



30 Years & 30 Heroes

Hero # 4 of 30

Alessandro (Ale—pronounced “alley”—for short) made his first trip to Camp Fantastic in 2008 and was an immediate star. (You may have seen him at the top of our Facebook page, where’s he’s been a “headliner” since we created it two years ago!) He was diagnosed with leukemia at age 2 and received a bone marrow transplant. Like many BMT recipients, he’s dealt with graft-versus-host disease (GVHD), a skin condition that signals the body’s defense against the donated bone marrow. None of which has stopped Ale from being one of the cutest kids in camp! He has lots of “favorites” at camp, especially the Scooby Doo Haunted House that we did his first year, complete with the “Mystery Machine” overhaul of the camp van! In fact, his infatuation with Scooby Doo led us to give him our oversized version of the famous dog (see inset). His mom says,

“Camp has brought Ale happiness, greater self-esteem and confidence that last throughout the year... I have watched him blossom in the atmosphere that Special Love has created. All year long, Ale talks about his wonderful counselors, his peers, the doctors and nurses and all of the special activities. Recently he was showing a video of his arrival at camp on the bus last summer. As he was talking about it, he said, ‘When I see this video, I’m so happy it makes me cry!’”

Ale is always in the middle of the fun at camp!

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



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