



Our Story

MISSION STATEMENT

We provide places and paths for children with serious illnesses and life challenges to experience the joys of childhood and grow in their confidence and capabilities.

VISION STATEMENT

Camp Twin Lakes will be a vital statewide network of closely aligned Partners that are united in providing year-round camping and other transformative experiences that deeply impact our children and support their families throughout childhood.

OUR STORY

The idea for Camp Twin Lakes grew out of a need in the greater Atlanta community. Before Camp Twin Lakes opened in 1993, many camping programs in Georgia for children with serious illnesses, disabilities or other challenges had difficulty locating facilities for their camps. These groups relied on existing camp facilities, holding special sessions before and after the regular camp season. With limited availability, these camping programs found themselves competing with one another for the sites. The special sessions often conflicted with school calendars, forcing these children to miss out on camp for the summer. More significantly, these existing venues lacked special amenities for campers with special medical needs.

As a board member for Camp Sunshine, a camping program for children with cancer, Doug Hertz recognized an immediate need for a camping facility designed specifically for these organizations and their campers. In 1991, the planning for Camp Twin Lakes began.

The concept was to give these children a camp of their own by developing a single, highly flexible campsite that could be customized to the particular needs of each of the camp groups. Hertz went directly to the camps that would use the site for their input – a beautiful but flat property for children in wheelchairs, a medical facility for administering medicine, a lake for activities, air conditioned cabins and so on. In 1992, Camp Twin Lakes broke ground on land in Rutledge, Georgia, donated by Georgia-Pacific. In 1993, Camp Twin Lakes began operations, welcoming campers from seven camp groups.

Camp Twin Lakes operates year round at several locations throughout the state. In addition to the organization's first campsite in Rutledge, GA, Camp Twin Lakes joined forces with the Georgia Department of Natural Resources to renovate and operate Will-A-Way, situated in Ft. Yargo State Park in Winder, GA. CTL-Will-A-Way provides the opportunity to operate a second campsite which expanded Camp Twin Lakes' therapeutic and recreational programs by 43% for the summer 2009 camp season. In 2010, Camp Twin Lakes served 1,500 individuals and that number is expected to increase beyond 2,000 in 2011. Recently, Camp Twin Lakes also launched Camp To Go, a program that brings the joy of an outdoor camping experience into a pediatric hospital setting for patients and their siblings.

Camp Twin Lakes is committed to deepening and broadening its impact on the community and our children as we continue to grow adding new programs and Camp Partners.



Camp Twin Lakes
Where Young Spirits Soar

Did You Know?

- Camp Twin Lakes is a non-profit organization that offers year-round therapeutic, educational, and recreational programs for children facing serious illnesses and other physical, emotional and life challenges.
- Camp Twin Lakes provides campership support, programming, specially trained program counselors, medical staff supervision, camping facilities and more. Partner organizations attending Camp Twin Lakes recruit campers and provide a medical team and volunteers, including some specialists – i.e., arts and crafts, dance, music, etc.
- As an organization, Camp Twin Lakes provides supportive, nurturing, fully accessible environments where campers gain self-esteem, self-awareness and independence.
- Camp Twin Lakes now has **two** campsites:
 - **Camp Twin Lakes- Rutledge** (50 miles east of Atlanta), is complete with 30 climate-controlled camper cabins, handicapped accessible recreational facilities, an amphitheatre, and a state-of-the-art medical lodge where campers can receive relatively serious procedures such as chemotherapy or dialysis.
 - **Camp Twin Lakes- Will-A-Way** (in Winder, GA) is situated within Ft. Yargo State Park, features 16 climate controlled camper cabins and accommodates up to 250 campers and volunteers in each camp session. Will-A-Way includes a medical lodge with resting areas, a dining hall, and several program areas.
- In its 19th season in 2011, Camp Twin Lakes and its 50 Partners will offer week-long summer programs and year-round weekend programs and serve more than 8,000 campers. To date, Camp Twin Lakes has served more than 40,000 campers.
- Camp Twin Lakes' FY 2011 operating budget is \$3.2 million.
- Camp Twin Lakes covers 80% of the cost to send each camper and volunteer to camp – which is approximately \$800 per person. Our Partners are responsible for the remaining 20% of the camp costs.
- As a nonprofit organization that does not rely on government or United Way funding, financial support for Camp Twin Lakes is provided through and generous gifts from individuals, foundations and corporations.
- Camp Twin Lakes is accredited by the American Camp Association.
- For more information, please visit us online at www.camptwinlakes.org.

Our 2011 Partners

Annandale Village
For adults with developmental disabilities

Camp AcheAway
Arthritis Foundation-Georgia Chapter
For kids with juvenile arthritis

Camp Big Heart
For adults with developmental disabilities

Camp Blue Skies
For adults with developmental disabilities

Camp Braveheart
Children's Healthcare of Atlanta
For kids with heart defects and heart transplant recipients

Camp Breathe Easy
American Lung Association in Georgia
For kids with asthma

Camp CADI
Safe Girls, Strong Girls
For girls who have been sexually abused

Camp Carpe Diem
Children's Healthcare of Atlanta
For kids with epilepsy

Camp Courage
Children's Craniofacial Center
For kids with craniofacial disorders

Camp ESP
Extra Special People
For youths and young adults with developmental disabilities

Camp Good Mourning
Kate's Club
For kids who have lost a parent or sibling

Camp Hardgrove
Brain Injury Association of Georgia
For children and young adults with brain injuries

Camp High Five
H.E.R.O. For Children
For kids who are affected by HIV

Camp Hope
Northside Hospital-Atlanta Auxiliary
For adults with cancer, who have been, or are, in treatment at Northside Hospital

Camp Horizon
For kids who have been abused and/or neglected

Camp Independence
National Kidney Foundation serving Georgia
For kids with kidney disorders and transplants

Camp Infinity/Under the Stars Weekend
FOCUS
Support for children and teens with disabilities and their families

Camp Inspire
Special Olympics Georgia
For individuals with intellectual disabilities

Camp Joint Venture
MCGHealth Children's Medical Center
For kids with juvenile arthritis and related diseases

Camp Journey
Abbey Hospice
For kids who have experienced a loss

Camp Journey
Spectrum Clubs
For kids with autism

Camp Kesem
For kids with a parent who has (or has had) cancer

Camp Krazy Legs
Children's Healthcare of Atlanta
For kids and teens with spina bifida

Camp Kudzu
For kids living with type I diabetes

Camp New Hope
Sickle Cell Foundation of Georgia
For kids with sickle cell disease

Camp No Limb-itations
Children's Healthcare of Atlanta
For kids with amputations

Camp Oasis
Crohn's & Colitis Foundation of America-Georgia Chapter
For kids with Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis.

Camp Oo-U-La
Georgia Firefighters Burn Foundation
For kids with serious burn injuries

Camp Rainbow
MCGHealth Children's Medical Center
For kids with cancer and rare blood disorders

Camp Share and Care
MCGHealth Children's Medical Center
For kids with cancer and rare blood disorders

Camp STARS
Visiting Nurse - Hospice Atlanta
For kids who have lost family members

Camp Strong Hearts
MCGHealth Children's Medical Center
For kids with heart defects & heart transplant recipients

Camp Strong4Life
Children's Healthcare of Atlanta
For lifestyle and weight management

Camp Sunshine
Programs for children and teens with cancer

Camp Sweet Life
MCGHealth Children's Medical Center
For kids with type I diabetes

Camp TBI- To Be Independent
Walton Rehabilitation Health System
For kids with acquired brain injuries

Camp To Belong-Georgia
Reuniting brothers and sisters placed in separate foster, adoptive or kinship homes

Camp Twitch and Shout
T.I.C.S. of Georgia
For kids with Tourette Syndrome

Camp Walk 'N Roll
Muscular Dystrophy Association
For children with muscular dystrophy

Camp Wannaklot
Hemophilia of Georgia, Inc.
For children with hemophilia or other inherited bleeding disorders

Camp Weekaneatit
Children's Center for Digestive Healthcare
For kids with Celiac disease

Center for the Visually Impaired
For children and youth with visual impairments

Families First
For families in need

Fugees Family
For refugee children from war torn countries residing in the metro Atlanta area

Huntington's Retreat
Huntington's Disease Society- Georgia Chapter
For adults with Huntington's Disease

Just People
For adults with developmental disabilities

Learning on the Log
For kids with sensory and/or developmental delays

Second Chance Family Weekend
Children's Healthcare of Atlanta
For kids with solid organ transplants and their families

Toni's Camp
The Archdiocese of Atlanta
An interfaith camp retreat for youths and adults with developmental disabilities

Wounded Warrior Retreat/Training Camp
Scott Rigsby Foundation
For Georgia's wounded warriors