

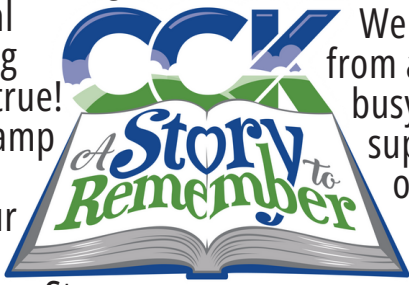
# CAMPfire connection

## A Summer to Remember



The summer of 2023 was a triumph! CCK's return to independent overnight camping in the summer for children living with various medical conditions was nothing short of a dream come true! Eight weeks of summer camp jam-packed with fun from breakfast to bedtime kept our campers invested from start to finish. Experiencing Messy Games, Stage Night, the Courtyard Carnival, and all of the program activities in between allowed our campers to try new things alongside cherished

friends! A CCK camper's guardian, Connie, explained what camp meant to her granddaughter: **"This camp experience was everything and more! My granddaughter didn't feel alone anymore."**



Welcoming new and returning campers from all over the map kept our counselors busy. Camper recruitment was supported by the collaborative efforts of our Healthcare Partners: Norton Children's Hospital Foundation, XLH Network, and The Coalition Against Pediatric Pain. This summer truly was *A Story to Remember!* **Thank you to our Healthcare**

**Partners:**   

# THANK YOU



# 2023 SUMMER STAFF



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# M & L Electrical Sponsors Clay Shoot 4th Year in a Row!

The 4th Annual Shooting for a Cause Clay Shoot Tournament was held in August at The Nashville Gun Club. This event serves as one of CCK's largest outdoor special events, raising a total of \$82,520! Presenting Sponsor, **M & L Electrical Inc.**, collaborates with our Office of Development to ensure that this event is successful every year. Their staff help recruit sponsors, teams, and even assist in creating event specific programming in addition to the tournament, like the Long Bird Shoot and Gun Raffle.

We are so thankful for partners like M & L Electrical! Not only do they keep camp powered safely and efficiently, they seek to be involved in other ways too! Their support means our Courageous Kids camp experience can continue for years to come!

Left Photo: Chris, Tracy, and Charles Mosley accept the Appreciation Award at this year's awards ceremony

Right Photo: M & L Electrical Inc. staff team participate in the clay shoot on the course at the Nashville Gun Club



Shooting for a Cause

## Achievements in Healthcare

It's been a long road for **Hannah Reckart**, CCK's Director of Medical Administration, as she has forged through her next level of education and has earned her Advanced Practice RN licensure. Hannah has been a part of the CCK Medical Team since her time as a nursing student at WKU and joined the staff as our Camp Nurse in 2018. Even though she says she has been in school "for what seems like my whole life," Hannah has appreciated her time at CCK since the beginning. **"I actually started attending CCK as a sibling of a camper and fell in love with the program,"** she says. Hannah always knew she wanted to work with kids but was even surer of one thing, **"I always knew I wanted to make my way back to CCK and work here one day!"**

CCK has always been able to offer 24/7 medical supervision to the Courageous Kids and families we serve. **"We will still be utilizing evidence based practices, and the latest research to form our protocols as well as collaborating with specialists and expert providers as needed,"** Hannah explains. However, with Hannah's new credentials CCK will take that coverage and care to the next level. Hannah will be able to keep prescription medicines and over-the-counter medicines in stock under her own supervision which will come in handy for campers experiencing an emergency or a non-diagnosis related medical event that we would have previously needed to send campers off-site for, like an ear infection or strep throat.

Additionally, CCK will be able to expand into offering clinical hours for Nurse Practitioner students. They could always volunteer. Now they can receive clinical credit under Hannah's supervision.



Hannah Reckart, MSN, APRN, FNP-C

## Capstone for a Cause: An Update with Megan Cusick



Megan volunteering during Family Weekend Retreats.

**Megan Cusick** attended **Belmont University** studying Occupational Therapy. As her Doctoral Capstone project, she selected CCK as her service location. Her project consisted of two major parts:

1. Creating a promotional video displaying the camp experience through the eyes of various participants to encourage future camper recruitment.
2. Developing educational videos for the weekend volunteers to receive diagnosis specific training on how to address potential programmatic challenges.

Reflecting on her time at CCK, Megan remembers her first time at camp: **"I remember being blown away by the amazing facilities. I love that campers never have to wonder if they will be able to participate."**

Since graduation, Megan accepted a position as an Occupational Therapist at **Associates in**



**Pediatric Therapy** in Nashville, TN. Her time as a CCK volunteer "affirmed my love for working with children," she says.

**"CCK affirmed my love of working with children."**

One lesson she says she learned in her time at CCK is, "You will never regret making a new friend!" CCK is so grateful for the time Megan spent with us. Her work will impact many volunteers to come.



Right: Megan presents her Doctoral Capstone project.



## 40,000 Campers Served since 2008!

CCK opened our gates in February 2008 with a dream passed down from **our Founder, Ms. Betty**: to serve children living with illnesses at completely no cost to the family. Fifteen years later and we have kept Ms. Betty's dream alive for 40,000 campers!

On September 29th, our **Honored 40,000th Camper, Anna Miller**, rolled onto camp for a Fall Family Weekend with her mom, Lindsey. Anna lives with Osteogenesis Imperfecta (OI) and has been attending CCK since she was 6 years old. Now she's 16 years old and lives in Chattanooga, TN. She is looking forward to attending next summer as an Oldest Camper.

We commemorated this milestone with a special luncheon complete with celebratory shirts, a giant cake, and an all-camp dance party! We look forward to serving our next 40K!

## Double the Clay Shoot, Double the Fun!

On September 8th, CCK hosted a 2nd **Shooting for a Cause** Clay Shoot in 2023, presented by **Division 2 Constructors**. **Greg Dew**, owner of Division 2 Constructors, has attended previous events benefitting CCK and decided he would like to get more involved by becoming a presenting sponsor. Greg and his team

partnered with CCK's Office of Development to promote the event, achieving a full roster of teams and participants. Events like this one help CCK gain new relationships and future supporters. We cannot thank Greg Dew and Division 2 Constructors enough for the passion they bring to the table for our Courageous Kids!



CCK Staff at the Nashville Gun Club



Division 2 Team participates on the course.



Left to Right: Joanie O'Bryan, Greg Dew, Ruth Page



CCK's 40,000th Camper: Anna Miller

Meet our  
Chief Operations Officer



# CCK Welcomes Matt Edwards: Chief Operations Officer

**Matt Edwards** retired from his 21 year career with the **Bowling Green Police Department** in April of 2023 and then began in his new role as **Chief Operations Officer** with CCK on May 1, 2023! His strong roots in the local community will help him create new relationships for CCK that will flourish our program for seasons to come.

Originally from Columbia, KY, Edwards moved to Bowling Green to attend WKU. He maintains an active lifestyle with his cycling group, BG Cycling. One of his favorite things to do with **his wife, Jen**, and their 9 year-old **daughter, Cady**, is to go out to eat at Cheddar's in Bowling Green and play the trivia game on the tabletop tablet then come home to go on a long walk with their two dogs, Jellybeans & Ruby Sue.

We are excited to see what the future holds for CCK under Matt's leadership!

## Ribbon Cuttings Celebrate Updates to Beloved Program Areas

An expansion to our Equestrian Program that opened this June is the brand new **Haskins Foundation Educational Room**, including **"Critter Corner"**. This area will allow CCK the opportunity to welcome new, smaller animals so that campers can interact at their comfort level in a climate controlled room. Plus, additional educational materials will be introduced to campers about animal care and "fun facts" about the animals they are interested in.

Thank you to the **Haskins Foundation and the Wedge Family** for their continued support on this project!



Our friends and supporters at **Fisher Contracting Company** lead the way by making a long awaited upgrade a dream come true in June 2023. CCK closed our series of summer expansions with the **Fisher Campfire Ring**. This transformation took an outdoor space into an even more accessible and inclusive area so that every camper can experience the camp-wide, memory-making traditions that only happen around a campfire.

Fisher has more plans for this area that we cannot wait to share with you soon!



The Treehouse Village proudly added another treehouse with the opening of **The Discovery Lodge** this summer. Children of all abilities will be able to experience camp high in the trees as they roam through the fully-accessible tree house because of the innovative design and intentional purpose.

CCK is thankful for the various sponsors and partners for their generosity in making this project possible!



## Luncheon Aims to Inspire Mission Minded Leaders



The 3rd Annual **Mission Minded Leadership Luncheon**, presented by **Edmonton State Bank**, welcomed over 170 attendees from over 22 businesses in the local area to network and enjoy lunch while learning from inspiring individuals in various industries. Emerging leaders who attended were treated to lessons delivered by Keynote Speaker, **Cordia Harrington**. Cordia is one of Forbes 100 Self-Made Women for 2023 and had some wonderful words of wisdom about how to achieve your goals while giving back in big ways that matter. Thank you to **CCK's Bowling Green Advocacy Committee** for curating a continued-education driven event focused on contributing to the community around us!



Keynote Speaker:  
Cordia Harrington

Instilling inspiration and empowerment while enhancing the lives of children with serious illnesses.

[www.courageouskids.org](http://www.courageouskids.org)