



## CHILDREN'S ASSOCIATION FOR MAXIMUM POTENTIAL FACT SHEET

### OVERVIEW:

Since 1979, Children's Association for Maximum Potential (CAMP) has provided recreational programming for individuals, aged 3 - 55, with developmental, intellectual, medical, behavioral and physical disabilities. Our mission is to *strengthen and inspire individuals with disabilities – and those who care for them – through Recreation, Respite, and Education.*

As a result of the year-round and summer programs, campers garner independence, self-confidence and encouragement through medically safe recreational activities and social interactions, while parents and siblings receive well-deserved respite from routine around-the-clock care of their family member. CAMP successfully adapts activities that allow participants to experience a sense of mobility, independence, and fun. Due to the severity of their disabilities, many served by CAMP are not eligible to participate in other camps or programs offered within that community.

CAMP's goals fall into three primary categories:

1. **Recreation** opportunities year-round for individuals with medical conditions or disabilities.
2. **Respite** opportunities year-round for families and caregivers.
3. **Education** opportunities for the community-at-large in the form of volunteer opportunities for high-school and adults, continuing education opportunities for healthcare professional volunteers, and partnerships with other non-profits in the area.

### WHO CAMP SERVES:

CAMP believes that all individuals, regardless of health, disability, race, or socioeconomic status, should be celebrated for who they are, in a setting where they belong and where they can have fun and grow in their independence and self-confidence. Due to the extensive programs taking place at CAMP year-round, four specific populations are served: Campers, Families, Teen and Adult Volunteers, and Healthcare Volunteers.

1. **Campers:** CAMP serves individuals with mild to severe disabilities, with diagnoses such as: Autism Spectrum Disorder, Intellectual Disability, Down syndrome, Cerebral Palsy, Traumatic Brain Injury, Spina Bifida, visual impairment, hearing impairment, and more. CAMP programs alleviate medical, physical, developmental, social, and intellectual barriers for campers by adapting all activities to allow full participation, so campers can interact in their own unique way, giving them confidence to move around safely so they feel more in control, while also boosting their self-esteem.
2. **Families:** Families are positively impacted through the respite opportunities offered during CAMP's year-round programming--providing families time to recharge knowing that their campers are in a safe and fun environment. Additionally, CAMP understands the tremendous financial needs facing families and takes significant measures to remove financial barriers to participation. CAMP also allows serves their siblings (ages 5-13) without medical conditions or disabilities to attend summer CAMP and the Parent's Night Out program.
3. **Teen and Adult Volunteers:** Volunteers are high school and college age students who have a passion to empower individuals by sharing their time and talents through daily living and camping activities. These important volunteers fuel CAMP's imperative **1 to 1 camper-to-counselor** ratio, made possible through training and mentorship empowering volunteers of all ages to serve in these unique leadership development opportunities. Volunteers can earn up to 99 service hours per session.
4. **Healthcare Professionals:** Healthcare professionals are licensed physicians, nurses, physical therapists, etc. as well as students who are near the end of their programs and becoming licensed healthcare professionals. Licensed healthcare professionals can earn continuing education credits (CEUs) while volunteering at CAMP through a unique blend of didactic and experiential learning focused on the day-to-day challenges campers and caregivers face. The result is increased knowledge, understanding and empathy surrounding these challenges, which healthcare professionals can then apply outside of CAMP to improve community settings. Many healthcare professionals have been volunteering for 30+ years.

## PROGRAMS:

---

1. **Summer Camp** - consists of six-day summer sessions at CAMP's 55-acre property on the Guadalupe River in Center Point Texas. Campers can participate in many activities including canoeing, horseback riding, swimming, music, archery, karaoke, arts & crafts, and outdoor cooking—all adapted to the individual campers so they experience success.
2. **School Year Programs** –
  1. **Respite Retreats** - Campers experience traditional activities similar to those during summer camp. Held monthly at Camp CAMP, one weekend each month and for 3 nights during spring break.
  2. **Parent's Night Out (PNO)**- Campers participate in enrichment and recreational activities at CAMP's San Antonio facility on Lackland Airforce Base.
  3. **Teen and Adult Day Adventure (TADA)** - Campers socialize with peers while engaging in cultural and recreational experiences. Located at various venues in San Antonio.
  4. **Family Weekend Retreats** - Families enjoy outdoor recreation, relax, and reconnect with each other as well as other families. Held monthly at Camp CAMP throughout the school-year.

## HISTORY:

---

Children's Association for Maximum Potential started in 1979 with a little boy who "just wanted to ride a horse like John Wayne." Three U.S. Air Force pediatricians (Dr. Chris Plauche Johnson, Dr. Fred McCurdy and Dr. Robert de Lemos) along with other health professionals brought 32 children with disabilities together for a weekend camp. These campers were not accepted to other camps – even those for children with disabilities – due to the severity of their medical conditions or disabilities. Neither the severity of the children's conditions nor the unpredictable Texas weather dampened their enthusiasm. After this first successful weekend, the group unanimously agreed that these camp sessions should continue and resolved that no child - regardless of illness or disability - should be denied the opportunity to go to camp. And it just got bigger. CAMP incorporated in 1980 and conducted camps in rented facilities in Kerr County during its first 10 years. In 1989, CAMP purchased an old church camp facility largely populated with buildings and facilities built in the 1940s and 1950s. The process of retrofitting and adapting it to meet the needs of its Campers has been ongoing since then to keep up with the growing challenge – and opportunity – of meeting the needs of this special population. New facilities include two cabins and dining hall built in the late 1990s; in 2019, a Health Care Center, large Camper cabin, and arts & crafts pavilion were built.

## 2022 YEAR IN REVIEW:

---

- ✓ 1,427 campers participated in year-round programs (630 during summer camp and 797 during school-year programs).
- ✓ 99% of campers expressed they felt accepted and they belonged at CAMP.
- ✓ 96% of families expressed that while their camper was at CAMP, they were able to relax, recharge, and they experienced a reduction in stress levels.
- ✓ 93% of families expressed their camper experienced improved self-concept, sense of self-efficacy, and increased independence because of their participation at CAMP.
- ✓ 1,429 teen and young adults volunteered 87,700 hours during the 2022 year.
- ✓ 96% of families agreed the intensive training volunteer received positively impacted the care their child received at CAMP.
- ✓ 152 healthcare professionals volunteered their time at camp while earning 205.5 continuing education units.
- ✓ 17,618 doses of scheduled camper medication was safely administered during the summer of 2022 by healthcare professionals.

## VIDEOS ABOUT CAMP *(additional videos available upon request):*

---

CAMP Overview	<a href="https://youtu.be/j8ZxU6igTDQ">https://youtu.be/j8ZxU6igTDQ</a>
See Me. Hear Me. Know me.	<a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YKluVinDRk4&amp;t=32s">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YKluVinDRk4&amp;t=32s</a>

## Contact information *(for more information or to schedule tours):*

---

CAMP PO Box 27086 San Antonio, Texas 78227 <a href="http://www.campcamp.org">www.campcamp.org</a>	Susan Osborne Chief Executive Officer (210) 771-7999 <a href="mailto:susan.osborne@campcamp.org">susan.osborne@campcamp.org</a>	Dianna Hopkins, CFRE Chief Development Officer (210) 241-4866 <a href="mailto:dianna.hopkins@campcamp.org">dianna.hopkins@campcamp.org</a>
--	--	---