Camp Kesem is one week out of the year, but Kesem never, ever leaves you. These kids take Camp Kesem with them throughout the rest of their lives.

One week does that. It changes them. It helps them. It makes them better. It makes them happier. And reminds them that they are understood. How beautiful is that?

— Camp Kesem Counselor

I don’t have to pretend to be this kid who is okay. I can just be who I want to be.

— Camp Kesem Camper

I now have a second family: a group of people who will laugh and cry with me, a group of people who actually understand and relate to me.

— Camp Kesem Camper

Camp Kesem taught me to be a more patient and a kind person. It helped me remember that I’m not the only one out there with this burden to carry.

— Camp Kesem Camper

Camp Kesem’s magic recharged my son’s soul and let his spirit soar to new heights.

— Camp Kesem Parent

One of the campers said that being at Camp Kesem made him feel like his father was still around. If we can make someone feel like their family is still around when we are not actually their family, it says something about the family of Camp Kesem.

— Camp Kesem Counselor
Dear Kesem Friends,

This year, Kesem proudly celebrates 15 years of supporting children through and beyond their parent’s cancer. And while we have “grown up” quite a bit since starting our first chapter in 2000, our core vision has never changed - to ensure that every child touched by a parent’s cancer is never alone. Over the last 15 years, thousands of college students, alumni, and volunteers have selflessly and passionately shared their time and talents to bring that vision closer to reality.

On behalf of our Kesem family, I want to extend my deepest thanks for helping us achieve our most successful year yet. In 2015, Kesem:

• Expanded to 73 college chapters in 34 states
• Served over 5,000 children - an increase of over 25% in one year alone
• Empowered over 2,500 college student volunteers to make a difference in a child’s life
• Scaled our fundraising capacity by over 20% to support our growth
• Utilized 80% of every dollar raised directly on programming

However, the true impact of Kesem is best expressed by the families we serve. Throughout this annual report, we’re honored to share many of the comments we’ve received throughout the year from campers, camper parents and student leaders. Their collective voice speaks so articulately about the value of the Kesem mission.

As you’ll read, Camp Kesem gives children a network of friends who understand them, a better capacity to express themselves, increased self-esteem, and increased confidence. And, best of all, the impact is long-lasting, as the Kesem family (and lessons learned) stay with these children for life.

As we look towards the coming year, we are excited to continue our thoughtful growth plan, adding new year-round programs, scaling to serve more children in all of our existing programs, and expanding to serve new communities.

With your support, I am confident that we can deliver the Kesem “magic” to every one of the 3 million children in our country who have been touched by a parent’s cancer.

With my deepest thanks,

Jane Saccaro
CEO, Kesem
jane@campkesem.org
THROUGH AND BEYOND

Camp Kesem is a nationwide community, driven by passionate college student leaders, that supports children through and beyond their parent’s cancer.

“This program was a huge step in our family’s healing process.

At home, everyone is trying to be strong for each other so things go unsaid. Camp Kesem offers children a place where they can open up about their feelings, cry together, support each other, and most importantly, they have fun together. They learn that they are not alone.

I’m so grateful I was told about Camp Kesem.

— Camp Kesem Parent
WHERE WE ARE

Camp Kesem is the only nationwide community for children touched by a parent’s cancer—a unique population estimated to be over 3 million.

Founded at Stanford University in 2000, Camp Kesem has now expanded to 73 chapters on college campuses across the country.

Over 5,000 children experienced fun, supportive, and life-changing experiences at Camp Kesem this past summer, an increase of 25% in just one year.

The Kesem family is special to me because it’s a group of people who make each other stronger. They all know what it feels like when cancer has touched their heart and they know that even though cancer makes you weak—if you have people surrounding you who love and care about you—it can make you stronger.

— Camp Kesem Camper

CAMP KESEM CHAPTERS

Arizona State University
Ball State University
BYU
BYU-Idaho
California State University, Northridge
Carnegie Mellon University
Case Western Reserve University
Central PA
Chesnut Hill
The Claremont Colleges
University of Colorado Boulder
Columbia University
Cornell University
Emory University
Florida State University
The University of Florida
Fresno State
George Washington University
The University of Georgia
University of Illinois
Indiana University
Johns Hopkins University
University of Kansas
Marquette University
Miami
Michigan State University
The University of Michigan
University of Minnesota
Mizzou
MIT
University of Nebraska
New Mexico State University
North Carolina (Duke, UNC)
North Carolina State University
Northern Arizona University
Northwestern University
Notre Dame
The Ohio State University
University of Oklahoma
University of Oregon
University of Pennsylvania
Princeton
Rice
University of Richmond
Rowan University
Saint Louis University
Santa Clara University
The University of South Alabama
Southern Utah University
Stanford
Stony Brook University
Syracuse University
Texas A&M University
University of Texas - Austin
UC Davis
UC Irvine
UCLA
UC San Diego
UC Santa Barbara
UC Santa Cruz
University of Southern California
Vanderbilt University
Virginia Commonwealth University
The University of Virginia
University of Washington
West Virginia University
University of Wisconsin - Madison
William & Mary
Yale University
WHO WE ARE

This past summer, over 2,500 passionate college student leaders poured their hearts and souls into Camp Kesem.

These student leaders spent an entire year planning, organizing, and running over 70 Camp Kesem summer camps.

These kids make me want to be a better person. Every time I go to wake them up and every time I get a high-five from a little seven-year-old, I just want to be the person they think I am. I want to be that positive light - in the rest of my life and not just at Camp Kesem.

— Camp Kesem Student Leader

At the heart of the Camp Kesem organization is a growing network of college-based local chapters driven by trained and dedicated student leaders who work year-round to provide children touched by their parent’s cancer with a space where they feel safe, loved, and respected. They are responsible for recruiting and training volunteers, finding families in need, raising funds necessary to support their programs, and creating a fun, supportive, and life-changing week of programming.

Along the way – and as a result of year-long training provided by Kesem’s national team – our student leaders develop incredible leadership skills that transfer into their professional careers.

Over 95% of our student leaders report that Camp Kesem helped them develop teamwork, initiative taking, accountability, problem solving, professional relationship building, time management, public speaking and communication skills.

98% of our student leaders intend to continue philanthropic work after college.

Over 80% of the student leaders involved with Camp Kesem had cancer impact someone in their family. The community they build and sustain is defined by trust, understanding, camaraderie and fun. The friendships and mentorships formed through Camp Kesem last a lifetime.
Camp Kesem’s unique, student-centered model is highly scalable and replicable with a proven, life-long impact on local communities and individual families.

Camp Kesem’s widespread utilization of highly trained volunteer student leaders, and extremely low overhead costs, allow over 80% of funds to be directly spent on programming.

Camp Kesem has demonstrated that our fundraising capacity can scale with our growth. Total funds raised have increased 4 times in just five years.

Camp Kesem has a very unique model which has huge potential to scale. After an initial seed investment from Camp Kesem National, each college chapter is self-sustaining within 4 years.

With the ongoing training and guidance from our Program Staff, each chapter ultimately raises the funds necessary to cover the direct costs of camp from their local communities and networks. This model is proven, and has significant impact on how quickly we can bring our program to new communities in need.

— Jane Saccaro, CEO, Kesem
Our strategic partnerships and events have grown significantly this year, allowing us to expand our services considerably.

The Magic Ball was a unique blend of fun, magic, surprise, fantastic food and entertainment. The event, held in March 2015 at Chicago’s Redmoon Theater, brought hundreds of Chicago luminaries together for an evening of philanthropy, discovery and fun. This past year’s Magic Ball raised over $780,000. Next year’s Magic Ball will be held on Saturday, March 5, 2016.

Susan’s Magic Makers was an inspiring beach gala held in fall 2015 in Los Angeles. This annual event, hosted by business and community leaders from throughout L.A., was attended by 350 guests. Susan’s Magic Makers 2015 raised over $480,000.
THANK YOU

Camp Kesem gratefully acknowledges the following supporters for their generous donations to Camp Kesem between October 1, 2014 and October 31, 2015.

Camp Kesem is a 501c3 nonprofit organization. All gifts are tax-deductible as allowed by law. Our tax ID is #51-0454157.

Please contact magic@campkesem.org for any corrections, omissions, or if you wish to be removed from this list.
STAFF & BOARD

STAFF

Jane Saccaro, Chief Executive Officer
Jim Higley, Chief Development & Marketing Officer
Aaron Hadley, Chief Operating Officer
Abby O’Leary, Director of Finance & Administration
Caitlin O’Leary, Jones, Development Director
Bree Turner, Development Associate
Kim Porter, Marketing Coordinator
Lauren Ellis, Alumni Relations Manager
Fanny Wilson, Finance & Accounting Manager
Liz Firestone, Manager of Programs
Tracey Landstrom, Manager of Operations
Alex Monyhan, Manager of Programs
Jenna Barnett, Program Director
Cody Ferrantino, Program Director
Corney Lebieda, Senior Program Director
Gina Leopanto, Program Director
Marge Lobeck, Program Director
Laura Redmond, Program Director
Mary Shanam, Program Director
Kelsey Wrightwood, Program Director
Kristen Ellering, Executive Assistant
Scott Arizala, Camp Director

NATIONAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Bob Bartell
John K. Bradburn Jr., Treasurer
Emily M. Brackbill
Thom Brown
David Crowe
Becky Crowe
Keith Dierkx
Jeff Dinkin
Frank Gazmpan
Ron Glickman*
Jerry Katz
Darren Macioce, Vice Chairman
Mark Luck Olson
Robert Plotkowski
Jane Saccaro, CEO
Caryn Solomon, Chairman
Jay Stilwell, Secretary
Sudarsan Thattai
Iris Rave Wedeking, Founder

*Former Board Chairman

CHICAGO BOARD

Dafna & Neil Aaronson
Joe Adams
Carolyn & Mark Agnew
Linda & Mark Anderson
Lisa & Keith Bandolik
Heather & Bob Bartell
Neha Biggs
Jen & Sean Cunningham
Kate & Bill Drehkoff
Sarah & Jonathan Graham

Michelle & Mark Grossmann
Jenny & Brian Herb
Kate & Brian Higgins
Jim Higley
Calle & Ben Hutchin
Dara & Richard Levy
Cathy Birkeland & Greg Marton
Holly & Rick Miller
Kathy & Bill Newlands
Kelli & Ryan Patterson

Shannon & Andy Prada
Laura & Bob Probst
Cindy & Andrew Razeghi
Sheri & Aaron Rudiard
Jane & Jay Saccaro
Robin & Erik Scheier
Bevin & Andy Skoglund
Kate & Tom Smith
Eri & Matt Vollmer
Michelle & Andy Worth

SUSAN’S MAGIC MAKERS EVENT HOST COMMITTEE

Barbi Appelquist & Jonathan Gardner
Jamie & Matthew Bakal
Amanda & Sam Brown
Jennie & Fritz Burkat
Allison & Adam Checchi
Amy Epstein

Natalie & Jonathan Fischer
JoJo & Eric Fleiss
Adrienne Grant & Paul Jennings
Wendy & Michael Landes
Molly & Matt Leonetti
Amber & Josh Moon
Soundis & Danny Passman

Laura Probst & Chris Pimentel
Shannon & Michael Rotenberg
Allie & Eric Samek
Morgan & David Simonds
Navah & Brian Weinstein
Matt & Shara Wilson

ALUMNI LEADERSHIP BOARD

Mike Abrams
Michael Finegan
Jack Fitigliosino
Mark Howard
Caroline Huang

Jeff Leibach, Co-Chair
Sarah Leibach
William Maxner
Joe Schlingbaum
Bethany Schwartz

Michelle Silver
Rachel Sulfin
Jessa Valle
Samantha Wierman
Rebecca Wong, Co-Chair

Thank you to former Camp Kesem student leaders, Andrew Ho, Joe Na, and Joel Ontiveros, who provided the beautiful photos in this Annual Report.
My children came back happier and more confident than they have been in a long time. They have other kids they can relate to and they LOVE that.

They can’t wait for next year.

— Camp Kesem Parent

Registration for Camp Kesem Summer 2016 will open on January 15, 2016. Please visit our website for more information.