



How “Eggs and Nuts Week” Helps One Sibling Feel Special

Donuts and Chinese food every day for a week? You bet!

When eight-year-old Jason headed to Camp Fantastic last year, his parents looked for something special to do with his younger brother, Ryan, while Jason was away. They wanted an activity to distract him. So they declared it “Eggs and Nuts Week.”

Not only is Jason battling leukemia, he also is allergic to eggs and nuts, making the menu at home very limited.

But while Jason is at camp, the trio at home “binges” on their

favorite eggy and nutty delicacies. (Mom Christine says they also dub the time “Gain Five Pounds Week.”)

“The first year of Eggs and Nuts Week, we went to Wegmans and walked down

every aisle looking for items with eggs and nuts in them,” Christine laughed. “We bought a lot of peanut M&Ms.”

During the week, she says they also eat an unhealthy amount of egg drop soup, pad Thai, and, yes, doughnuts.

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Ryan with his doughnuts

OCTOBERFEST!

’Tis the Season for Pumpkins and Parades

Macy’s Thanksgiving Day parade has nothing on Special Love’s Octoberfest entry into the local Festival of Leaves parade. Our merry band of campers – nearly 150 in all – visited downtown Front Royal dressed in bright orange, with many carrying makeshift drums fashioned from rope and oversized buckets. Once again this year, the Special Love troupe stole the show.

Following the parade, the campers returned to the Northern Virginia 4-H Center for an afternoon of pumpkin-carving, wall-

climbing, canoeing, crafts, candy haunted house-making and, of course, trunk trick-or-

treating, the latter of which was

hosted by the camp counselors. The very full day ended with a wonderfully warm campfire and spooky tales of the season.

“It was a great weekend getaway,” said the parents of seven-year-old Henry, who is battling neuroblastoma. “There was something for everyone.”

When asked what his favorite part of the weekend was, Henry quickly said with a smile, “Everything!”

“It was a great weekend and getaway,” said seven-year-old Henry’s parents. “Something for everyone!”



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Eggs and Nuts Week

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Christine admits, “We actually went to a pie shop and asked, ‘What’s the most nut-filled item you have?’” And they bought it.

“It’s a fun thing for us to do, and Ryan loves it,” she says. “It makes him feel special. And Jason doesn’t mind, because he loves Camp Fantastic so much that he talks about it non-stop for three days when he returns. He thinks Eggs and Nuts Week is great. He doesn’t feel he’s missing anything since he can’t eat these items anyway.”

At the heart of Eggs and Nuts Week is a simple philosophy practiced at Jason’s house: “We intentionally try to make his cancer a positive thing,” explains Christine. “Because of cancer, Ryan gets to eat donuts, Jason gets to go to camp, we get to go to Nationals Park. We take a sad week and turn it into a fun week.”

Next year, Ryan is old enough for BRASS Camp. Says Christine, the family already is taking suggestions on activities for Jason that are equally as fun as Eggs and Nuts Week is for Ryan, “to balance it out.”

A Magical Evening of Charity — and Downright Fun Thank You, 1812 Brewery!

What an incredible evening of making music, tasting craft beer, and fundraising! In August, the McCagh family generously hosted an event at the historic 1812 Brewery in Cumberland, Maryland, to raise money for Special Love.

The turnout was inspiring. Special Love is so thankful for the commitment of 25-year-old brewery owner Cory McCagh and his parents, Sean and Terri, who are partners in the business. Many McCaghs from the extended family joined in the evening to support Special Love’s mission.

“Our goal was to raise \$1,500 to send two kids to camp for a week,” Sean explained. “We raised just under \$9,000 and sent 12 kids to camp.”

Sean is challenging other area breweries to do the same: “If small town Cumberland and a small farm brewery like 1812 Brewery can raise nearly \$9,000 and send 12 kids to camp, imagine what the bigger breweries could do.”

Special Love is definitely game to find out!



Top: Festive 1812 Brewery in Cumberland, Maryland Center: The McCagh family celebrates the wonderful turnout for the fun-filled fundraiser Bottom: Terri McCagh (left) and Kay McCagh Head (right) manage the silent auction

Running Their Hearts Out for Kids with Cancer

Special Love’s 6th Annual Fall in Love 5k Run/Walk and 10k Run welcomed autumn temperatures along the C&O Towpath in Washington, DC in mid-October. Nearly 350 runners registered for the event.

A huge thanks to Soul Mate Title Sponsor **e-paga** for once again leading the way in sponsorships! Also, a big thanks goes to **Clark Construction** and **iBiz** for their major sponsor support at the Infatuation level!

Other generous supporters include **John and Lorrie Chow** and **the Creech Family**

(Crush level); **the Bresch Family, Larry and Jenn Chloupek, Shari and Andy Fisher, Hynes | Riguzzi District Property Group, Lee Weiner and Nancy Schoenfeld, and Paul Davis Restoration** (Flirt level).

RoadRunner Sports, Jan Active Therapy, and Mellow Mushroom provided in-kind support.

But this race wouldn’t have happened without the hard work of Race Director Katy Vertigan. Thanks to all!



All the runners on Team Joey (several pictured at left) earned their hero capes by having a super successful peer-to-peer fundraising campaign for the run/walk.



Calendar Alert: “Fun”-Raisers

It's time for you to mark your calendars to support Special Love at one (or several) of our fundraisers. We need your participation — as a volunteer and/or a donor. Pick the events that work for you and contact us at 888.930.2707 for more information. We hope to see you there!

April (Date TBD), 2019 | Joker's Wild Cash Party
Beyond fun, this is an evening



of charity with non-stop prize drawings and the excitement of counting down to the top 10 numbers remaining to compete for the cash grand prize. It could be you! Plus, great food and a silent auction. Who could ask for a better evening?
Winchester, VA

April 5, 2019 | Special Love's Annual Gala - “Chic and Campy: Cocktails and S'mores to Keep Campfires Burning”

Spend a fun-filled evening learning just what it's like to go to camp, while you're dressed in your best! (See below for details.)
Hilton Tysons Corner, McLean, VA

May, 2019 | The 14th Annual

Institute of Real Estate Management (IREM) Gala

Look forward to another glamorous evening of dining, dancing, and hobnobbing with



who's who in the MD/VA/DC real estate industry. Venue to be determined; www.iremgala.org

June 3, 2019 | 29th Annual Richmond Shag Club Golf Tournament

Head to Richmond for a satisfying day of golf, mingling with some of the best shag dancers on the East Coast. Golf course location TBD.
www.richmondshag.homestead.com

Bringing You the Holidays Through a Child's Eyes

What better holiday greeting than a special card that captures the magic of the holidays as seen through our children's eyes? Special Love offers an assortment of four holiday cards, each featuring the artwork of a Special Love camper. Each card contains a short biography of the artist — Gracie, Kinley, Lily, and Tara — on the back.

These beautiful cards are available in sets of 12 assorted cards for \$30 or 40 assorted cards for \$100.

Your order will help support week-long and weekend camps for children with cancer, their siblings, and parents.

Order online with a credit card at www.speciallove.org/holiday-cards.

Order by mail by sending a check and quantity requested to Special Love, 117 Youth Development Court, Winchester, VA 22602

To ensure delivery before Christmas, please place your order by December 12.

Share something special this holiday season — share Special Love!

Don't Miss Next Year's Gala: APRIL 5, 2019

“Chic and Campy: Cocktails and S'mores to Keep Campfires Burning” — It's Your Turn for Camp!

Ever wondered what it's like to go to a Special Love camp? Well, trust us, it's fabulous! To prove it, we've decided to send you to camp for an evening at our 2019 fundraising gala — “Chic and Campy: Cocktails and S'mores to Keep Campfires Burning.”

Join in the fun on Friday, April 5, 2019, at the Hilton McLean Tysons Corner. Melt marshmallows and chocolate on a graham cracker for dessert, make a fun take-home craft, visit with several of our campers who are eager to share their camp stories — all while you're dining and dancing in your elegant attire!

As usual, we'll have exciting prizes as part of our live and silent auctions. We'll also be honoring a very special person as our Light of Love and inducting one wonderful

partner into Special Love's prestigious Circle of Love.

For sponsors, we're hosting a VIP party immediately prior to the gala, complete with special tastings and extra pampering.

“If you're curious about how much fun these special children have at camp,” says Special Love Executive Director Jan Bresch, “come to the gala to get a taste of the *camp magic*. You'll learn why everyone describes camp that way!”

Spread the love with us in April! Interested in attending or sponsoring? Visit our website at www.speciallove.org/gala or call 888.930.2707

More delectable details to come....



ALL SMILES: There's No Place Like Camp, Really

There's no better way to show you the magic of camp than to share the wonderful smiles and words of the campers at Camp Fantastic and BRASS Camp earlier this year. To take a peek at their week of fun and games with friends who understand just what they're going through is, well, priceless.



"BRASS Camp is my second home, where I can meet new people and have fun. It has changed my life knowing other siblings go through sadness and hope, too."

"I like that everyone fits in and no one is left out. Being able to go to a place where you don't feel like the only one."

"We all love Camp Fantastic because it's a place where kids like us can come together and fit in, be friends and act crazy and nobody judges."

"Everyone's cancer is different but in the end it's all the same. We have all fought to be here and we will continue to!"

"This was the best week of my life."



In Kate's Words: "The Best Camp in the World"

A few months ago, then 12-year-old Kate gathered her gumption and spoke before an audience of more than 300 generous Special Love supporters at the IREM gala, explaining what Camp Fantastic means to her. She had recently completed treatment for a spinal tumor.

Her mother said Kate jotted her notes in the car on her way to the event. Here's what Kate said:

"OK, I know what you're all thinking: I'm going to put pity party up and you're going to be sad. But this isn't about me. This is about Special Love and Camp Fantastic, the best camp in the world.

"When I went to Camp Fantastic for the first time last year, I was skeptical at first, because I was weak. I couldn't run. I couldn't play soccer. What was I supposed to do at camp?

"But Special Love has its own special finesse with camping for



Kate at Camp Fantastic

people like me. I got to do all the normal camp stuff, like I canoed, I helped take care of horses, and I did some really awesome science experiments.

"The nice thing is, while the camp is really hilly – and I don't like going up hills because that really drains my energy – they actually have carts that go

around and pick us up and drive us up the hill, just for us! It's nice.

"Also, this was my first sleep-away camp. So I was nervous – who isn't nervous on their first experience like that? – but I was blown away. All the counselors were amazingly nice, the staff was very flexible, and very amazing, and I loved it all.

"I got to do all the normal camp stuff, like I canoed, I helped take care of horses, and I did some really awesome science experiments."

"So I'm very happy that all of you are here and helping support this amazing organization that organizes Camp Fantastic and other camps. Thank you so much."

Ultimate Golfing, Compliments of PSI's Charity Event

Thanks to PSI (Planned Systems International) for another wonderful golf tournament and all-you-can-eat crab feast. Special Love once again was named one of two beneficiaries.

With a generous matching gift from PSI's CEO and founder Terry Lin, the tally for the event was an amazing \$133,000; Special Love received \$78,716 to support our year-round camps.

"It was the most successful tournament in our 21-year history," reports Christina Colbert, PSI's marketing director and a tournament organizer.

Thank you, PSI, for another inspiring event!



Giving Thanks for Nerangis Family's Continued Support of Camp



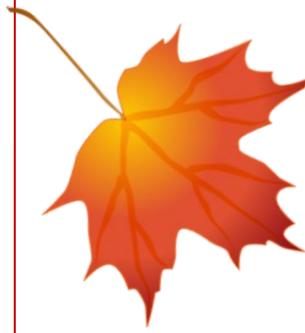
In a rare moment of quiet at Camp Fantastic, camp leaders took time to personally thank Kathy Nerangis and the entire Nerangis family for its ongoing support of Camp Fantastic. The owners of nine McDonald's franchises, a movie house, and a restaurant in the Winchester area, the Nerangis family has offered ever-popular meals – plus occasional visits from Ronald McDonald! – for more than three decades. Thank you – and How How!

From left in back: Medical Administrative Liaison Kathy Russell, long-time supporter Kathy Nerangis, and Special Love Sr. Director of Programs and Outreach Dave Smith join campers to share a moment of gratitude after lunch at Camp Fantastic





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BackBurner | Mark Your Calendars for More Fun than You Can Imagine!

December 2, 2018 | Special Love's Holiday Bash | A new line-up for this year's Holiday Bash — a dance party and karaoke contest! (Plus, Santa and Mrs. Claus, lots of food, and presents, of course.) Join us! Franconia Fire Department, Franconia, VA.



other families with similar stories to share. Activities planned for all ages for camp-eligible families. (Instructors on hand for novices!) Canaan Valley Resort, Davis, WV.

March 8-10, 2019 | BRASS Weekend | It's been a long winter, so when siblings gather for BRASS Weekend, the fun will be non-stop! Pack your bags for the Northern Virginia 4-H Center, Front Royal, VA.



ALL NEW HOLIDAY PARTY!
Don't miss the magic of the holidays at Special Love's Holiday Bash. Karaoke and a dance party! (More details at left.)



January 4-6, 2019 | Fantastic Winter Weekend | A trip to Bryce Resort for your favorite winter sport (skiing? snowboarding? tubing?) or sipping cocoa by

the fire. Thirteen- to 25-year-old cancer patients welcome. We start the weekend at the Northern Virginia 4-H Center, Front Royal, VA.

January 18-21, 2019 | Ski Family Weekend | One of Special Love's most popular getaways for families battling pediatric cancer. Spend time on the slopes and in the lodge, making memories and meeting



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