



October 2015

Dear Friends,

We are busy and so very productive at Kesem during this fall season! Our Operations team has been traveling the country training the thousands of college student leaders who so generously give their time and talent to our cause, our Development and Marketing teams are overseeing events and thoughtful outreach to our wonderful supporters, our Alumni Association is executing a number of programs that support our national efforts as well as encourage fun and community among our alums, and all of us stay focused on the collective Kesem goal of supporting more and more children touched by a parent's cancer.

This past summer we served 5,000+ children - over 25% more than the previous summer! However this past summer we also ran waiting lists at several of our chapters - and could not meet the accelerating demand of children and families wanting our support. With over 3+ million children touched by a parent's cancer, this need will only continue to grow.

To help address this demand, we are excited to share with you that in December we'll kick off our inaugural **Kesem Chapter Expansion Campaign** - with the goal of launching several **new chapters** in the coming year!

Many of you have asked how you can help the Kesem cause - and now here's your chance! **If you have college-age friends or family members who would be interested in starting a Kesem chapter at their college or university, please share this newsletter with them.** [This flyer](#) has all the information they will need to learn about Camp Kesem and the process for submitting an application to bring Camp Kesem to their school! (But encourage them to act soon - they should start their application by mid-November.)

Beyond helping to support the ever-increasing number of children touched by a parent's cancer, Camp Kesem's college student volunteers develop incredible leadership skills that transfer into their professional careers. It's the perfect example of "receiving so much by giving to others."

I'll leave you with the inspiring words below from several Camp Kesem chapter founders. No one has a better understanding of the rewarding, challenging, and ultimately life-changing experience of starting a new Camp Kesem chapter than they do.

With gratitude,

Jane Saccaro
CEO, Kesem



Caroline "Congo" Huang
MIT
(Founded Fall 2006)

"Founding Camp Kesem MIT changed my life personally and professionally. Over the past nine years, I have worked with families dealing with all stages and types of cancer and formed lasting relationships with campers, student leaders, and alumni. Along the way, I have gained practical experience in writing grants, establishing community partnerships, recruiting and interviewing peers, and planning large-scale activities. These skills have translated to my post-graduate life as a public health and bioethics researcher and Kesem Alumni Leadership Board member."



Jamie "Bear" Leonard
Stony Brook University
(Founded Fall 2013)

"Working to build Camp Kesem Stony Brook was without a doubt one of the most challenging and rewarding experiences of both my undergraduate career and my life thus far. I worked countless hours with some of the most selfless, compassionate, and empathic individuals I have ever had the privilege of knowing. But after we had together built a foundation, 52 campers helped construct the incredible home our family would come to call Camp Kesem Stony Brook. In our second year we opened our arms to 84 campers and to this day I remember the smiles, the laughs, and the tears as we accepted each other with unconditional love."



Norman "Gramps" Greenberg
Princeton
(Founded Fall 2014)

"The start of Camp Kesem Princeton was very challenging, but it was also incredibly rewarding. Working on the project gave our team a lot of valuable experience by working on a non-profit. But most important of all, our work culminated in a week full of fun, when we got to see campers who have never known each other before form irreplaceable relationships and bonds with each other. You will have some tough times along the way in starting a Camp Kesem chapter, but once you see how special that one week is for your campers and their families, you will not regret it!"



Santiago "Pancake" Gonzalez
University of Colorado - Boulder
(Founded Fall 2013)

"Founding Camp Kesem at University of Colorado Boulder was one of the most challenging and rewarding things I have done in my life so far. Not only did I learn what it takes to run an organization, but it gave me a community which turned into a family that I will be a part of for a very long time. Kesem magic is real and unexplainable, but it is attainable with a passionate heart, hard-working hands, and love for the students at your university and the children in the surrounding community."



Marge "Mama" Lobeck
Stony Brook University
(Founded Fall 2013)

"Kesem has a brilliant way of sneaking up on you. It gave me things I never knew I needed and pushed me to become my best self. Each day I find a new reason to Kesem and I could not be more grateful."



Jenny "Java" Holmgrain
Princeton
(Founded Fall 2014)

"Founding a Camp Kesem chapter is one of the greatest things I have ever done. Children whose parents have cancer have the foundation of their childhood shaken to the core. And I haven't found anything more rewarding than helping to bring magic and support back into their lives. Through Camp Kesem I have become a better leader and a better person."

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



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