



March 2015

Dear Friends,

Earlier this month, we held the inaugural *Magic Ball* in Chicago. I still find myself at a loss for the proper words to describe the experience - where over 600 friends, supporters, alumni and student leaders came together to not only celebrate the magic of Camp Kesem - but raise over \$730,000 in one evening.

Some of my favorite memories from the event were found in three small rooms - tucked just steps away from the grand hall where our attendees mingled. Inside those rooms were wonderful - and very personal - experiences where we shared the magic of Kesem. In one room, our guests took on their own camp name. Another room was set aside to honor loved ones - by making personal luminary bags.

And in the third room - where guests enjoyed a handmade swing - we shared the words of our campers, parents, and counselors. Each quote was deeply moving. And a beautiful reminder about the importance of what we do at Kesem every day.

Thank you for taking such a tragedy and turning into something precious to my child.

- Camp Kesem Parent

I love the positive attitude and feeling of self worth that my son has now! He has a different outlook on life.

- Camp Kesem Parent

Camp Kesem's magic recharged my son's soul and let his spirit soar to new heights.

- Camp Kesem Parent

I now have second family: a group of people who will laugh and cry with me, a group of people who actually understand and relate to me.

- Camp Kesem Camper

You know, I always thought of cancer as this horrible thing that only destroyed lives. Camp Kesem shows you that good things still happen.

- Camp Kesem Camper

Camp Kesem taught me to a more patient and a kind person and it helped me remember that I'm not the only one out there with this burden to carry.

- Camp Kesem Camper

When I'm at Camp Kesem it makes me feel just like all my problems have disappeared.



- Camp Kesem Camper

I don't have to pretend to be this kid who is okay and everything and I can just be who I want to be.

- Camp Kesem Camper

On the very first day, one of the most shy girls at camp sat down next to me at dinner and only said one thing: this has been the greatest day ever.

- Camp Kesem Counselor

One of the campers said that being at Camp Kesem made him feel like his father was still around. If we can make someone feel like their family is still around when we are not actually their family, it says something about the family of Camp Kesem.

- Camp Kesem Counselor

Camp Kesem is one week out of the year but Kesem never, ever leaves you. These kids take Camp Kesem with them throughout the rest of their lives. One week does that. It changes them. It helps them. It makes them better. It makes them happier. And reminds them that they are understood. How beautiful is that?

- Camp Kesem Counselor

With gratitude to all the voices - including yours - who help us spread the message and mission of Kesem,

Jane Saccaro
CEO, Kesem

We are Still Accepting Camper Applications!

Our camper registrations - for this summer - are literally flying in our door. We already have more campers than we served last year! Many of our camps are close to capacity - so if you know of a family who is interested in Camp Kesem for their child, please encourage them to register today! by visiting our [website](#) and then click the "Register a Camper" button in the top, right corner. Applications are reviewed on a first-come, first-serve basis. If you have questions, contact us at applications@campkesem.org.



Camp Kesem is a program offered by Kesem, a nationwide non-profit organization that supports children touched by a parent's cancer.



Donate to Camp Kesem

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