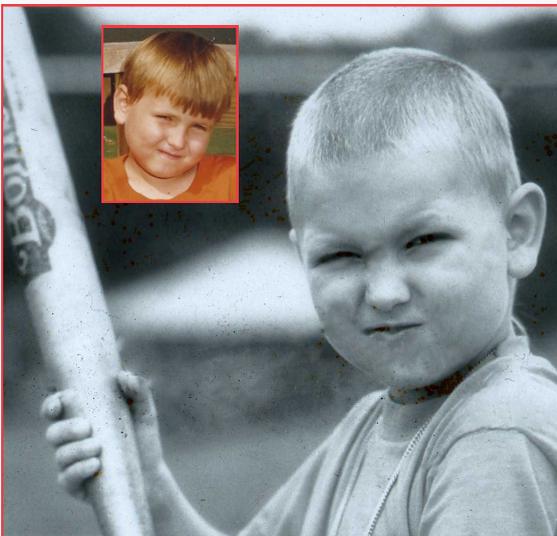




# 30 Years & 30 Heroes

Hero #26 of 30



*From top: Chip in his premier camp portrait (inset), at bat in 1987, and receiving his diploma in 1998.*

Some happy endings are different than others. While **Chip** was fighting through five relapses with leukemia, his life goal was to graduate from high school, and that's what he did on June 5th, 1998, fifteen years after his initial cancer diagnosis and less than two months before that battle finally ended.

Along the way, Chip made innumerable camp friends and admirers and was the toast of Special Love's hometown, Winchester, Virginia. His mother, Renny, says, "Chip never used his illness to gain things out of life and always went out of his way to help others in whatever way he could." He was an avid supporter of Camp Fantastic and also of the American Cancer Society, whose annual local telethon was always at the top of Chip's to-do list. He was known to request a one-day pass from the hospital so he could attend the telethon and encourage viewers to support cancer research. After all, it was that research that kept him alive through a bone marrow transplant and a half dozen experimental treatments at the National Institutes of Health, all of which helped him outlive his initial prognosis by a decade.

In a local newspaper article on Camp Fantastic in 1996, Chip summed up the feelings of all our campers when he said: **"I know that I have cancer, but I don't have to think about it here."**

At Chip's graduation ceremony, the commencement speaker, a local school official who was set to retire after his own illustrious career (and would one day battle cancer himself), decided to forego the usual flowery speech and instead called Chip up to the stage, where he introduced him and advised his classmates to follow the advice of Winston Churchill and "never, never, never give up." Chip received a standing ovation. He and all those who knew him would call that a happy ending indeed.

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30th Anniversary  
 **Speciallove**  
for children with cancer