



# Friends of Ooch

An update on how you're an ongoing part of our story!

FALL 2019

## Postcards from Camp

Meet some of our Ooch Families! **Your amazing support** makes their adventures possible!

“Evan was already making new friends at the bus drop-off for Camp. I definitely got emotional hugging him goodbye. It was the first time we'd been apart since his diagnosis and the first time he'd gone to an Overnight Camp without a family member. One of the updates we received from Camp shared a picture of him receiving treatment and

playing cards with Dr. Sarah (the staff oncologist) and Rosie, a counsellor. *My heart jumped. Dr. Sarah has been with us since the beginning of our journey. It brought happy tears to my eyes seeing them together at Ooch.* The entire drive home, he was singing Camp songs, telling us about the many friends he made and all of his cabin-mates

in Cardinals 2. He also couldn't stop talking about all of the wonderful counsellors, nurses and doctors. He tried new things like the Polar Bear Dip, water skiing, paddle-boarding, and canoeing. I teased him and said I wasn't sure if he should go back next year because mommy missed him too much. He replied, 'I missed you too mommy, but I'm going back every summer!' The Magic of Ooch is real!”  
– Alpa, Evan's mom



Evan!

“It was nearly two hours each way, every day, to come to Day Camp, but Lucy was having so much fun she didn't want to miss any of it. She was a first-time Camper and was so excited! Before her cancer diagnosis, she used to love swimming, and honestly, I wasn't sure how it would go. But she passed her swim test on the first try and proceeded to wear a mermaid outfit whenever she got the chance! Everyday, she would tell

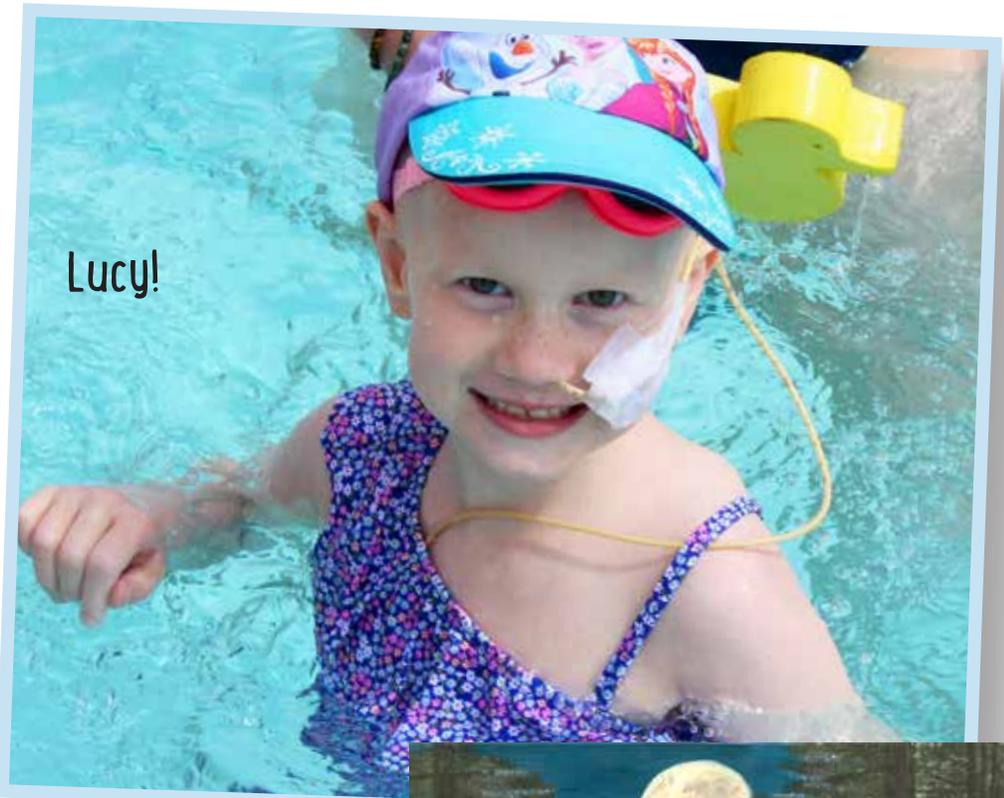
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## Friends of Ooch

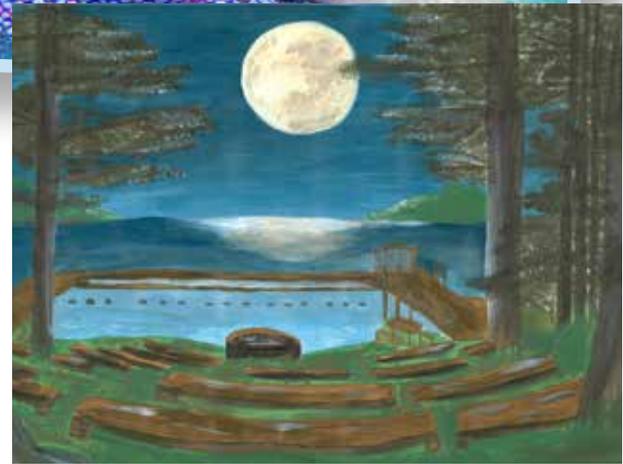
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me all her stories from Camp and tell me about all her new friends in her cabin group. *I'm forever grateful to you guys for giving Lucy her childhood back.*"  
– Lori, Lucy's mom

"One of my Campers was pretty sick this summer. She was on a lot of medication and had a hard time participating in every activity. She told me that her dream for Camp, the one thing she really wanted to do, was see the full moon. It had been overcast for a few nights, but one night, in the middle of the night, there was this beautiful full moon. It was so clear and quiet outside—it was just a perfect night. So, I woke her up. And, of course, the rest of the cabin woke up too. And we all went outside to look up at the moon. My Camper grabbed my hand, and quietly said 'Thank you for making my dreams come



*true.* And we just stayed there, staring up at the moon, watching the night sky together. Being able to do that for her, giving her that memory... it meant the world to her, and that meant the world to me."  
– Quinn, Ooch Counsellor



## Your messages to our Campers!

I HOPE ANY TIME A CHILD CAN SPEND TIME AT THIS CAMP WILL CREATE HAPPY MEMORIES!!

Hi Kids! I ran the 10K in Toronto and raised \$\$ for you to enjoy this wonderful experience that you will all remember forever! Get dirty, meet new friends and learn a new skill.

Hi Kids - Enjoy every minute of your time at Ooch this summer. May all your activities be really exciting and give you lots of wonderful memories.

You can also share a heartfelt message with the kids going to Ooch this summer. I hope you will write a note and be part of their Camp experience!

Let the sun warm your face.  
Enjoy the moonlit nights  
and laugh all the time!

You can also share a heartfelt message with the kids going to Ooch this summer. I hope you will write a note and be part of their Camp experience!

IN THE SUMMER CAMP, ENJOY YOUR NEW FRIENDS, THE TREES & WATER ACTIVITIES. 'BATHE' IN THE WOODS, GET TO KNOW THE ANIMALS AND WATCHING BIRDS NATURE CAN BE WONDERFUL

Hi there beautiful, wonderful kids! I hope you have a great camp full of happy times and new friends to experience the great outdoors and lovely nature to surround you. You are ALL so very, very special. Have a great Camp Ooch time!  
I love you all every day!

That's a wrap on Summer Camp 2019! And we thought you might like to peek inside our suitcase from Camp. **Here's what you helped make possible this year!** 



- 700 Summer Campers
- 462 Summer volunteers
- 2 doctors per week
- 5 nurses per week
- 311 first-time Ooch Campers



- 7 family camping trips
- 1,465 shrink art made
- 131 end-of-day "Taps"



- A whole sticky bunch of marshmallows roasted
- 7,442 oral medications delivered
- 26 IV medications given
- 544 bandaids applied
- 156 bottles of sunscreen all used up
- 20 litres of hand sanitizer used
- ...and countless cannonballs into the lake!



Donors like you fund the Med Shed! Your support means that every Camper gets the care and treatments they need while at Camp!



## Inside Ooch: Meet Dr. Mira!

This summer, we sat down with one of our Camp doctors,

Dr. Mira Liebman, who has been coming to Ooch from The Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario in Ottawa for ten years. We asked her some questions that we thought donors like you would want to know!

**Q:**What was your first impression of Ooch Muskoka when you came here for the first time?

**A:**It was a wonderful place to come to. It just felt like lots of fun.

**Q:**How was your summer this year?

**A:**I've seen a lot of these kids as patients, so seeing them as Campers has been very inspirational for me. It's also beneficial for me emotionally. Being

*an oncologist can take its toll, so seeing the kids have fun is very helpful.*

**Q:**What's it like to work here?

**A:**The Med Shed is beautiful. It's state of the art. We have everything we need here for the complete care of a child who has cancer. We have everything that a full paediatric oncology clinic has, but it's physically so beautiful, the space is very bright, very open, you can see Camp through all the windows.

**Q:**What's it like for you to see kids in such a different environment from the Hospital?

**A:**It's good for my soul. It makes me feel very happy to see them thrive after lots of hardship. It boosts me; it will boost me for the months to come. Seeing them here swimming, walking around, taking care of themselves... it's really unbelievable to me. Because at home or in the hospital, these kids are very protected. And here, they're really free.

## You Are Helping Make Jada's Dream Come True: Path to Play Update

Wow! Thank you to everyone who made a gift to our *Path to Play Campaign*. You are supporting our vision to make our Camphitheatre, waterfront, and all of our outdoor spaces more accessible. This means more kids can get around on their own.

You might remember Jada's story from this spring. She's on a mission to prove that having an amputation won't hold her back! And she shared her dream of a fully accessible Camp, so that kids with wheelchairs,

walkers, crutches, or other devices could get around Camp independently.

Well, you and other Ooch donors are helping make Jada's dream come true! We will start construction before the snow falls. And in the springtime we will begin work on the Camphitheatre, paths, and docks!

Your support can make this possible—as early as summer 2020! Every single gift still helps with this vital project to create a barrier-free experience for every Camper.

Your gifts make it possible for Ooch to deliver amazing care in a Camp setting! 



Thank you for being part of the Ooch Community!

We'd love to hear from you!

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**R2//NYC**  
SUPPORTING CAMP OUCH

A huge thank you to the 43 cyclists who participated in R2//NYC this September.

These amazing cyclists rode 850km from Toronto to NYC, raising over \$320,000 in support of Camp Ooch! Learn more: [www.ride2nyc.com](http://www.ride2nyc.com)

THANK YOU,  
BONFIRE  
BASH!

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The inaugural Bonfire Bash presented by BMO Financial Group was an evening to remember. Thanks to the generosity of supporters like you, an entire two-week session of Overnight Camp was made possible for 110 kids affected by childhood cancer.

Thank you to our sponsors, including: Taylor — Mindham Fine Jewellery — The Kavelman-Fonn Foundation — Miles, Kelly and The Nadal Family.