



BOILERPLATE PROPOSAL

The Painted Turtle is incredibly grateful for your commitment to our campers since we opened in 2004. Thanks to generous support like yours, The Painted Turtle has provided more than 64,700 authentic, recreational camp experiences to children with serious illness and their family members. We sincerely appreciate the opportunity to request a grant in the amount of XXX this year.

Letter from a Camper



One day I will sit around the living room with my friends, and we will reminisce about a little place we used to go. A place where laughter echoes off the walls, a place overflowing with joy and magic... a place where the sun shines brighter, where the stars sparkle like diamonds in the night sky, a place I call home.

The first week I visited this magical place, I found a home I never knew I needed with the family I didn't think I could have. I walked away with a sense of peace that I will carry with me forever, the sense of peace that comes with knowing you have a place in the world waiting for you to come home.

The second week I visited this magical place, I was dared to be myself, to be me, and at that time, I didn't know who that was, but that all changed right here on this stage. The words were pent up in me for so long, the words I never dared to say, the words I thought no one would listen to. I wrote them down to let them out, and to my surprise, everyone listened. I walked away a different person, one who wasn't so afraid to speak her mind, one who would never be silent again.

The third week I visited this magical place, I dreamt bigger dreams than I ever had before, I explored who I was and who I could be, and I discovered a family, a support system, that I can't imagine my life without, and I walked away with friendships I will keep with me for the rest of my life.

The fourth week I visited this magical place, I greeted the day with sunshine. It felt like coming home after a long hard year. I reunited with old friends, and we laughed the way we only can at Camp. I walked away with an inner peace I so desperately needed.

And this week, I am learning to "Sing My Song" loud and proud. I am learning to be fearlessly myself. I'm becoming the person who's been kept hidden deep inside for so long. I'm not the same 12-year-old who walked through those gates five years ago, the one who felt ashamed and trapped in her body. Today I am proud. For so long, I felt like I was trying to find all the pieces of myself and put them together like a puzzle, and this year, my last year, I will walk away finally feeling whole.

At camp, we go to bed the first day smelling like campfire waiting eagerly for the sun to rise, and on the last night, we go to bed smelling like campfire hoping the next day will never come. I can't promise the last day will never come, but I promise if you carry the magic with you, you will never be alone, and it will never leave you. I can promise I will carry the lessons I learned here with me, and if you do the same, you will never forget, and I can promise always to come home.

This letter was originally read aloud by the camper to fellow campers at Stage Night.

Mission Statement: The Power of the Camp Experience

The mission of The Painted Turtle is to provide a year-round, life-changing environment and authentic camp experience for children with chronic and life-threatening illnesses. The Painted Turtle supports children's medical needs, inspires them to reach beyond their illnesses, and provides care, education, and respite for their families. All campers and families attend completely free of charge.

At The Painted Turtle, campers have the opportunity to enjoy childhood through a fun, safe, and empowering experience. Camp instills in them the skills, confidence, and knowledge about their own medical care that are needed to increase their chances for more positive medical and daily outcomes. Because time spent receiving treatment can lead to frequent absences from school and missed opportunities to interact with peers, developing strong social support can be especially challenging for children with serious illness. At Camp, children are surrounded by others with similar diagnoses who understand the challenges they face. The resulting sense of belonging and inclusion is conducive to forming social connections that transcend camp days.

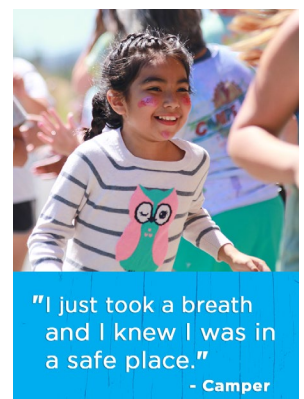


Organization History and Statement of Need

The Painted Turtle is a member of the SeriousFun Children's Network founded by actor and philanthropist Paul Newman. The Network's global community consists of 30 camps and programs and is considered the world's finest multi-disease medical camps and programs. To date, the Network has delivered over 1,100,000+ camp experiences to children and families throughout five continents and in over 50 countries. The Painted Turtle, comprised of a 173-acre site and a state-of-the-art medical facility called the Well Shell, was the sixth camp in the network and is located just north of Los Angeles in Lake Hughes, CA. Though a Network member, The Painted Turtle is an independent, non-profit organization fundraising to ensure all children attend at no cost to their families. The Painted Turtle has its own 501(c)(3) charitable designation and Board of Directors. The Painted Turtle upholds a standard for camp safety and best practices through an [American Camp Association](#) accreditation and is both a

Three Star Charity on [Charity Navigator](#) and a Silver Participant on [GuideStar](#).

Before opening our gates in 2004, The Painted Turtle collaborated with the California Children's Hospital Association, Center for Child Health Outcomes, and Family Voices to assess the need for a medical specialty camp in California. The study revealed that there were 17,000 underserved children with chronic illnesses across the state who would benefit considerably from a positive camp experience by developing the skills and self-confidence necessary to reclaim their childhood and achieve their highest potential. Every year, The Painted Turtle identifies more children with increasingly complex medical conditions and creates sessions that safely accommodate all of their needs.



Populations Served

The Painted Turtle serves children from all ethnic, racial, and socio-economic backgrounds. Campers come from Southern, Central, and Northern California and surrounding areas. Of those reporting, 41.5% of campers are from low-income households, and 49.9% are of minority ethnicities. Campers consist of children who have more than 120 different medical conditions, including:



Adrenal Insufficiency ♥ Arthritis ♥ ataxia ♥ cerebral palsy ♥ congenital adrenal hyperplasia ♥ craniofacial disorders ♥ cystic fibrosis ♥ epilepsy ♥ gastrointestinal disease and transplant ♥ genetic conditions ♥ hemophilia/von Willebrand disease ♥ inflammatory bowel disease ♥ kidney disease and transplant ♥ limb loss and deficiencies ♥ liver disease and transplant ♥ lupus ♥ metabolic conditions ♥ mucopolysaccharidosis ♥ muscular dystrophy ♥ neuromuscular diseases ♥ ostomies ♥ paraplegia ♥ PKU (phenylketonuria) ♥ primary immunodeficiency diseases ♥ pulmonary hypertension ♥ rheumatic conditions ♥ skeletal dysplasia (dwarfism) ♥ spina bifida ♥ TMA (thrombotic microangiopathy) ♥ thalassemia ♥ total parenteral nutrition/gastrointestinal tube feeding ♥ Wegener’s granulomatosis

Because we recognize that chronic medical conditions affect the whole family, we also serve parents, siblings, and other family caregivers.

Programs

At The Painted Turtle, every aspect of the adaptive programming—from a wheelchair-friendly ropes course to exceptional on-site medical care—is designed to allow all campers to participate in activities fully. All programs are “challenge by choice,” meaning staff celebrates the courage of all campers who try new things and challenge their comfort zones. Through teaching valuable skills such as team building, problem-solving, and independence, our intentional programming offers children the opportunity to develop their true potential in a safe environment with positive reinforcement. All recreational activities and facilities are universally accessible to campers with disabilities and used year-round:

Adaptive Sports ♥ Archery ♥ Arts & Crafts ♥ Boating ♥ Fishing ♥ Gym ♥ Horseback Riding ♥ Music ♥ Performing Arts ♥ Rock Climbing Wall ♥ Ropes Courses ♥ Silly Olympics ♥ Swimming ♥ Team Building Initiatives ♥ Woodshop ♥ Zip Line



The Medical Specialty Camp Program provides an authentic, recreational camp experience and the highest quality of medical care to children ages 6-17 with serious illness and their families. We host week-long Summer Sessions exclusively for children with similar medical conditions. Family Weekend programs are held every spring and fall and allow families to experience Camp together. All sessions are overnight, medical condition-specific, and welcome up to 130 campers. Additionally, we host day camps to which we invite all families and conditions served.

In 2019

3,479

Camp experiences were provided by **Outpost** for children and parents through outreach to **22** hospitals and clinics across California

During the summer, we also offer a Leadership Program for 17- and 18-year-olds who have previously attended Camp; this opportunity furthers their experience through a variety of leadership training activities. Offering a week of community, education, and growth for teenagers at a critical stage of transition to adult independence helps to bridge the gap between aging out as campers and becoming eligible to apply for a volunteer position at 19.

The Painted Turtle Outpost, our in-hospital program, brings our unique camp experience into 22 hospital sites, medical centers, and clinics, as well as to various community events throughout California. With the use of camp props, games, and activities, hospital playrooms and similar spaces transform into something resembling the look and feel of The Painted Turtle. This program is available to any child in the hospital, allowing them to be transported to “Camp” and forget about their illness for a little while.

In 2020, we plan to provide 2,539 camp experiences to children and family members affected by serious illness through eight Summer Sessions, ten Family Weekends (including our second program for Spanish-speaking families), and two day camps. Additionally, we plan to serve another 3,750 campers through The Painted Turtle Outpost Program.


Medical Compliance

The Painted Turtle never wants children at Camp to feel as though they are in a medical or hospital environment. The Well Shell’s bright colors and murals create a fun, whimsical environment in which doctors and nurses wear casual and festive camp attire, rather than scrubs or lab coats. Even so, these expert staff and volunteers are equipped to serve children with intensive care needs, including hemodialysis, peritoneal dialysis, home ventilators, tracheostomy tubes, and central venous catheters. The Well Shell is open around the clock to promote everyone’s health and happiness throughout their session. Last summer alone, nursing staff administered over 10,073 medications, 299 Well Shell visits, and 814 treatments and procedures for campers.

Nursing staff distribute all campers’ medication during mealtime, normalizing their need to abide by specific regimens rather than isolating them from peers. They work around the medical needs of campers to ensure they miss as little programming as possible. At the same time, if campers have a specific home schedule for treatment, it is followed at Camp so as not to disrupt their routine. The Painted Turtle also applauds all newly acquired medical care skills through staff and peer recognition of the camper’s accomplishment or effort. For example, when a camper with hemophilia learns to self-infuse for the first time, they are given the special “big stick” award to celebrate this milestone at an all-Camp ceremony.

Volunteers

Because The Painted Turtle’s staff is small relative to the vast number of campers served, volunteers’ contributions of time, talent, and enthusiasm are vital to running our programs. Last year, 968 program and medical volunteers gave 47,806 hours of service to help staff successfully and safely serve campers on-site. Another 131 volunteers gave 633 hours to take Camp into hospitals and clinics across the state, and 1,237 volunteers gave 4,192 hours to help staff events, prepare and clean the site, and assist with administrative services.



In 2020

2,539

Camp experiences are planned for children and family members affected by serious illness



In 2019

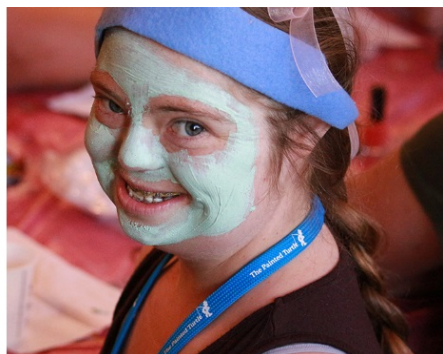
47,806

hours of volunteer service

2019 Successes

It was another successful year for The Painted Turtle! The following highlights our proudest accomplishments:

- ♥ We delivered 2,073 camp experiences to children and family members at eight Summer Sessions, ten Family Weekends, and one day camp.
- ♥ In recent years, we have steadily grown the number of conditions we are able to serve that fall under the very high acuity designation. These conditions, initially grouped together to form our Special Diagnoses Family Weekend, have increased such that we now host multiple high acuity Family Weekends. In 2019, we provided three such sessions to serve more eligible campers, and further specified the criteria based on diagnosis and level of nursing care. These sessions included Spina Bifida and Ataxia, Pulmonary Hypertension, and Neuromuscular and Genetic Family Weekends.
- ♥ We added two new conditions to our summer session roster in 2019: Adrenal Insufficiency and Epilepsy. These conditions had previously only been eligible for Family Weekends.
- ♥ The Painted Turtle Outpost Program brought an additional 3,479 camp experiences to children and parents through outreach to 22 hospitals and clinics across the state of California. Outpost staff brings the magic of camp to children in the hospital and completed 159 visits in 2019.
- ♥ In September, we hosted our inaugural Harvest Moon Gathering. More than 1,800 attendees danced, sang along, and experienced a bit of Camp Magic with inspiring performances from Neil Young, Norah Jones, and Father John Misty. [Click here to view our Harvest Moon photo album.](#)
- ♥ Campamento para Familias, our first-ever Family Weekend conducted entirely in Spanish and benefiting 94 camper participants, was held in November 2019. This extraordinary event occurred in no small part because of our extraordinary volunteers on both the Program Team (29) and Medical Team (11). Campamento para Familias will be returning in October 2020.
- ♥ The grand opening of the Shell Shack, The Painted Turtle's official camp store, was attended by over 400 guests during our December Holiday Gathering. This new Camp Store allows us to raise more awareness through Painted Turtle branded clothing and accessories for campers, families, volunteers, and visitors.
- ♥ Our equestrian trail was recently upgraded to a sensory trail, with interactive elements throughout, including a maze, ring toss, mailboxes, and "car wash" to heighten the level of interaction between camper and horse, also helping to strengthen muscles in both rider and horse.



Impact of the Camp Experience on Children

The Painted Turtle seeks to improve self-confidence, courage, optimism, and self-care amongst all our campers. Staff measures the impact of programs through camper and family self-assessments, volunteer observations and evaluations, and staff reports from our Program and Medical teams. In 2018, we revamped our camper outcomes evaluation process, collaborating with a Ph.D. in Developmental Psychology to better understand campers' viewpoints on their experiences at The Painted Turtle. Past camper evaluation outcomes have shown:

- ♥ 96% of campers made new friends at Camp
- ♥ 90% of campers felt like they had a lot of choices at The Painted Turtle
- ♥ 88% of campers learned new things at Camp
- ♥ 88% of campers tried new things at Camp

Each year, we focus on one specific outcome for campers ten years and older. In 2018, we chose to focus on *Perceived Competence*. Both the ACA and The Painted Turtle define *Perceived Competence* as the belief that campers can be successful in the things they do. In our evaluation, we asked how a camper's experience at The Painted Turtle changed them on different measures:

- ♥ 83% of campers got better at doing recreation activities with other people
- ♥ 89% of campers got better at meeting new people
- ♥ 79% of campers got better at taking care of themselves
- ♥ 88% of campers got better at learning new things

In 2019, we focused on the outcome of *Camp Connectedness* for those campers ten years and older. We found over 90% of campers felt connected to camp (using the ACA standard for Camp Connectedness)

- ♥ 97% felt they were treated fairly by their counselors
- ♥ 87% felt they made choices that make a difference
- ♥ 92% felt they were respected by other campers
- ♥ 92% felt safe to express themselves
- ♥ 95% felt respected for who they are
- ♥ 95% felt like they belonged

Through the following outcomes, we found over 80% of campers responded positively to The Painted Turtle Mission Statement:

- ♥ 81% felt important to their peers
- ♥ 92% felt valued by their counselors
- ♥ 86% felt celebrated for being themselves
- ♥ 85% felt more confident in themselves
- ♥ 83% of campers increased their practice of healthy habits.

2020 Budget & Recognition Opportunities

The Painted Turtle's 2020 Operating Budget is \$4,800,000. Continued funding from **XXXXX Foundation** would be deeply appreciated and recognized on our annual Honor Roll of Contributors, our website's Corporate, Foundation, and Network Partners page (for funders of \$20k+), and social media channels. As none of The Painted Turtle's extraordinary campers will ever pay to attend Camp, we sincerely thank you for your consideration of this request.