VICTORY JUNCTION

Helping kids be kids.
A Report to the Community
How it all started...

{IN 1999} a lanky, wide-smiling teenager visited Camp Boggy Creek, a SeriousFun camp in Florida, with his dad and knew it was his calling to bring a similar camp to the hills of North Carolina where he grew up.

This young man was up and coming racecar driver Adam Petty, son of NASCAR driver Kyle Petty, grandson of racing legend Richard Petty and great grandson of NASCAR pioneer Lee Petty. This fourth generation driver was just starting his own racing career while still sleeping under his parents’ roof, but Adam was wise beyond his years. He not only had a passion for racing, but a passion for helping others. In between races, Adam took the time to visit pediatric hospitals and spent time with children who were battling chronic illness. He also saved money and started developing the plans for the children’s camp of his dreams.

One year after his touching experience visiting children at Florida’s Camp Boggy Creek, Adam Petty tragically lost his life in a racing accident at New Hampshire Motor Speedway. To honor his memory, the Petty family gathered their strength and as a part of their healing process, challenged themselves, their friends and the NASCAR community to build a place where children with serious illness could experience life and celebrate being kids. They set out to build Adam’s dream.

With land donated by Richard and Lynda Petty, the Petty family spearheaded a capital campaign in 2002 and dollar by dollar received donations from corporations, individuals and foundations to build what would become Victory Junction, a NASCAR-themed camp only ninety minutes from Charlotte, N.C. In June 2004, Adam’s legacy of love was realized when Victory Junction opened its gates to its first campers.

Today, spread across 84 acres, Victory Junction is a safe and medically-sound environment, allowing children to do what they do best – be kids, play, imagine, make friends and enjoy the adventures and experiences of camp life.
Every child can participate in all of our CAMP ACTIVITIES!

- Archery
- Athletics
- Boating
- Bowling
- Crafts
- Ziplining
- Woodworking
- Tubing
- Swimming
- Singing
- Kickball
- Painting
- Jewelry Making
- Horseback Riding
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- Painting
- Jewelry Making
- Horseback Riding

CAMP OBJECTIVES

- Create opportunities for children who cannot attend other camps due to their medical conditions, so they can safely exercise, participate and succeed in activities that otherwise might be too challenging or unavailable to them.
- Provide a place for kids who are limited by the complexities of their medical conditions the ability to experience a place where their disease or condition is NOT the focus.
- Surround the children with other children, just like themselves, in a place other than a hospital, allowing the fear and hurt of criticism and teasing to disappear allowing self-confidence to emerge, developing a sense of independence while enjoying camaraderie, achievement, and acceptance.
- Provide a medically safe environment where children can celebrate just being a kid.
- Assure parents that their children’s needs and wants are meet medically, physically and emotionally.
- Secure funding for each week and weekend of camp so that the maximum number of children and families may be served each year.


every camper shines!

A camper who battled cancer and now is in remission, Westley attended camp for the 7th time this summer. He not only got over the depression and difficult treatments by coming to camp, he also got what counselors like to call the “energizer switch.” When Westley first came to camp he was very shy, didn’t enjoy going to activities and really just wanted to rest. But little did we know this would be quick to change.

How did camp do this for Westley? Camp is a place where you can be yourself and people will not judge you. Who knew an “imaginary switch” would create a child who is always smiling and running around like he just had 13 cherry ICEE’s from the Pit Stop. Our program staff understands sometimes you just need people to believe in you when times are rough and happiness is nowhere to be seen.

A camper with Cerebral Palsy, Jessie has attended camp for several years during the summer and for family weekends. The first thing you realize about Jessie is how much she loves her family. The first time we ever met her, she would only get around camp using her wheelchair. We later found out she could walk by herself, but chose not to. This last summer we noticed a significant change in Jessie’s personality. A girl who once relied heavily on her wheelchair began using her crutches to walk to every program area. Not only did Jessie increase her walking ability but her perception of who she was changed significantly.

How did camp change Jessie’s life? Before, Jessie was the person in the audience cheering on her sisters performing, watching others shoot archery and looking down upon herself because she was in a wheelchair. The Jessie we have come to know is the one performing Frozen on stage in front of a large audience, shooting several bullseyes by herself and not letting her disability hold her back.

A camper with Cerebral Palsy, Eric has attended camp nine times. His mom knows this is the happiest place on earth for him. Not only is Eric wheelchair bound he is also non-verbal. This makes home life very difficult, especially since Eric is being raised in a single parent household. Although Eric cannot verbally tell his mom what he likes or doesn’t like, she can see it through his eyes and picture his perfect smile:

“Although I cry after dropping him off every time, I know he is safe and happy and that’s all a mom can ask for.”

What does camp do for Eric? In addition to making new friends, he’s able to participate in activities that normally he can only watch his older brother do at home.

Every camper shines!
**CHILDREN SERVED in 2014**

**ALL CAMPERS SERVED (by year)**

- **2004**  
  - Children: 641  
  - Family Members*: 118  
  - TOTAL: 759

- **2014**  
  - Children: 1,193  
  - Family Members*: 721  
  - TOTAL: 1,914

* Our family weekend sessions give our camper families an opportunity to be able to experience the adventures of Victory Junction together.

**TOTAL CHILDREN SERVED 2004-2014 (by state): 12,405**

- **Other countries served:**  
  - Canada, 17  
  - England, 4  
  - Denmark, 2  
  - Switzerland, 6

- **Testimonies:**
  - **Jawuan, Age 15:** "We all have different skin color, different blood and different diseases, but we all have the same heart and share the same love."
  - **Christopher, Age 10:** "Our volunteers don't get paid with money; they get paid with smiles."
  - **Katherine, Age 16:** "The lesson that Victory Junction has taught me, is that you do belong in the world even if you are different.
  - **Madden, Age 8:** "The food at camp is better than my mom's cooking, but don't tell her that."
  - **Parent:** "We gave the girls a choice this year, Disney or Camp, and well here we are. They wouldn't miss a year here."
  - **Joe, Age 14:** "I wish I could bottle up the past four days and put it in my pocket, so I can pull it out on a bad day and remember all of the good memories."
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OUR VOLUNTEERS make camp happen.

Total Volunteers: 1,623

Victory Junction recruits thousands of volunteers for our year-round programs. During the summer, volunteers take care of the daily needs of six to eight campers. It requires one to be actively involved in the supervision, guidance and motivation of campers. During the spring and fall, volunteers experience the magic of camp and the healing affect it has on campers and their families. The gift of our volunteers’ time and talents has a tremendous impact on the lives of campers.

COUNSELORS make each session special.

# of campers who needed help shooting archery: 459

# of fish counselors had to kiss for campers: 227

# of campers who needed help pushing their wheelchair: 155

# of campers who needed help performing on stage: 514

The above numbers are our average every year.

RUN TO VICTORY

On October 11th, 2014, runners of all ages took their marks to raise money and awareness in our Run to Victory.

Hearts of Victory fundraising events give guests an opportunity to hear firsthand how Victory Junction is changing lives. In 2014, guests were inspired to give more than $1 million to provide incredible camp experiences to kids with serious medical conditions.

OUR VOLUNTEERS

42,742 hrs. Spent Serving Campers

92 Total Medical Volunteers

87 Seasonal Staff Hired

HEARTS OF VICTORY

GREENSBORO

From left to right: The Plyler Family (Camper family) and Victory Junction COO Austin Petty

HIGH POINT

From left to right: Fred Wilson and Jordan Washburn

CHARLOTTE

From left to right: The Welborn Family (Camper Family) and Richard Petty

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Kyle Petty
Brian Flynn
Carolyn Bechtel
Hugh Hawthorne
Jerry Neal
Richard Petty
Bobby Rice
Paul Sagerman, MD
Jordan Washburn

Emeritus Board Members
Rick and Linda Hendrick
Linda Neal
Jon Abramson, MD

Total Volunteers: 1,623
Seventy-five cents out of every dollar raised by Victory Junction goes directly to support our mission of providing life-changing experiences to children with serious medical conditions. The rest supports efforts to enhance and maintain our campus and our programs.

Thank you. By giving your all, we are able to give our all to the kids.

**Top Corporate Donors**

- Kangaroo Express: $1,016,185
- Krispy Kreme Doughnuts: $566,596
- WilcoHess: $185,000
- Hendrick Motorsports: $65,000
- Rhetson Companies: $60,000
- One Stop Food Stores: $47,850
- Coca Cola: $35,333
- Eldora Speedway: $33,600
- Sunnen Products: $28,242
- United Guaranty: $25,000

**Total Corporate Donations:** $6,475,266

**Top Foundation Donors**

- SeriousFun Children’s Network: $572,736
- Walmart Foundation: $260,700
- Kyle Petty Charity Ride: $200,000
- The NASCAR Foundation: $150,000
- Carolinas Credit Union Foundation: $100,000
- SEMA Cares: $85,000
- CHES Foundation: $75,000
- Tony Stewart Foundation: $45,000
- National FABRY Disease Foundation: $25,000
- Young Green Foundation: $25,000
- Petty Family Foundation: $24,289

**Total Foundation Donations:** $2,000,000+

**Top Individual Donors**

- Mr. and Mrs. Troy L. Coblenz
- Mr. and Mrs. Elton Collins
- Mr. and Mrs. Robert G. Culp, III
- Mr. and Mrs. Dan Duil
- Ms. Chic Dwight and Mr. Fred Garrison
- Ms. Susan A. Elliott
- Ms. Donna Fountain
- Mr. and Mrs. Jeff S. Stewart
- Mr. and Mrs. Samuel F. Stone, Jr.
- Mr. and Mrs. Jimmy C. Stout
- Mr. and Mrs. Dave G. Tash
- Mr. Jeffrey Tomascak
- Mr. Eric T. Vandenbrink
- Mr. and Mrs. Jordan A. Washburn
- Mr. and Mrs. Timothy Weithorn
- Mrs. Margaret Wilbanks
- Ms. Kathleen Wimer

**Total Individual Donations:** $1,000+

Please visit our website victoryjunction.org to view our complete audited financial statements.

“*This world is a better place with NASCAR on it.*”

— Joey, age 14
“I can’t believe it! Everything they say about this place is so true.”
— Holly, Age 16

“I love Victory Junction because I can swim without worrying about having a pain crisis.”
— Ms. Lisa J. Rhinesmith, Age 16
“They pick the counselor here like flowers, perfect in every way.” – Jesse, Age 15

“Tired because I have to go back to the real world but I’m happy because I’ve had more fun than I will in a lifetime.” – Jesse, Age 15
“It doesn’t matter that our siblings don’t have the same illness. We all have something in common.” – Holly, Age 11

Counselor: “What is one thing you like about yourself? Camper: “This might sound weird, but I like my disease because of it, I get to come to camp.” – Ms. Toni L. Snider and Mr. Zeb Smith
RADIANT memories
JUMP celebrate
SHARE smile
reach JOY