



Top: Will in his iconic 2002 scrapbook cover photo.

Bottom: At Winter Weekend with best bud, Brian.



30 Years & 30 Heroes

Hero #10 of 30

Will joined the Camp Fantastic crew in 2002 (back when we still called him “William”). To get there he had battled not only cancer (non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma) but also significant kidney damage he suffered at birth from blocked ureters. That condition led to two kidney transplants, one in 1997 at age 4 (his father donated the kidney) and the second in 2009. His first donated kidney was damaged during chemotherapy, which led to the need for a second transplant. He spent 7 years on dialysis prior to the second operation, yet he was able to attend camp the entire time! (One of the many blessings of our relationship with the National Cancer Institute is the ability to accommodate kids that even most other oncology camps cannot.) Will has remained active with Special Love ever since and he currently attends our Young Adults with Cancer (YAC) winter program. Yet he still remembers vividly his first trip to Camp Fantastic and the special friendship that was formed there:

“My very first experience at Camp Fantastic was the most unforgettable, most wonderful, and most everlasting experience and I will never forget it. It was the summer of 2002 and I can still smell the fresh air from farm day and the heat on the back of my neck from the hot air balloon ride. I also remember the care and concern I was shown throughout the week. To this day, I am still great friends with Brian, who I met when we were both first-time campers. Camp Fantastic provided me with the chance to leave my worries behind and have massive fun with my camp family. “

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