

## September 2021 Newsletter Text

### THRIVE: Virtual Camp 2021

We had great hopes that 2021 would bring us back to on site camp. Keeping our children safe is, and always will be, our first priority. As much as we miss everyone, we again offered our online version of camp in July with a THRIVE theme. Virtual camp helped us reflect on the attributes of not just surviving but thriving over the past year covering the topics of creativity, humor, confidence, gratitude, and zest.

We were able to hold a “kickoff” event in June at the Brighton Recreation area. We had 24 families attend this outdoor even (following all COVID guidelines) and were able to reconnect. It was good to see some of our “seasoned” campers as well as some new faces to Camp Quality.

We had 66 children participate with daily sessions on ZOOM allowing kids to interact with staff, companions, and each other. FlipGrid allowed kids and staff to make videos to share with each other. Of course, we had our traditional talent show and “dance” and the Teens had their own “hangout” times. Each camper was sent a bag prior to camp that included all the items needed to participate in the daily activities and crafts. We are hopeful that 2022 will bring us back to in person camps!

### Go for Gold 5K

**WE ARE BACK IN PERSON!!** This year we will have a soft start (30-minute window) from 10-10:30 am on Sunday, September 12th, 2021. This will allow runners/walkers to start in smaller groups and to spread out. We will also be offering the virtual 5k all month long, as well as the 100 mile virtual challenge. We hope to see you again this year, in-person!

Previously known as Camp Quality's Hero for a Day 5k. We had 7 amazing years of being Heroes for a Day, but we are ready to shift our focus to the main reason we hold this race. September is Childhood Cancer Awareness Month and spreading knowledge about the statistics, the funding, and the support these kids need is our priority. All our supporters and participants have been our heroes for the past 8 years now and we cannot wait to celebrate you and our amazing kids this September!

We will be displaying our memorial/tribute signs from the 2019 & 2020 course and any new ones that want to be purchased on our usual course of the Riverview trail and Flushing County Park the weekend of September 10-12th. Of course, you can also complete this virtual 5k on your treadmill or in your neighborhood. We look forward to running with you this September! Please register for the 5K at: <https://runsignup.com/gogoldforthekids5k>

### HIGHLIGHT - 100 miles in a Month

100 miles! Can you imagine running 100 miles in one month? Now add work, your daily schedules, time with your partner & family - just to name a few things. Well two of our amazing

South Camp Volunteers accomplished this feat last September, on top of each raising more than \$1000 EACH for Camp Quality Michigan!

Addison Palmer & Whitney Smith are two of our long-time volunteers from South Camp Michigan. These women saw the challenge created from the Go Gold for the Kids 5k to run 100 miles in one month and added their own spin on it by also trying to raise money for camp every step along the way. Whitney set a goal of 100 miles and \$1000 dollars for Camp Quality Michigan and blew it out of the water by running 100.1 miles and raising \$1785 on Facebook. Addison set a goal of 100 miles and \$1500 dollars and ran an unstoppable 109.58 miles and raised \$1310 for camp. Wow!!

Not only have these women shown us over the years what it means to be a companion and friend to their campers, they put their blood, sweat, and tears into camp last year. We could not be prouder to have such amazing staff members like these people and are continually inspired by the wonderful things our volunteers are always doing and coming up with. Thank you again ladies for such an incredible accomplishment and all the time and support you give to camp.

***Note:** Both Whitney and Addison are also celebrating/about to celebrate their new journeys in marriage this year! Congratulations to you both and even more, congratulations to the men who get to call these spectacular ladies their wife.*

### **Lemonade for Camp**

Watching mom and dad volunteer for Camp Quality Michigan, Alex (age 4) and Ben (age 3) Wambold wanted to help too! This summer they held a lemonade stand in conjunction with the community garage sale in Fenton, MI.

When asked what was their favorite part of the fundraiser, Alex said “my favorite part was filling up the cups for people”. Ben said his “favorite part was taking the money.” The brothers raised almost \$200, which mom and dad rounded up to the full \$200, for children with cancer to be able to attend camp cost free.

Thank you to Alex and Ben!

### **T-shirt Contest Winner – 2021**

Announcing our first ever Camp Quality Michigan T-Shirt Design Winner – Bekah! Bekah started attending camp three years ago, after being diagnosed with Myeloid Leukemia. She has taken part ever since.

The theme of the design contest was “how do you THRIVE in the face of cancer?” Bekah says of her shirt “I designed a t-shirt to show how I was able to handle cancer. I am in the big heart thriving because of the support, laughter, kindness, happiness, compassion, and love that was showered upon me.” She went onto say “Outside the heart are people supporting the heart. They helped me thrive. You and me. My theme was togetherness.”

Bekah emphasized that she did not fight cancer alone and has had an amazing support system. She added of her design, “The word thrive is going up and getting bigger to show how I felt when my doctors, my friends my family and just everyone showered me with support.” The rainbow in “THRIVE” shows the diversity of support she received.

Her shirt is available for purchase to benefit Camp Quality Michigan at: <https://mission1apparel.printavo.com/merch/camp-quality-mi> during September, Childhood Cancer Awareness Month. Bekah will be receiving a \$100 gift card to the store or restaurant of her choosing for her artistic endeavors.

The final shirt was based off Bekah idea by designed by Suzette Mulnix. The shirts range from \$25 to \$28 depending on which type of shirt you choose. You can order your shirt to show your support through September 30, 2021.

### **2021 Camp Sponsors (use with THRIVE logo)**

Camp Quality Michigan is so grateful for our 2021 Camp Sponsors. These businesses really stepped up to help our camp “Thrive” (2021’s theme). If you would like to or know a business that would like to sponsor to help children with cancer to go to camp cost free in 2022, please contact Amy Smmitter at 517.231.7981 or [amy.smmitter@campqualityusa.org](mailto:amy.smmitter@campqualityusa.org).

#### **\$2500+**

Magna International

#### **\$1500+**

Hogarth’s Pest Control Company  
Allegra

#### **\$1000+**

Fremont Insurance Company

#### **\$500+**

SERRA Traverse City  
Wojan Window and Door Corporation  
Novi Industries Incorporated

#### **\$250+**

Ken’s Redi Mix, Inc.  
Circuit Controls Corporation  
Drost Landscaping  
Meadowbrook Construction Co. Inc.

Thank you again for your wonderful support of these children and their families.

## **BOYNE THUNDER**

Boyne Thunder 2021 will go down in the books as one of the best. Boyne Thunder began in 2004 and is one of our largest fundraisers. The event draws 120 high speed performance boats, 550 active participants from across the country, and thousands of spectators on boats and on shore who come to enjoy all that northern Michigan has to offer throughout the 150 mile course.

The boats complete a poker run starting in Boyne City Michigan, and traveling to Northport, Charlevoix for lunch, Bay Harbor, Harbor springs, and ending in Horton Bay. The boats are given a poker card at each stop and the 3 boats with the best poker hands win cash prizes.

The Thunder Cruise occurs during Boyne Thunder and is organized by North Harbor Real Estate. Local yachters donate their boats, local restaurants donate food and drinks, and guests make donations to Camp Quality to ride on one of the boats to watch the poker run from the water.

The proceeds from these events allows Camp Quality Michigan to continue to provide camps and programs for our families.