



The Dreamer

A Publication of the Dream Street Foundation

DREAMS ON THE RISE

Last summer, Dream Street counselors raised \$30,000 in support of our California camp. Through a Crowd Rise on-line campaign, the counselors asked family and friends to support them for the time and effort they spend every summer caring for the campers. The counselors are all volunteers. Many use their vacation time or even take unpaid leave so they can attend camp for the week. The counselors' hard work ensures that for one week every year, the campers have the time of their lives. Each of those days is filled with unique and exciting activities. With all of the generous support, the counselors were able to bring in an exciting activity this year, hot-air balloon rides. The kids (and counselors) went crazy with excitement at just seeing the huge hot air balloon. Thank you to everyone who donated! It was an extra-special activity that added to an amazing week at camp!



California Camp

By: Michael Cotter
(former camper and current counselor)

Dream Street 2015 was yet another amazing week filled with tons of love, laughter and endless fun. The first day is always the best because we get to see some of our returning campers and how much they've grown over the last year. We also get to meet so many new campers and show them what it's like to have the week of their lives. The kids get off of the bus to thunderous applause and cheers. They are checked in with the medical staff, separate into their cabins/tents and then let the fun, games and laughter commence.

Our theme this year was a Disney/Pixar week. It makes me smile so big to see how many of our devoted counselors come to camp in full costume. Not because it's comfortable to wear a cartoon costume all day in the hot sun, but because seeing the excitement on the face of a child that just got a hug from Princess Jasmine, Cinderella or Mr. Incredible, makes it all worth it.

During the week the campers are entertained with really fun arts and crafts projects, horseback riding, archery, swimming, rock wall climbing, hiking and of course eating at the snack shack until they burst. By far my favorite activity at camp are the dances. There are three dances throughout the week and it's so cute to see how only about half of the kids get out on the dance floor for the first dance, but by the third dance, everyone is out there dancing together. Even the more shy campers eventually throw out their inhibitions and dance like nobody is watching. It's amazing to see a reluctant camper really come out of

his or her shell.

One night during the week we get our popcorn, candy and blankets together, gather in the big field after the sun goes down and inflate a gigantic movie screen and watch movies under the beautiful California skyline. It's rare these days to see so many stars in the sky, but on movie night, it seems like we can see every star in the universe. It lights up the heavens over Dream Street.

Frontier Day brought with it cowboys and cowgirls, country line dancing, root beer floats, games and an old fashioned western water gun duel. Wacky Olympics is always a camper favorite. So many fun games for the kids to play. The water balloon toss and wet sponge toss are really just an excuse for the kids to soak their favorite counselors and roar with laughter and excitement. We have so many incredible activities all week, it's amazing we can fit it all in.

The last day always arrives too soon. There are lots of hugs and some tears (happy tears). It's extraordinary how such close friendships can grow after just one week together at Dream Street. It's because we are all the same at camp. Every one of our campers has gone thru, or is going thru a very difficult and life changing experience. There is no judgement at Dream Street, but rather, understanding. We don't look at each other and see an amputated leg, crutches, bald heads or a wheelchair. We see a person. A person that understands. And it's that understanding that brings us so close together.

So we load up the buses with campers and luggage. Wave as the kids head back home. Another fantastic week of new friends, old friends and more fun than you could ever imagine. There are no words that can describe the feeling of being a part of the Dream Street family. It's something you have to experience for yourself. All I can say is that every week of Dream Street is the best week of my life and Dream Street 2015 was no exception. I can't wait for next summer!



Former Camper Giving Back!

Q & A with “Tall Mike”



Q: How did you first become involved with Dream Street?

I became involved with the Dream Street Foundation in 2005 when I was being treated for osteosarcoma at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center in New York City. After one of my lung surgeries, I was in the ICU and the nurse treating me had previously volunteered for Dream Street at Canyon Ranch. She thought that I would enjoy the camp and brought me an application to attend.

What was your experience at Dream Street like as a camper?

When I went to Dream Street/Canyon Ranch I was a little over four months post-chemo. I had just returned to college and was trying to get used to having a “normal” life again. I had all these new scars that I wasn’t comfortable having yet. I was able to talk to and get to know other kids that were years out of chemotherapy and were proud of their scars. I was able to listen to their stories about what they went through and how they grew from their experiences. It helped me be comfortable with the new person I had become.

How and when did you decide to become a Dream Street counselor?

After an amazing week at Dream Street/Canyon Ranch I knew I wanted to continue to be involved with Dream Street. I was talking to Andrea about how much I enjoyed Canyon Ranch and she asked me if I wanted to be a counselor in California for a camp for younger children. It was an easy choice.

What is your favorite memory from Dream Street?

I don’t think it is even remotely possible to come up with one favorite memory. If you ask anyone involved with Dream Street, they could come up with at least ten favorites. When I tell my friends and family about camp, I always love talking about the activities that involve the whole camp. Those are truly what make Dream Street so special. I immediately think of all of the talent shows, seeing Dr. Mark dress in drag, singing and dancing, the water fights, and that one year we thought it was a good idea to have a whipped cream fight.

What has Dream Street meant to you over the years?

As my good friend Aviana so perfectly puts it, “Dream Street is heaven on Earth”. We are a family. We have been through such immense highs and lows over the years and have always been there for one another. I look forward to camp every year just as much as the campers do. I only hope that I am able to help the campers as much as my counselors were able to help me.

When did you begin putting on Cancerpalooza? How did it come about?

After I completed all of my treatment, my mother wanted to have a party as a thank you to all of my friends and family that supported me. We also used the event as a fundraiser, for a young boy named Dylan who had come from Australia to receive treatment at Sloan Kettering. We had such a good time raising money for a good cause, so my friends suggested that we have the party annually and call it Cancerpalooza. Every year since then, we have had the party on or near the anniversary of the day I was diagnosed.

Why did you decide to have Cancerpalooza support Dream Street?

After several years of donating the money raised from Cancerpalooza to Dylan, he was healthy enough to return to Australia. I wanted to continue to use Cancerpalooza as a fundraiser, and it was an easy choice to donate the money raised to Dream Street. I wanted to give back to the organization that had done so much for me.

What is your favorite memory from Cancerpalooza?

Again, I do not think it is possible to pick a single favorite memory. There have been so many years of so many amazing memories. Seeing everyone at Cancerpalooza reminds me of how much love and support I had throughout my treatment.

Q: Why is this piece subtitled ‘Q & A’ with “Tall Mike”?

There have always been several Mikes who have participated as counselors at Dream Street, so each one got his own nickname. It just happens that I’m the tallest of the bunch.

Celebrating 25 Years of Dr

MAKING IT HAPPEN

Mel and Enid Zuckerman created Canyon Ranch in 1979 as a haven for healthy living. Their mission has always been to encourage people to reach their optimal level of health, whatever that may be. For Dream Street campers, the parameters may be different, but the goal remains the same: to help them enjoy the best quality of life and well-being they can achieve. "The first time I heard about Dream Street, it touched my heart and spirit like nothing else," Mel says. "These kids have been dealt the worst hand. It's inspiring to see how they cope and thrive, how they help one another. They have such a bright spirit and an excitement about living to the fullest extent possible for them."

Over the years, Mel has personally welcomed many campers and been moved by their individual stories. "I remember a young man named Gus. He was an amputee, and he was dying. He had been through Dream Street already, and said his great wish was to come back one more time. It's the only time we were able to do that for someone." Mel says. "I was so touched by Gus. He made me never want to stop giving." He notes that Dream Street campers come here at a critical age. "So many important life decisions are made during those years, about education, work and relationships," he says. "But those kids have so many things to think about. Their thoughts and energy have been consumed by illness. Here they can talk about those other parts of life."

The positive staff, new friendships and environment help spark optimism in the campers, As Mel points out, "They know they're not in this battle alone." Dream Street is open to everyone and includes a mixed demographic. Sometimes the campers arrive suspicious and guarded. Soon they start coming out of their shells showing the true person inside, separate from illness and labels.

If you've ever wondered if magic is real, just ask the campers of Dream Street. Every summer Canyon Ranch in Tucson welcomes them – 18 to 25-year olds with serious or life-threatening illnesses – for a week of hope, discovery and joy. It's unforgettable for everybody involved. Canyon Ranch has been honored to host this program for 25 years, and every camper and staff member has contributed to a powerful healing experience.

The volunteered-run Dream Street camps are provided absolutely free. Including transportation, which allows these young people to enjoy a Canyon Ranch experience designed for them. Including fitness, health consultations, pampering and group therapy sessions. It's a rare change for them to share their feelings with others who truly understand life with illness, and an opportunity to form bonds of support and profound friendship. The campers gain important knowledge and strategies from experts who share their skills and wisdom with warmth, humor and compassion. Perhaps most important, it's a chance for these young adults to escape the daily anxiety and constant focus on illness; this is a place and time for relaxing, learning, opening up, trying new things and just plain having fun – as all young people should.

Canyon Ranch Founders Mel and Enid Zuckerman have generously supported Dream

*"It creates a bond that lasts. Everyone refers to 'the Dream Street family,' and it's true."
-Alison Metzger*

*"I am leaving her with ways to cope with my illness, a new outlook on health and fitness, a feeling of peace and enlightenment, and a lighter load of the burdens we carry as a group."
- Dorothy*

*"Through my treatment for my leukemia I became physically weak to the point where I couldn't walk or even lift a water bottle. ... At Dream Street I tried Rock Climbing. I can't tell you how emotional I was when I climbed that wall. I saw a new strength and determination in me ... I saw a glimpse of all the hardships in life I had overcome. Every rock on my way up has helped me get to the point/place I am today."
- Priscilla*

Dream Street at Canyon Ranch

Dream Street at Canyon Ranch from the start, and consider it a gift from the heart with immeasurable rewards. It all started with a momentous visit from Patty and Billy Grubman. Patty and Billy had a conversation with Canyon Ranch Founder Mel Zuckerman in his office, explaining the lack of resources for older pediatric patients. Before they could even present their idea, Mel was so moved that he went to his desk to write a generous check. "I told him to put his checkbook away," Patty says. "We didn't want cash, we wanted something better – we wanted a program." The Grubmans described their concept of a camp for kids 18 to 25. Canyon Ranch had the right expertise, facilities and atmosphere to help them better understand their health issues, to cope, relax and connect with others going through similar experiences. "Mel made it happen. We went to him in March and had our first Dream Street at Canyon Ranch in June! That was twenty-five years ago. We've been doing it ever since."



SEEING IT FROM THE OTHER SIDE:

PERSPECTIVE OF THE PROGRAM STAFF

Working with Dream Street can be intense, emotionally difficult and demanding – and many volunteers, as well as Canyon Ranch staff members, see it as a highlight in their lives. Ranch fitness staff, exercise physiologists, massage therapists and others do their utmost to make this the best week ever for each camper. All agree that it's a time when magic happens, as they see campers who arrive feeling isolated by illnesses soon forge lifelong friendships.

For 23 years, Ranch life management therapist and grief specialist Alice Steinfeld, Med, MA, LPC, has co-facilitated the twice-daily therapy groups at the core of the program. "My goal is to establish a week where they feel safe to talk about and express what they're going through," she says. "It's the most intense work I do throughout the year – but balanced with that intensity is a lot of fun. They're laughing, playing, joking, exercising, doing spa services and just hanging out together. The changes we see almost immediately in how they feel about themselves, and the connections they make, are unbelievable."

For Alice, one of the most memorable moments occurs at the closing ceremony, when "death arrows" made by the campers, bearing expressions of anxiety or fears, are burned in a fire pit. "By the end, everyone is arm in arm, embracing each other. When I say, 'and this concludes Dream Street,' there are typically tears. But in my mind, it's really just the beginning of a different way of life – knowing that the relationships developed during the week will endure and really make a difference. For the first time, they're not alone."

To the Dream Street Family... Every Dream Street camper, counselor and volunteer has left us with indelible memories and a spirit of love, healing and friendship. We appreciate your wisdom and grace, and remember each of you – those who are with us and the ones who are gone – with love and joy. Thank you for letting us share your journey.
– Your Canyon Ranch Family

*"When I leave here in a few days, I will finally, after so long, be open, express myself and not let my diagnosis define who I am."
– Alexis*

*"You inspire me so much that one day I would like to start an organization to help make others feel better."
– Peterson*

Some excerpts originally published in the Canyon Ranch newsletter.

Dream Street Golf Tournament 2015

A Huge Success

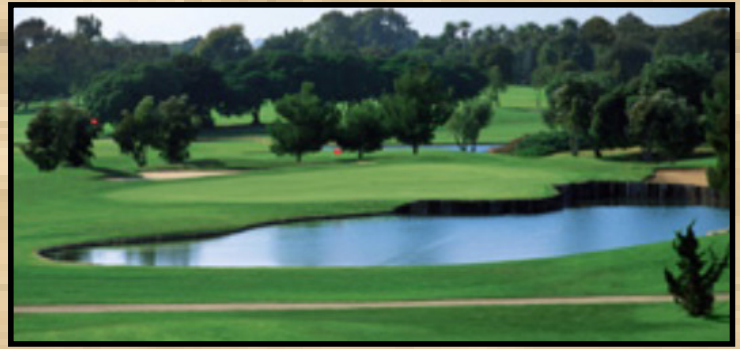
Thanks to the outstanding generosity and dedication of Motive Energy, Inc. This year's sold out golf tournament was an incredibly fun day that will ensure a week of memorable experiences for Dream Street kids at camp.

The day began with gift bags at check-in and a D.J. playing great music. When the golfers visited the "make your own Bloody Mary" station, the mood for fun was set.

Food on the course was supplied by Wahoo's delicious fish tacos and the Tilted Kilt Pub and Eatery. The music never stopped all day and neither did the goodies.

Cocktail hour included a carving station with great food, as well as, a cigar station on the patio where a live band played to the delight of everyone. It turned into a party of nonstop fun and laughter.

The silent and live auctions had many great items to bid on. The bidding was beyond lively for such wonderful adventures as a trip to Bora Bora, a tour of Jay Leno's garage, Grammy Rehearsals, Vegas Celine and Mariah tickets and other priceless experiences.



We want to extend our deepest gratitude to our six Platinum sponsors: Motive Energy, Inc., Yale Chase Equipment and Services, Inc., Motive Energy Telecommunications Group, Inc., East Penn Corporation, Battery Watering Technologies, Raymond Handling Solutions. Dream Street is so fortunate to have these sponsors whose qualities of compassion and support make a difference in the lives of the children we serve.

We hope you can join us this year at Seacliff Country Club in Huntington Beach on May 23, 2016.

***For more information, please contact Anna McGregor :
AMcGregor@motive-energy.com.***



We Had A Ball

The Dream Street Foundation held its annual fundraiser at a new venue, Skirball Cultural Center. The Black and White themed Ball was brought to life with decor by Sweet Peas of Beverly Hills. Adding to the evening's festivities and the dance floor was the musical entertainment of the always popular, Norman Fox & the Rob Roys. The comedy entertainment which provided more than a few laughs was provided by former camper Tyler Warren and professional comedian Richard Osborn. The evening's honorees, Bob Istwan and Sean Clancy, received Rock Star awards for their outstanding support in raising funds for the Dream Street Foundation. The evening left lasting memories and inspiration for those in attendance and for the kids that will get to enjoy camp because of the funds raised.



FUNDRAISING ON THE ... RUN

By Ron Basile

As October 11, 2015, approached, our team was worried that the extended summer heat would really limit our ability to run. But at 6am that morning, Team Dream Street was up and ready to embark on its annual participation in the 2015 Long Beach Marathon. Being one of the featured charities, we all were thrilled that this day had finally come around. Our Dream Street volunteer, Heather Staufberg, kept us all together in the registration and handling process and I was busy recruiting team members. Joined by my wife, Kim, we reached out to some of the LA Legger runners and gathered a few more bodies to join us.

Dream Street has been one of the official charities with Run Racing and the Long Beach Marathon for over 15 years. They are always thrilled when we embark the day before to volunteer at the Fitness Expo that they put on. I head down with my family in tow and work the registration tables for the more than 15,000 runners. Meeting and hearing their stories are always an inspiration along with us telling them why we are there.

This year though seemed to be extra special. We were one of the top three charities going into to the weekend! We raised close to \$22,000 dollars so I can tell you that it came as a big surprise when Allison Wooten from Run Racing came over to pull me and my family away from the registration table. She said that the official sponsor executives from Jet Blue wanted to take some pictures. We were interviewed by the Expo host and then they let me know that I was the top individual fundraiser for the entire Marathon and they had something they wanted to give me. I could not expect anything more than a certificate of some sort. When I was told it was two tickets on Jet Blue anywhere we wanted to fly, I was shocked.

Along the way, I enlisted my friend Liane to run... the great thing is that she had never run any sort of marathon. It was, as she said, "Such a great experience and something I had always wanted to do."

My wife, Kim, had some of her running club members running for us also. They were all training together and there was no better way to put all that work to the test. It's always more inspirational having a team to start and end the run with.

Joining the team this year, running the 5k, were none other than Matthew (12) and Christopher (8) Stillwell, the children of a former camper, current counselor & Board Member, Kim Stillwell. They ran in place of their mom, who doesn't have the ability to run due to her treatment for a childhood malignant bone tumor. Running their first 5k for Dream Street, they raised \$1,500 on their own. They look forward to running again in 2016 and beating their fundraising from 2015! I know they will be joined by my kids, Gianluca (10) and Geneieve (12) who ran their first race at Long Beach as well.

This is such a great experience and running for a good cause always makes it that much better. You don't know what you can do until you do it, so for those of you who are thinking of joining us in 2016... Just Do It! Contact me, ren6967@gmail.com. Come run with us!



A CAMPER LETTER SHARING GRATITUDE



Dear Patty and Dream Street Volunteers,

I am a little late doing this, due to being in the hospital, but I just wanted to say a huge THANK YOU to you for all your hard work, and making Dream Street possible!! This vacation was the best thing ever, and helped me on so many different levels. The focus groups showed me that I wasn't alone, and how to conquer some of my struggles, and I was also able to help others. It was heart warming to see all the support that you gain on the trip, along with 17 new friends!!

I was able to get away for a week, relax, debrief, laugh, cry, be pampered and have fun, and not worry about being told I can't do something or stressing out about my daily struggles and appointments.

I can't imagine missing out on this amazing opportunity!! Thank you so very much for working with me, and moving me to the August session with such a short notice, when I ended up in the hospital in June.

The memories made on this trip will NEVER be forgotten, I want to keep reliving them! I have never been able to do anything that is so therapeutic in so many areas. I came back from vacation refreshed, relaxed, and ready to tackle my next obstacle, instead of being tired and overwhelmed with a to do list!!

I will never be able to thank you enough for this opportunity, and will recommend it to everyone I come in contact with that could benefit from it. I wish I would have waited so that I could come with friends, but at least I can share my journey and experience with them!! I have a close friend with a rare type of cancer that is already getting ready to apply for next year's session!

I would love to be able to serve as a counselor at big camp, it is just a small way to say thanks and repay for what was done for me! I love working with children, and seeing them experience life away from the hospital and harsh reality!

I hope to stay in touch with you! Thanks so very much again!!

With love,

Megan DeGruy

Camper-Dream Street Canyon Ranch