



MEDIA RELEASE

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CANADA'S FIRST RESIDENTIAL SUMMER CAMP FOR KIDS WHO HAVE A PARENT WITH CANCER

Calgary, AB — The **Kids Cancer Care Foundation of Alberta** (KCCFA) announced today that this summer it will offer **children who have a parent with cancer** a chance to go to **summer camp**. The **first residential camp program in Canada** to reach out to this population, **Camp SunHaven** fills a need identified by the Kids Cancer Care Foundation and other cancer agencies in the province.

Breast cancer survivor Linda Weidmann of Fort Saskatchewan knows first-hand the need for such services: "When you are diagnosed with cancer, your life and the lives around you change forever," said the mother of two children aged seven and eight. "The hardest thing for me was not being able to be there for my kids. Knowing that this illness was robbing them of their childhood was the hardest pill I had to swallow during that two-year period."

The new camp program, offered throughout the month of August, will provide kids across the province with much-needed downtime. Programs are designed to help children have fun and build a community of friendship and support, so they can put aside the worries that come with a parent's cancer diagnosis.

"We have long recognized the needs of children who have a parent with cancer," said Christine McIver, founder and chief executive officer of the Kids Cancer Care Foundation. "These kids go through so much. They're kids with big worries and they need a chance to be kids again. Now that we have our own camp we're finally able to help these kids."

"A cancer diagnosis is a diagnosis for the whole family," said Dr. Christopher Brown, a physician with the Alberta Bone Marrow and Blood Stem Cell Transplant Program at the Tom Baker Cancer Centre and the Foothills Hospital, and a scientist with and founding director of the Southern Alberta Cancer Research Institute at the University of Calgary. "Patients are not only patients; they're mothers, fathers, co-workers, friends. Healing isn't just about medication; it's about strengthening the mind and spirit. Part of a parent's healing comes with knowing that their children are alright, that they're able to do the things other kids do."

Camp SunHaven will include a range of age-appropriate activities from arts and crafts to hiking, archery, campfire sing songs, wetland studies, orienteering, survival skills and animal games. A total of three SunHaven camps will be offered this summer: two camps for children who have a parent currently on or recently off treatment and a third camp for bereaved children.

Helping young people and their families affected by cancer by providing enhanced care at the hospital, educational opportunities through scholarships, unforgettable camp experiences and hope through research.
kidscancercare.ab.ca

The camps will take place at KCCFA's Camp Kindle, just outside the town of Water Valley—83 kilometres northwest of Calgary and 280 kilometres south of Edmonton. The camp is open to children across the province.

The **cost is \$400 per camper** and includes all meals, accommodation, programs, supervision and transportation (to and from pickup points in Calgary, Red Deer and Edmonton).

A generous gift from the Leonard and Faigel Shapiro and Family Trust will provide **25 subsidies of \$150** each to families on a first-come, first-served basis. Eligible families with more than one child may be granted more than one subsidy.

For more information on or to register for Camp SunHaven, call **403.984.1227**, email **phillipo@kidscancercare.ab.ca** or go to **kidscancercare.ab.ca**. Alberta families who live outside Calgary may call **toll-free** at **1.888.554.2267**.

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ABOUT THE KIDS CANCER CARE FOUNDATION

The Kids Cancer Care Foundation of Alberta has a 20-year history of providing camp experiences for Alberta children affected by cancer. In addition to sending children affected by cancer to camp, the Kids Cancer Care Foundation helps Alberta families facing this disease by providing funding for research; hospital; and scholarship programs.

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