Hospital Days @ MUSC
- September 23<sup>rd</sup> or September 30<sup>th</sup> – CHD Childhood Cancer Awareness Family Day
- September – Fall Extreme Teen Weekend (date TBD)

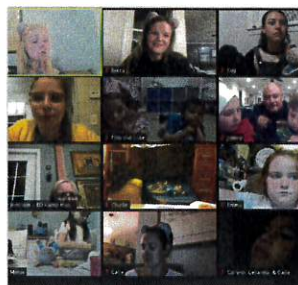




SUMMER CAMP



VIRTUAL CAMP



VIRTUAL PROGRAMMING



HOSPITAL PROGRAMMING



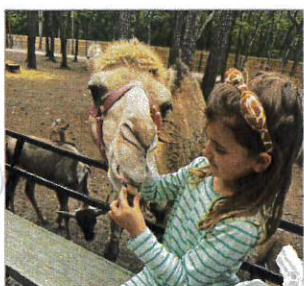
FAMILY EVENTS



# PROGRAMS



FAMILY WEEKENDS

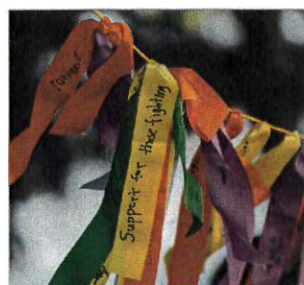


DOODLEBUG PROGRAMS

**Camp Happy Days offers cost-free year-round programming for children with cancer (ages 0-18) and their families throughout the state of South Carolina.**



EXTREME TEEN WEEKENDS



FAMILY FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

**Our goal is to improve the physical, emotional and psychological health of the entire family facing pediatric cancer.**



PRE-TEEN PROGRAMS



HOLIDAY GIVING



DREAM DATES



COUNSELOR IN TRAINING PROGRAMS



PARTNERSHIP PROGRAMS

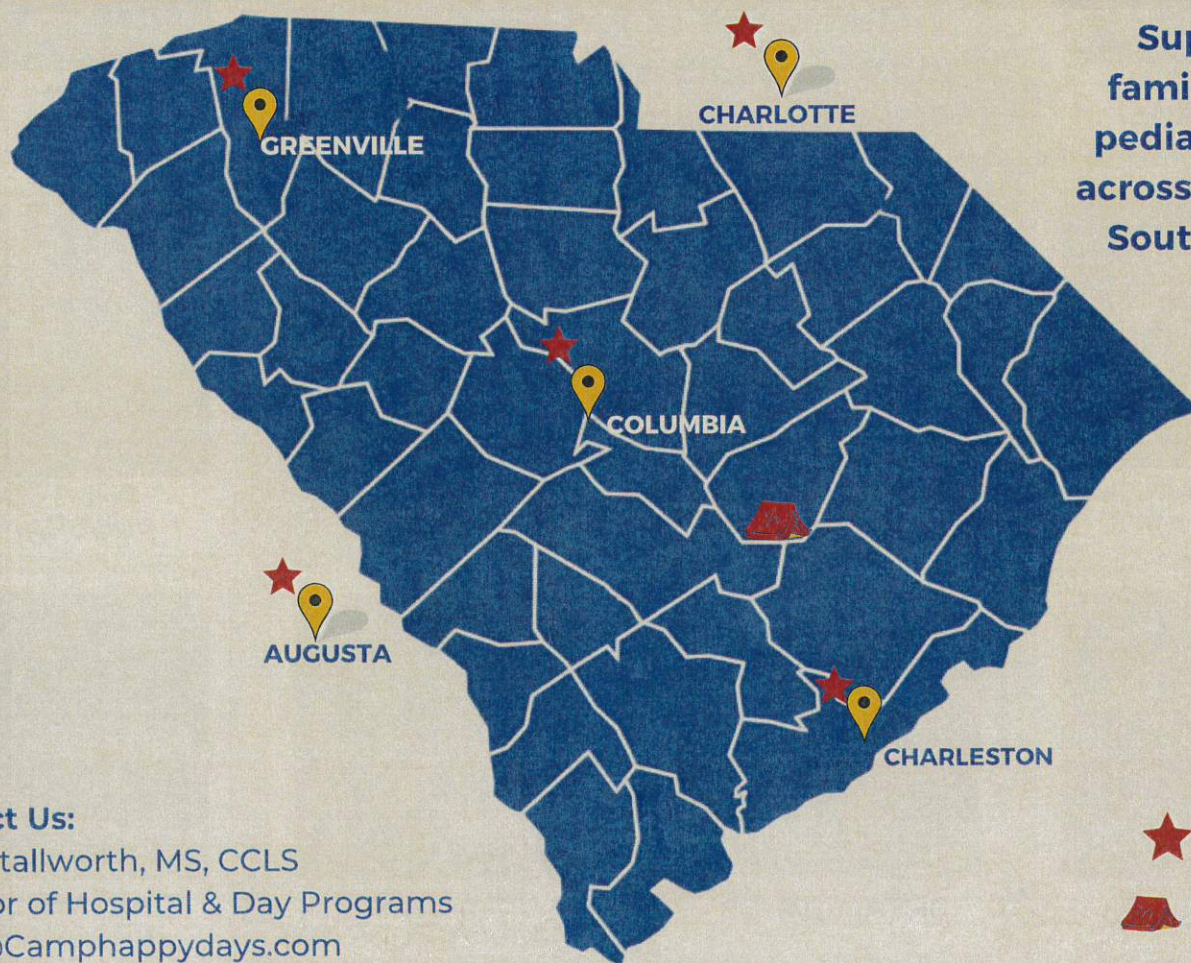


"CHD has been wonderful for our family. It has given us another support system that knows what each of us is going through. It has provided our daughter with the experience of connecting with other children who have fought the same battle that she has. CHD has provided the opportunity for her little brother to participate in events with her and they truly understand how cancer affects the whole family."

-Camp Happy Days Mom





**What cancer takes away, Camp Happy Days helps give back - the chance to just be a kid again. Until there's a cure...there's Camp Happy Days!**



**Supporting families facing pediatric cancer across the state of South Carolina**

**Contact Us:**

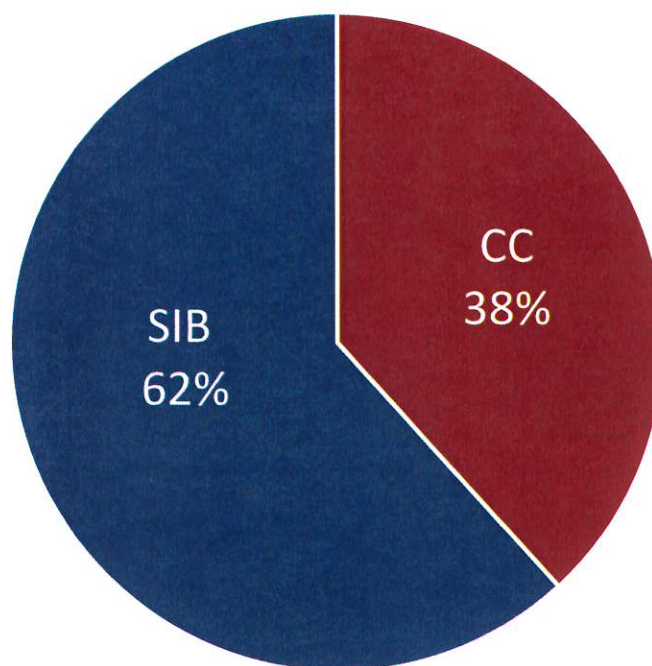
Catie Stallworth, MS, CCLS  
Director of Hospital & Day Programs  
[Catie@Camphappydays.com](mailto:Catie@Camphappydays.com)

 **Hospitals Served**  
 **Camp Bob Cooper**

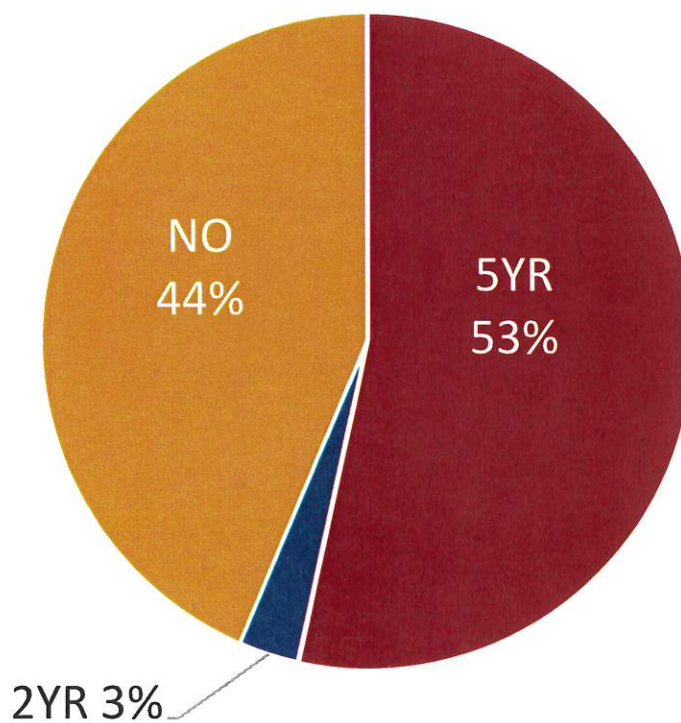


# Demographics

Child with Cancer (CC) or Sibling (SIB)

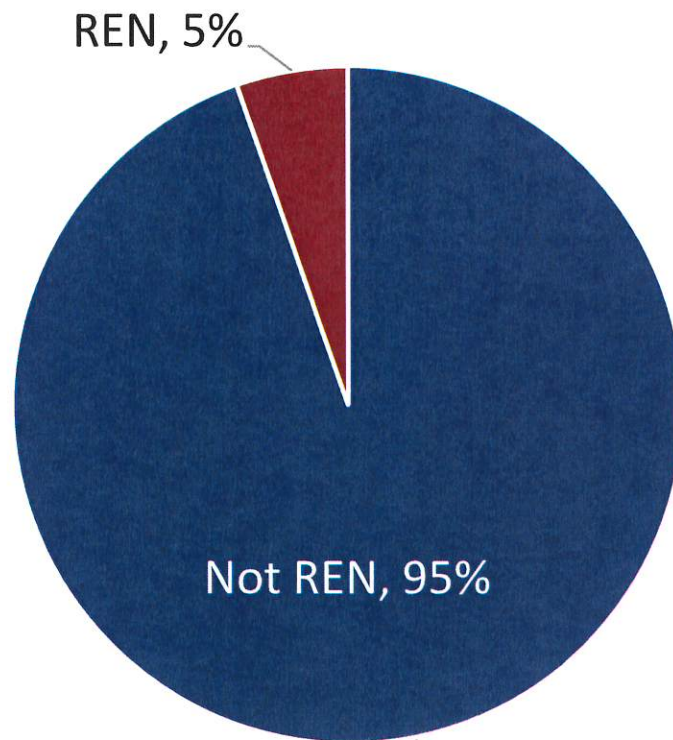


5YR/2YR/NO\*

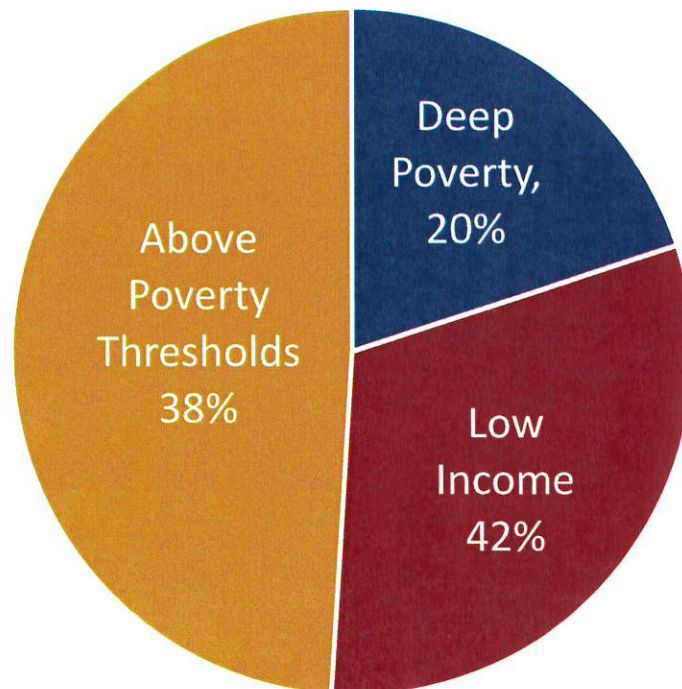


\*5YR - Diagnosis or Relapse Date is within 5 years. 2YR – Child's sibling passed away in the last 2 years.  
NO – Outside of 5YR and 2YR date.

**Renaissance(REN) Families - child passed away from cancer.**



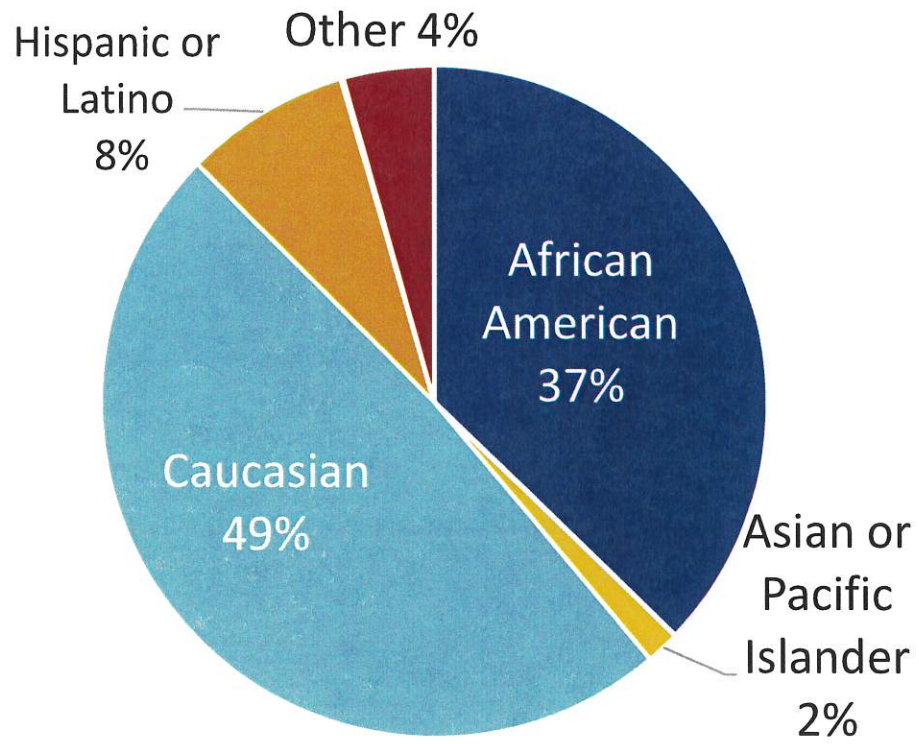
**Poverty Data**



**\*62% of all CHD households qualify for low-income services (\$40,000 or under for family of 4)**



**Ethnicity Data**



CHD Children By County

Updated: 12/18/2023

2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
County	County	County	County	County	County	County	County	County	County
Abbeville	Abbeville	Abbeville	Abbeville	Abbeville	Abbeville	Abbeville	Abbeville	Abbeville	Abbeville
1	1	15	0	0	0	0	2	0	0
Alcon	Alcon	2	20	20	21	21	16	18	19
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Anderson	Anderson	3	3	3	3	3	6	10	8
45	45	21	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bamberg	Bamberg	21	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2	2	68	1	1	1	1	0	0	5
77	77	68	22	22	25	25	26	23	23
Beaufort	Beaufort	76	69	71	88	88	92	96	96
2	2	1	6	6	6	6	5	2	2
Calhoun	Calhoun	3	104	120	126	126	121	129	130
1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Charleston	Charleston	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
13	13	19	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dillon	Dillon	20	28	28	31	31	11	9	11
Dorchester	Dorchester	65	14	14	15	15	8	6	6
6	6	5	5	5	5	5	4	4	4
Fairfield	Fairfield	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
22	22	21	5	5	3	3	4	4	4
Georgetown	Georgetown	33	4	4	4	4	1	1	0
9	9	17	26	26	24	24	23	20	22
Hampton	Hampton	17	26	26	24	24	23	20	22
3	3	16	1	1	1	1	6	2	2
Laurens	Laurens	15	1	1	1	1	6	2	2
2	2	16	1	1	1	1	6	2	2
Lee	Lee	56	17	17	16	16	17	11	11
1	1	5	5	5	5	5	53	58	67
Marlboro	Marlboro	11	67	67	64	64	2	3	2
4	4	5	5	5	5	5	2	2	2
18	18	47	14	13	13	13	18	3	15
Lexington	Lexington	4	0	0	0	0	4	14	6
6	6	2	4	4	4	4	4	4	3
Marion	Marion	2	4	4	4	4	4	4	3
2	2	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	3
Lee	Lee	5	8	8	8	8	3	4	3
2	2	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	3
Newberry	Newberry	3	3	3	3	3	7	2	2
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Orangeburg	Orangeburg	13	56	56	50	50	33	36	43
18	18	4	2	2	2	2	2	1	5
Pickens	Pickens	6	3	3	2	2	0	4	4
0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Richland	Richland	54	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
2	2	6	3	3	3	3	7	2	2
Saluda	Saluda	2	3	3	3	3	4	4	6
Sparksburg	Sparksburg	5	2	2	2	2	4	2	5
6	6	2	2	2	2	2	4	2	5
Sumter	Sumter	27	14	14	20	20	18	23	20
2	2	2	15	15	5	5	9	5	5
York	York	7	6	6	5	5	9	5	5
Other	Other	30	48	48	58	58	66	71	62
Total	Total	675	6	6	5	5	3	3	3
			Sparksburg	4	4	4	Sparksburg	12	15
			Sumter	25	27	27	Sumter	29	39
			Union	0	2	2	Union	8	5
			Williamsburg	1	2	2	Williamsburg	6	5
			York	8	13	10	York	18	18
			Other	43	40	37	Other	99	101
			Total	802	845	856	Total	856	930

# Letters & Partners



1/16/2024

**Pediatric  
Hematology/Oncology**  
10 McClennan Banks Drive  
Charleston, SC 29425

Tel (843) 876-0444  
Fax (843) 985-4255

**Christina Abrams, M.D.  
Shayla Bergmann, M.D.  
B. Paige DePriest, M.D.  
Anca Dumitriu, M.D.  
Michelle Hudspeth, M.D.  
Jennifer Jaroscak, M.D.  
Jacqueline M. Kraveka, D.O.  
Sandeepkumar Kuril, M.D.  
Andrew Picca, D.O**

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to you to request your continued support for a cause very near and dear to my heart. Camp Happy Days is a life-changing organization that serves children with a diagnosis of cancer and their families. Not only do they support the patient, they offer their services and support to the entire family unit and continue to provide care long past diagnosis.

Camp Happy Days is at its heart a camp for children with complex medical issues. Children with cancer and their siblings attend a week of fun filled events – cost free – every year until the age out. Each year, we open up a mini-clinic and hand out meds, wrap ankles, treat bug bites, administer types of chemotherapy, suture lacerations – the list is endless! I am amazed by what we are able to accomplish without having to remove the kids from the fun! All of our supplies are donated from members of the community or provided for by monetary donations – and without those donations we would not be able to provide the care that we do. Nurses and physicians from the community volunteer their time to come and be with the children at camp and care for them. It is a great honor and a humbling privilege for parents to give up their sometimes medically fragile children to us for a week – all so they can have an amazing week of fun – and hopefully forget for a little while that they are sick or different from other children. At camp, we see these children full of life and being their true selves. It renews our commitment to our profession and gives us the “positive vibes” we need to tackle the really hard days.

As kids age, many become counselors themselves and use their prior experiences as campers to help a new generation of campers. Camp is a life-changing, eye opening experience to say the least. I cannot imagine my life without Camp Happy Days, and I know the campers and families would agree.

Camp is a gift for everyone, but as a medical provider, I speak for the whole team when I say it is a true gift for us. We take care of these children in the hospital, when they are sick or getting treatments, and in clinic when we are hoping for good scan results after another round of chemo – we don’t get to see them having fun and playing like kids should – until we come to Camp!

The entire family is served by the camp. Patients get to come and be amongst their peers who understand what it’s like to be sick with a complex diagnosis. They are treated like “normal” children. Siblings who come to camp are surrounded by other kids who know exactly how it feels to have their family’s life turned upside down by this diagnosis. Watching these children form lifelong relationships with their “camp family” is magical. The parents get a week of respite– no doctor’s appointments, no medicines to give out, no having to go to work and worry if they will have to leave because their child is sick in the hospital. Parents tell me they look forward to this week just like the kids do – sometimes I think even more so. They work around the clock to care for their children and keep them healthy and safe, often at the expense of their



own health, self-care and relationships – Camp gives them the renewed energy and inspiration to take on another year of caring and advocating for their kids. These parents hand us their greatest gifts – their children – and say, “we trust you with our babies...now go have fun.”

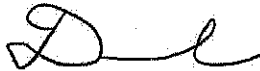
During the COVID 19 pandemic, Camp Happy Days found different ways to still bring camp to our patients in the hospital, in clinic and at home. They participated in different virtual activities and connected with each other everyday for a week. Everyone was very excited. The team at Camp Happy Days always looks for ways to bring a smile on everyone’s face no matter the times. It makes our job a little easier.

Camp Happy Days also help with our survivorship clinic and comprehensive brain tumor clinic. When patients are more than 5 years off therapy, they transfer to survivorship clinic and they are seen until they are 30 years old. Camp Happy Days is bringing snacks and activity bags to each survivorship clinic which is twice a month. These help patients and parents a lot during busy survivorship clinic days. These activity bags are geared towards the patient to help with the anxiety of being in clinic and making it go smoother. It is great help for us and the patients.

They are constantly expanding and adding additional ways to help these families and that requires significant funding for sure. Without the generous donations and funding made to Camp Happy Days each year, these programs would not be able to be offered. They are a wonderful organization that truly strives to be available, in whatever capacity, for these children and their families.

I appreciate your time consideration of this wonderful organization.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dl' or 'Dl' with a flourish.

Anca Dumitriu, MD  
Assistant Professor, Pediatrics Director of  
FACT Survivorship Clinic Pediatric  
Hematology/Oncology



January 11, 2024

To Whom It May Concern:

**Pediatric  
Hematology/Oncology**  
135 Rutledge Avenue  
MSC 561  
Charleston, SC 29425

Tel (843) 792-2957  
Fax (843) 792-8912

I am writing on behalf of my unwavering support and appreciation for the Camp Happy Days organization. As a native South Carolinian, Wofford graduate, and MUSC graduate, it has been my life's mission to ensure that the children of South Carolina have access to the best treatment options possible. As the Division Chief for Pediatric Hematology/Oncology and the Director of Pediatric Blood and Marrow Transplantation here at MUSC, I am privileged to work with children and families from all over our state. We are thrilled to be able to serve the children of our state as a top-ranked pediatric cancer center, recently ranked 14<sup>th</sup> in the country for outcomes by US News and World Report.

I can tell you that looking into parents' eyes and telling them that their child has cancer is a soul-wrenching task. The emotions and hurt in that moment are beyond words. A childhood cancer diagnosis is life-changing for the entire family. While treating and guiding children and families through intense therapy, it is critical that they have positive support to help them keep fighting and sustain their battle. Their childhood innocence has been quickly stripped away, and they are thrown into a world of difficult treatments.

Camp Happy Days provides that shining light of support to keep them fighting. These are children who have to miss so much of normal childhood, and the week of camp provides them a chance to simply be a child again. The simple joys of things like fishing, camp games, and fun pranks on counselors in the dining hall are enough to keep them fighting for the battle they have to face. They also have a chance to be around a whole community "like them" where other children understand the fears and worries that they face. For many children, going back to school and their friends is very scary after feeling so different during cancer treatment. Camp builds their confidence and allows them to rejoin their communities and thrive.

Cancer indeed takes a toll on the whole family. Siblings are often left with conflicted emotions- scared that their brother or sister will die, sad because of their own loss of routine and uncertainty, as they are often back and forth between family, friends, and neighbors as the parents try to work and attend to the medical needs and emergencies for the child with cancer, and then guilt that they are feeling sad. Their childhoods are also forever changed. Camp also gives these children a safe place to be with other siblings who are going through the same problems and receive support.

The look of sheer happiness in the faces of these children at camp is indescribable. Now, the parents shed tears of joy, instead of sadness to see their



**Pediatric  
Hematology/Oncology**  
135 Rutledge Avenue  
MSC 561  
Charleston, SC 29425

Tel (843) 792-2957  
Fax (843) 792-8912

child have a chance to be normal again. Camp Happy Days is a critical partner to help us take care of these special children and their families.

With Gratitude,

Michelle Hudspeth, MD  
Professor, Pediatrics  
Director, Adult and Pediatric Blood & Marrow  
Transplantation  
Division Chief, Pediatric Hematology/Oncology  
Medical University of South Carolina Children's Hospital/Hollings  
Cancer Center  
A NCI Designated Cancer  
Center 135 Rutledge Avenue  
MSC 561  
Charleston, SC 29425  
FAX: 843-792-8912  
PHONE: 843-792-0381



Inspire health. Serve with compassion. Be the difference.

January 16, 2024

SC Ways and Means Subcommittee for Health and Human Services:

As the Social Worker at Prisma Health Children's Hospital-Midlands, Center for Cancer and Blood Disorders in Columbia, SC, a large portion of my job is dedicated to locating resources for our patients and their families. I have known the wonderful people of Camp Happy Days for nine years now. Since meeting them, Camp Happy Days has become a familiar, friendly, and reliable form of support not just for our families, but also for me as a professional.

One of the most difficult parts of helping a family whose child was just diagnosed with cancer is helping them navigate their new and unexpected financial situation. We meet families from all different backgrounds, and we have learned that they will all be affected financially at some point. It is a difficult adjustment, and as a social worker I rely heavily on outside organizations to help these families through the hardest times of their lives. Camp Happy Days has been pivotal in helping our bereaved families by providing much needed assistance for the high costs of their child's funeral. Over the years, the availability of funding around the country has fluctuated, but Camp Happy Days has remained steady in their financial support of our families.

Although there are many organizations throughout the country that help families with children with cancer pay their bills, I cannot describe just how valuable it is to have a local organization to help our families. Their proximity allows them to develop special bonds with the families they serve. They work diligently to follow up with our families in a timely manner. We are so lucky to have a reliable resource right here in the state of South Carolina.

Aside from financial assistance and summer camp, Camp Happy Days has added value to the programming we are able to offer our patients. Every year on Valentine's Day we can count on Camp Happy Days to bring joy via a special delivery program to our patients and families who are stuck in the hospital. We are also able to supplement our own Holiday Adoption program with their Holiday Giving program, which allows us to maximize the number of patients we help throughout the state. Camp Happy Days remains adaptable in all they do, offering flexibility to help reach families with varying accessibility to programming.

At Prisma Health-Midlands, we operate our own summer camp through CAMP KEMO Programs. Our campers enjoy our programs and camps so much, that they are always asking what other camps they can attend. Luckily for us, we can tell them about Camp Happy Days and all that they offer. Our relationship with them allows us to offer our kids double the experiences of friendship, freedom, and a sense of normalcy. We are grateful that they share our belief in camp and year-round programming as an essential part of the healing process.

Sincerely,

*Caitlin O. Sullivan*

Caitlin Sullivan, LMSW  
Prisma Health Children's Hospital-Midlands, Center for Cancer and Blood Disorders  
CAMP KEMO Programs  
[caitlin.sullivan2@prismahealth.org](mailto:caitlin.sullivan2@prismahealth.org)





January 20, 2024

To the members of the South Carolina Ways and Means Committee:

I am writing this letter on behalf of Camp Happy Days in recognition of the ways in which they provide support to the patients and families with whom I work. I am a Certified Child Life Specialist serving the patients of the BI-LO Charities Children's Cancer Center in Greenville, SC. My role in the care of these patients is to promote positive coping with hospitalization, medical experiences, and overall diagnosis in a way that is developmentally informed. With this goal in mind, Camp Happy Days makes a huge contribution in providing support opportunities to these families in the hospital, as well as outside of the medical environment.

In the world of childhood cancer, nearly every facet of family life is impacted. One of the unique and most impactful qualities about Camp Happy Days is the recognition of this need and the wide range of programs designed to support these patients, as well as their parents and siblings. This type of holistic support is truly valuable and meaningful to the families served. Each year, Camp Happy Days staff delivers Valentine's Day stuffed animals for our inpatient families during the month of February. This summer, Camp Happy Days hosted their specialized annual camp programming in which several of our patients were able to participate. In addition to these programs, Camp Happy Days also offers financial support to families who are in need while their child is undergoing treatment.

The consistent and creative support of Camp Happy Days truly makes a difference for our patients as well as children and families across the state. We are incredibly grateful to consider Camp Happy Days a community partner and we look forward to future collaboration.

With appreciation,  
Lindsey Metz, MA, CCLS  
BI-LO Charities Children's Cancer Center  
Prisma Health Children's Hospital- Upstate



## **Camp Happy Days Community Partnerships**

**2023 – 2024**

- Amor Healing Kitchen
  - Local non-profit organization that provides healthy meals to individuals facing a chronic illness
- Bridges of Hope – Pediatric Hospice Group
  - Partnered Bereavement Programming & Events
- Hands of Hope – Pediatric Hospice Group
  - Partnered Bereavement Programming & Events
- Leukemia & Lymphoma Society – Charleston Division
  - New family referrals & recruitment
- Young Chef Academy
  - Family cooking workshops
- The Boon Project
  - Young adult cancer support groups
- SC Cancer Alliance
  - Pediatric Cancer data, resources, and support
- Children's Cancer Partners of the Carolina's
  - Pediatric cancer financial resources
- Hilton Hotel Group
  - Lodging for families
- College of Charleston Child Life Graduate School
  - Yearly interns & volunteers

# Staff & Board



## **2023-2024 Camp Happy Days Staff Biographical Sketch**

### **Cindy Hay Johnson – Executive Director**

Over 27 years of non-profit experience including child abuse and neglect, child sexual abuse, primary and secondary education, health services and animal protection. She began her tenure with Camp Happy Days in March 2014. She holds a BS degree in Journalism and a master's in media arts from USC.

### **Catie Stallworth – Director of Hospital & Day Programs**

Catie joined the Camp Happy Days team in October 2021. Catie is a Certified Child Life Specialist and received her master's in Child Life Degree from the College of Charleston in 2018. Prior to joining the CHD Team, she worked at Prisma Health Children's Hospital in Columbia, SC in the Pediatric Emergency Department, and also cross covered other units within the children's hospital. Catie has volunteered for a variety of camps across the state for children facing pediatric cancer and a variety of other chronic illnesses. She also served as a volunteer for many bereavement camps and programs that help support families and children who have lost a loved one. Catie's education, background, and variety of volunteer experiences has allowed her to excel in her current role at CHD as she continues to create and implement a variety of programs built to support and encourage children and their families facing pediatric cancer.

### **Mary Blackwelder – Director of Camp and Overnight Programs**

Mary joined the Camp Happy Days Team in October 2023. She received her master's degree in human development and Family Science from East Carolina and is a Certified Child Life Specialist and Certified Therapeutic Recreation Specialist. Prior to joining CHD, Mary worked at Prisma Health Children's Hospital Midlands in the emergency room and general pediatrics. She has worked and volunteered at numerous camps for children with chronic illnesses. Mary's knowledge of child development, family systems, and years of camp and outdoor experience have prepared her to design and implement camps programs that meet the physical, emotional, and psychological needs of our CHD campers and families.

### **Daniele Kockler – Director of Major Gifts & Special Events**

Daniele joined the Camp Happy Days team in October 2023. She received her BS in Hospitality Management from Indiana University of Pennsylvania with a focus in Event Coordination. Prior to her role with CHD, she worked in nonprofit community outreach for 5 years. Daniele's role is to work with the Development Committee on all major gift fundraising, sponsorships and special events which includes our annual Gala.

### **McKenzie Maffet – Camp & Overnight Programs Manager**

McKenzie received her BS in Parks, Recreation, & Tourism Management from Clemson University. She also worked towards a minor in Nonprofit Leadership. Before joining the Programs team, she worked with youth and adults with disabilities at the Clemson Outdoor Lab as a Day Camp Supervisor, camp counselor, and Camp Sunshine intern. She also worked at the Clemson Underground Recreation Center as a Recreational Attendant gaining experience in

reservations and sales. For the last three summers she volunteered as a Programs and Social Media intern and on the logistics team with Camp Kudzu.

**Mary Lutz – Hospital & Day Programs Manager**

Mary received her BS in Marketing from Illinois State University. Shortly after graduating, she started a full year as a Vista at Camp Happy Days through the AmeriCorps program. Upon completion, Mary accepted a full-time position with Camp Happy Days as the Hospital and Day Programs Manager to work alongside the Programs team.

**Ali Latham – Development Associate**

Ali received her BS in Public Health with a focus in Healthcare and Medical Services Management from the College of Charleston. During her undergraduate, she completed an internship and volunteered with Camp Happy Days. She is now a full-time member of the development team and assists with fundraising and third-party events.

**Amanda Venable –Grants Director – Part Time**

Amanda joined the Camp Happy Days team in March 2015. She received her BS in Social Work from Western Carolina University and her MPA at the College of Charleston. Over the last eight years she has worked as the Programs Director, Grant Writer and supporting the Development team at Camp Happy Days. She has over seven years of experience of working with children in the areas of special needs, parks and recreation, and program planning.

**Lisa McDonald, CPA – Finance Director – Part Time**

She has been with Camp Happy Days for over 15 years and handles all accounting and financial needs of the organization. She works with the Board Finance Committee and the Board Treasurer. She is a CPA with a BS in Business Administration with emphasis in Accounting from the College of Charleston and a master's in business administration from Charleston Southern University. She has over 17 years of experience in accounting and auditing for nonprofit organizations.

**Avery Edison – Americorp VISTA**

Avery received her B.A. in Communication Sciences and Disorders and minored in Psychology and Integrated Marketing Communications at Harding University. She began in July 2023 as the AmeriCorps VISTA and will complete her year with Camp Happy Days in July 2024.

## **2024 Camp Happy Days Board of Directors**

John Powers, President

Jessica Williford, Vice President

Chip Roberts, Immediate Past President

Peter Stonefield, Executive VP, Executive Committee Chair

James Westendorff, Secretary

LoElla Smalls, Treasurer, Finance Committee Chair

Douglas Jennings, Vice President, Governance

Franklin Adams, Assistant Treasurer

Brittany Westbrook, Development Chair

Jim Madory, DO, Programs Chair

Madelene Lewis, MD

Sam Bellamy

Jenn Savell

Paul O'Malley

Anna Morgan, MD

Alfred Dawson

Rick Giecek

Greg Taylor