

## **May 2021 – Spring E-Newsletter**

### **2021 THRIVE – Virtual Camp In**

Calling all kids 4-17 years old! Camp Quality Michigan will be providing a Virtual Camp experience this year for children that are currently in treatment or have previously been treated for cancer or have other chronic blood disorders, as well as their siblings. Camp week is July 12-16th.

The camp theme this year is THRIVE. We will be taking kids on an adventure with daily themes of Creativity, Humor, Confidence, Gratitude, and Zest through the use of imagination, fun, and lots of enthusiasm. Each child will receive a backpack filled with the items needed to participate in the week of camp along with other fun Camp Quality items. We will be using the ZOOM and FlipGrid platforms to interact with the kids throughout the week. We would traditionally hold a week-long onsite camp, but due to COVID, will provide a safer option for our families.

We will also have in-person kickoff events on June 19th at Bay Cliff Health Camp in the U.P. and on June 26th at the Brighton Rec Area in Brighton, Michigan (following all State and National COVID guidelines). The kick-off will allow the campers, siblings, and families to meet Camp Quality staff, engage with other campers, and enjoy some fun “camp” activities. To register for the Virtual Camp and the Kickoff event, go to the Camp Quality Michigan website at: <https://www.campqualityusa.org/mi/> and click on the THRIVE logo on the home page.

### **Camper Profile – Lauren**

Lauren and her family will be joining us for the camp Kick-Off this year, and we cannot wait to see her in person. She was only 11 when she was diagnosed with stage 4 Wilm’s tumor in her kidney, liver, and lungs. Thankfully she is disease-free today and feeling good.

Knowing that the other kids at camp would understand she had been through made her feel more comfortable attending since she had just finished her chemotherapy. She felt even better after hearing from her companion before camp, and she knew she was going to be welcomed.

Knowing that her brothers were also going to get a camp experience made her feel even better. She says, “I loved that they could be included in camp.”

Lauren looks forward to coming back to camp and trying Teen Camp soon. Lauren participated in virtual camp last year and thought it was fun, but she looks forward to being back in person. Her favorite part of camp was the beach all the water sports.

Lauren’s mom, said at first not sure about sending her to camp, but since it was close to their house and they learned about all the safety measures that were in place they were willing to give it a try. They will be doing virtual camp this summer and look forward to camp coming back in 2022.

## **Raise Right – Shop with Scrip**

Imagine almost every purchase you make helping a child with cancer. Camp Quality has entered a partnership with Raise Right / Shop with Scrips to help you raise money right from your phone or computer for Camp Quality Michigan through gift cards!

It has never been easier to create opportunities for what matters most to you. Your support will bring laughter, companionship, joy, and hope to children with cancer across Michigan. No extra money spent and no extra time wasted.

You can raise money by purchasing gift cards at face value. Shop 750+ top brands and immediately earn up to 20% on every gift card you buy. You can easily raise \$1,000 or more every year for Camp Quality Michigan!

Use gift cards at full value for your daily purchases. Earnings come from brands, not from your pocket, so gift cards are worth every penny. Raise money simply by doing everyday things—like grabbing your morning coffee or ordering dinner for the family. Most can be purchased right as you check out, allowing you to pay on the fly.

Gift cards can be loaded to your app and used from your phone, or you can have them mailed directly to your home.

To get started, create an account on the Raise Right app or at ShopWithScrip.com using Camp Quality Michigan's enrollment code: **7E6D683281143**

Seamlessly check out and receive eGift cards faster by securely paying online with a linked bank account or credit card. Please let us know if you have any questions. You can contact Amy Smitter at 517.231.7981 or [amy.smitter@campqualityusa.org](mailto:amy.smitter@campqualityusa.org).

## **Donor Spotlight – Care Camps**

Care Camps shares Camp Quality Michigan's value of sending children with cancer to camp free of charge. As one of Camp Quality Michigan's biggest funders, Care Camp provides almost 10% of the total costs for our activities each year. Through its charitable fundraising efforts, Care Camps will provide necessary support to send kids with cancer to medically supervised cancer camps where they can have fun, build awesome friendships, feel the joy that comes from camping and spending time in nature, make memories that will help them heal and ultimately return home feeling renewed and filled with hope.

Through programs like sponsoring a child, car, RV, or equipment donations and donations from individuals and businesses, Care Camps help over 180 campers in Michigan and 139 children oncology camps across North America. They have raised over \$16 million since 1980 and have helped many a child and family in need.

Thank you, Care Camps! You make all the difference. Learn more here: <https://carecamps.org/>

## **Volunteer Spotlight – Don Boos**

A business meeting and a brochure introduced Don Boos to Camp Quality Michigan. While waiting for a client to finish a phone call, Don picked up a brochure on her desk about Camp Quality Michigan. She invited him to come help in the kitchen at camp that night, and now twenty years later, Don is more convinced that busing tables for campers and companions led him to something meaningful. When he saw how the kids came alive at camp and how compassionate the companions were, he was hooked.

Don has served as a volunteer and part of the Camp Quality Michigan management team. His passion for skiing makes Winter Weekend his favorite activity. When you ask Don why he is so passionate, he says, “there are two words that never should go together – childhood and cancer.” Seeing what these children go through and the stress and worry for the families drives him to stay involved. From his perspective, what Camp Quality does for campers in terms of friendship and acceptance is not the only magic that happens. There is also something special about the family weekends, like Winter Weekend. Providing a space for the family to have quality time with one another, to connect with other families to offer advice, support and companionship lifts everyone up.

When we asked Don what he felt everyone should know about Camp Quality but probably do not, he said: “That Camp Quality Michigan uses it’s donations well.” The majority of what is raised goes directly to programs and services for children and their families. Thank you Don!

## **Payton Cram Poker Run – June 5, 2021**

Calling all Motorcycle enthusiasts! Camp Quality Michigan invites you to join us for the 9th annual Payton Cram Memorial Ride. This annual event benefits Camp Quality Michigan, helping to send children affected by cancer to summer camp at no cost. The registration for the ride starts at 9:00 am, and the first out will be at 10:00 am. The event is \$25 a driver and \$15 a rider. Breakfast and dinner are available. The event is hosted by Durand Eagles and honors the life of Payton Cram, who loved attending Camp Quality Michigan. For more information, contact Jeff Cram @ [dolphinx4@sbcglobal.net](mailto:dolphinx4@sbcglobal.net).