

## ***Camp Good Days & Special Times, Inc.*** ***~ Fact Sheet ~***

- 1 Camp Good Days and Special Times, Inc. was founded in 1979 by Gary Mervis, following the diagnosis of his youngest of three children, Teddi, with a malignant brain tumor when she was nine years old.
- 1 Camp Good Days is a Celebration of Life with those who appreciate it the most...a place Where Courage Knows No Boundaries!
- 2 Camp Good Days' Mission Statement: The mission of Camp Good Days and Special Times is to be internationally recognized as the premiere service organization that enriches the lives of children, adults, and families who are touched by cancer and other life challenges.
- 3 **About our Logo...**  
The Camp Good Days' logo has three main elements: balloons, a clown and a brick wall. Each symbolizes an integral part of Camp. The balloons represent ever-present hope that exists at Camp. The clown represents our campers, who never let go of that hope. And the brick wall represents the cancer each camper faces daily. At Camp Good Days, clinging to that hope and faith, our campers surmount their "walls" and are able to celebrate life with others who have learned to appreciate it the most.
- 4 All of the programs and services provided by Camp Good Days are offered free of charge for the participants. This is only possible because of the generosity of so many generous individuals and the success of special fundraising events.
  - Over the years, Camp Good Days has served more than 41,000 campers from 22 different states and 25 foreign countries, with assistance from thousands volunteers.
- 5 Camp Good Days was the first organization of its kind to have its own camp facility, which was opened in 1989.
- 6 The Camp Good Days' Recreational Facility is located on 13 ½ acres of land with approximately 800 feet of waterfront on Keuka Lake in the

Village of Branchport, NY, in the Town of Jerusalem in Yates County.

- 7 Today, Camp Good Days maintains their Headquarters & Volunteer Training Center in Mendon, NY as well as satellite offices in Buffalo, Syracuse, and Corning, NY and Orlando, Florida and the Recreational Facility in Branchport, NY.
- 8 Camp Good Days and Special Times, Inc. is a 501(c)3 not-for-profit corporation, governed by a Board of Directors.
- 9 Each year, since being established as a 501(c)3 not-for-profit organization, Camp Good Days has ended their fiscal year in the black and over 56 million dollars has been raised and utilized to fulfill the mission of Camp Good Days.
- 10 Camp Good Days has been inducted into the Safety 1<sup>st</sup> Hall of Fame by Markel Insurance Company. Camp Good Days also maintains accreditation from the American Camp Association (ACA). Camp Good Days maintains a high rating with CharityNavigator.org for sound fiscal management.

#### ***Interesting Facts About Camp Good Days...***

- 11 Camp Good Days and Special Times was the first organization, to be started by a lay person, to provide residential camping programs for children touched by cancer.
- 12 Camp Good Days was the fourth camp for children with cancer in the country. The first one was started by the University of Florida; the second one was started by Dr. Ed Baum at Chicago Children's Hospital; and the third was started by Dr. George Royer who was a Pediatric Oncologist with the Upjohn Corporation in Kalamazoo, Michigan. Gary Mervis, Chairman & Founder of Camp Good Days saw a feature story about Dr. Royer on *The Today Show* and invited Dr. Royer to come to Rochester and help Gary start Camp Good Days.
- 13 Camp Good Days was the first organization of its kind to accept

children with cancer from different hospitals (i.e. Upstate Medical Center in Syracuse; Strong Memorial Hospital in Rochester; Roswell Park and Children's Hospital in Buffalo; Lourdes Hospital in Binghamton).

- 14 Of the original 63 campers, 21 were from Rochester; 21 were from Buffalo; and 21 were from Syracuse.
- 15 Camp Good Days began as an organization in the Fall of 1979 and the first camping session was held in late August 1980 at Camp Eagle Cove in Inlet, New York, on Fourth Lake in the Central Adirondack Mountains.
- 16 Since the founding of Camp Good Days in 1979, Camp Good Days has received donations from all 50 states and numerous foreign countries.
- 17 Many of the programs and services started by Camp Good Days have been used as models by other childhood cancer treatment centers and organizations throughout North America (United States & Canada) and all over the world.
- 18 Camp Good Days was instrumental in helping to start residential camping programs in Maine, Vermont, Pennsylvania, New York City / New Jersey, North Carolina, Georgia, Virginia, Washington, California, Alabama, and Texas, just to name a few, as well as helping to start programs at Toronto's Sick Childrens Hospital and St. Justine's Hospital in Montreal.
- 19 Through the Doing A World Of Good Program, which was started in 1989, Camp Good Days has been used as a model for similar camps in Ireland, Israel, Austria, Poland, Germany, Venezuela, Australia, and New Zealand, among others.
- 20 Over the years, Camp Good Days has helped bring childhood cancer out of the dark ages and has helped to prepare children with cancer, who are now long-term survivors, with the ability to compete with their peers. Society is not always ready to accept that those who are long-term survivors can be viable and productive members of their communities and the workforce. Camp Good Days has been able to accomplish this through helping to reduce the social stigma of being a

survivor of childhood cancer; helping campers to build their self-esteem and self-worth and build their trust; and helping to provide them with a network and support system.

- 21 Today, no family in any of the areas that we serve, who has received the news that a family member has been diagnosed with cancer has to deal with that alone, as Gary and his family did in 1979, unless they choose to do so.
  
- 22 Over the past 30 years, Camp Good Days has developed and provided programs for children with cancer, including residential and day camping experiences, Explorer Post 21, the Kris Connection, and Fun Club; programs for men dealing with cancer through residential camping experiences and programs for women dealing with cancer through residential camping experiences and year-round support and recreational activities such as fly-fishing, canoeing, paddling & rowing, Japanese sword-fighting, healthy cooking, etc; programs for children who have or have lost a sibling or a parent to cancer; as well as programs for children's teachers, school nurses and school administrators to assist in the child's re-entry into school following their diagnosis and initial treatment, ensuring it will be a positive rather than traumatic experience. Most recently, Camp Good Days has developed and offered the Young Adult Program for those ages 18-29 who are battling cancer, as oftentimes this group falls between the cracks of services provided because the majority of services cater to children under 18 years old and adults past their twenties.