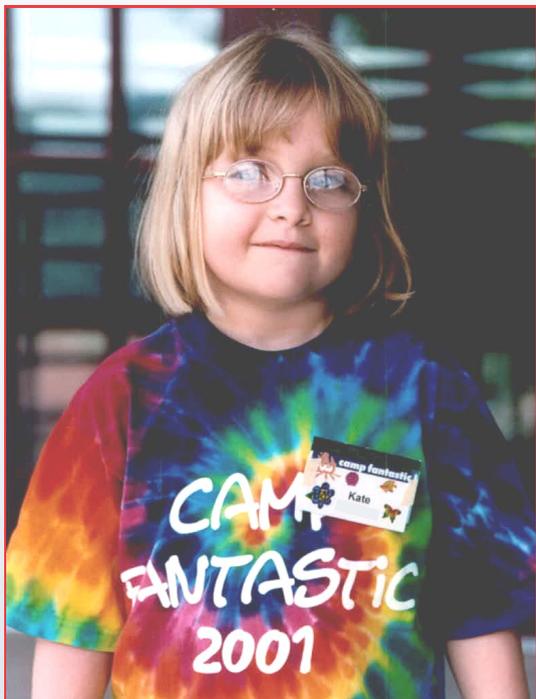


# 30 Years & 30 Heroes

Hero #11 of 30



*(Clockwise from top): Kate at her Camp Fantastic debut and with her friends Luke and Emily.*

At Special Love, we've always considered our camp families to be our best ambassadors, so when **Kate** first joined us at our annual holiday party in Springfield, VA, in 1998, it's no surprise that it was at another camp family's urging that she came to one of our camp-based events. Kate was nervous — she was a 5 year-old brain tumor survivor and was in the midst of two years of chemotherapy, with cranial radiation and over two dozen shunt revisions (adjustments to a tube placed inside her head) yet to come. Once she got to Under 7 Family Weekend, though, she met volunteer “Big Kate” and she's been hooked on camp ever since. Her first trip to Camp Fantastic occurred in 2001, when she fell in love with crafts and glamour class, where she got “the best manicures and pedicures ever!” Now 18, Kate attends our Young Adults with Cancer (YAC) programs, like Winter Weekend and YAC Weekend in June. She finished her first year of culinary arts study at Howard Community College this year and also got her first job at Wegman's. Her sister, Kara, attended BRASS Camp and BRASS Weekend, and parents recall their camp days, too:

**“Our family always enjoyed meeting the other families and just relaxing and having fun. One great memory is singing the campfire songs, especially ‘The Beaver Song.’ In the difficult days of cancer treatment, laughs like those were absolutely priceless! We also will never forget the first time we saw the view out the back of Robinson Lodge. It was in the morning after arriving in the dark the night before. It was miraculous – both the view and the support that camp offers to kids like Kate, moments of pure fun, normalcy, and adventure. The ‘special’ in Special Love is beyond words.”**

To support more kids like Kate, [click here](#), visit us on [Facebook](#), or call 888-930-2707!

