



Camp at Home

This summer was unlike any other. While we couldn't gather at the oasis that is our site in Lake Hughes, our virtual *Camp at Home* program allowed us to imagine the magic of the Camp experience in a new way, and to reach campers who otherwise may not have been able to join in.

Meet Evan: a ten-year-old first-time camper! This summer, he tuned in to *Camp at Home*—from his hospital bed. Evan was diagnosed with pseudo-obstruction in his small intestine in March of 2014, and he is on TPN (total parenteral nutrition) for 13 hours per day. He was recently hospitalized for over two weeks due to an infection of his central line.

The joy of Camp offered some reprieve during a challenging time, both for Evan and his family who joined him. "Camp was a great experience for my son to try new things and realize there are other kids who are on TPN or have other health conditions," said Evan's mother, Christine. **"He's been hospitalized many times since 2013. Participating in the virtual Camp was a refreshing change for him."**

The family enjoyed meeting the enthusiastic counselors, working on projects together, and building connections with other families who understood their situation. This taste of Camp fun has Evan already imagining himself at Camp in years to come. When asked if he would do Camp all over again, Evan's answer was short, sweet, and to the point – "Yes!"

Check out the video below for a glimpse of the *Camp at Home* magic that was created this summer!



The Medical Side of Magic

This summer brought a unique opportunity for The Painted Turtle to provide medical resources to parents and caregivers, which is typically only offered during Family Weekends. Our medical team learned quickly that with the pandemic, parents and caregivers are overwhelmed with the loss of respite, behavioral support, and in-home services for their child. [Read More](#)



Fall FUN!

Summer may be ending, but the Camp fun sure isn't! We invite camper families to join us for our newest program, *Camp at Home: Fall Family Free Choice!* Families may sign up for any number and variety of activities and times. Interested in some fall fun? To learn more click your area of interest: [About the Program](#), [Ways to Support and Get Involved](#), or [Fall Volunteer Opportunities!](#)



Outpost Delivers

The Outpost team has been hard at work delivering the magic of Camp into hospitals and clinics throughout California, virtually! Since postponing all in-person programming, Outpost has served campers and caregivers by facilitating Virtual Playroom activity sessions at UCSF Benioff Children's Hospital Oakland and by mailing 6,967 bedside bags full of activities to 20 hospitals and clinics. These initiatives have allowed Outpost to extend their reach to new locations they previously were unable to serve in person.

Teresa Molello, Hospital Outreach Manager for The Painted Turtle, shares this sweet story: "A particularly spunky 5-year-old had wide eyes as she pulled each item out of her activity bag and said 'There is SO much stuff in here! Can I do it all?!' At one point something clicked in her brain and she asked the other kids on the Zoom call, 'Wait, you're all in the hospital too?!' Because of COVID, the kids aren't allowed to leave their rooms during their stay, so it's nice for them to realize they aren't the only ones in the hospital. Virtual Outpost for the win!"



The Shell Shack is Now Online!

Shop for Camp Store swag online and add some new merchandise to your shell! [Click Here to Shop!](#)



Special Thanks

In a time when many have had to pull back on charitable giving, the Vertex Foundation has pushed forward. With an initial commitment to sponsor this summer's in-person Sibling Session, their support quickly pivoted as we went virtual and expanded to cover not only our Sibling Session, but also programming for an additional summer session, and funds to keep doors open and lights on during these challenging times. We served a record-breaking 250 participants during Sibling Session, reminding us how important it is to serve the entire family. Thank you, Vertex Foundation, for being a vital member of our Camp family. We appreciate your partnership and the lasting impact your support will continue to have on our community.

Special thanks to all our *Camp at Home* partners. [Click here for more ways to support Camp at Home!](#)



Imagine: Virtual 5K

During the week of July 6-13, we invited our Painted Turtle community to walk, roll, dance, jump, skip, or run in any location of their choice to spread the word about Camp, and/or FUNdraise to support our Camp at Home summer programming!

Together, 353 friends logged 1,100 miles which raised funds to send more than 500 *Camp at Home* supply boxes full of fun to camper families this summer. This event was a testament to the strength of our community and the power of joy that fuels all we do.

A special shout out to our top two fundraisers, Randy Northcote and Kristen Furano, as well as our top two teams, Delta Zeta Penn State and Rainbow Girls CA! Thank you to all who participated from across California, the country, and even the world for our first-ever Imagine: Virtual 5K!

