



TESTIMONIALS

2024





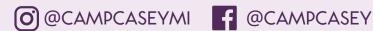






DELIVERING THE HEALING POWER OF HORSES ONE "NEIGH" AT A TIME

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ABOUT CAMP CASEY

WHO WE ARE

Camp Casey is a nonprofit organization that provides cost-free horseback riding programs to children with cancer, sickle cell disease, and other life-threatening illnesses. Camp Casey seeks to empower families and volunteers through its four programs that promote building bonds within families, communities, and those going through similar circumstances.

ABOUT CASEY

Casey Foote was not much different from other 10-year-old girls. She loved the outdoors, had an active imagination and adored animals. Unlike most children though, Casey was battling bone and brain cancer and died just after her 12th birthday.



During the last few years of her life, Casey was introduced to a horse farm where she spent many afternoons grooming and riding her favorite horse. Even as chemotherapy, surgeries and the emotional weight of cancer kept Casey physically weak, she never let her illness get in the way of bonding with horses and friends. Connecting with horses allowed Casey to be a kid again and kept her and her family strong during their difficult fight.

Watching Casey interact with horses was therapeutic for her family as well. When Casey was at the barn, they were able to witness an instant transformation as her hospital gown was replaced with boots and breeches. Casey would have loved for other children and their families to experience the joy that horses once gave her. We are proud to keep Casey's legacy alive and enable children, like Casey, to apply the strength gained from our program to their fight against cancer.



Thank you for your interest in furthering Camp Casey's mission! Please enjoy the following testimonials from our campers, volunteers, seasonal staff, and community partners of 2024.

- Camp Casey Team



WHAT WE DO

PROGRAMS

Horsey House Calls: We deliver camp to the homes of children who are often too sick to attend summer camp.

We stay for the afternoon to provide:

- A horse grooming & safety lesson
- Individual rides
- Team building games
- A craft project
- Hand-made horse treats
- A pizza party

Cowboy Camp Outs: We provide all-inclusive weekend getaways for the whole family. Surrounded by others going through similar circumstances, families enjoy:

- Private, luxurious family cabins
- Campfires (and s'mores!)
- Hayrides
- Trail rides
- Indoor & outdoor water parks
- Peaceful, unplugged atmosphere

Outlaw Outings: We retain relationships with previously- served families by inviting them to one-day recreational activities throughout the year.

Horses in the Hallway: A social emotional educational program, piloted in 2024, that travels to the classrooms of Camp Casey's campers to offer a lesson on empathy, all with the help of a social worker and a Camp Casey therapy horse!

WHAT ELSE WE WERE UP TO

2024 Golden Spurs Breakfast: We invited our supporters to the Rust Belt Market in Ferndale, Michigan to learn about Camp Casey and how to get involved.

We are thrilled to announce the 2024 Golden Spurs Breakfast raised over \$27,000 for Camp Casey's 2025 programs. WHOA!

2024 Gold Rush Gala: We gathered 200 of our greatest supporters for a night of glitz, glam, and giving back at the Garden Theater in Detroit in honor of Childhood Cancer and Sickle Cell Awareness Month.

We are grateful to announce that the 2024 Gold Rush Gala raised nearly \$140,000 for Camp Casey's 2025 programs. YEEHAW!!



I would like to tell you that camp Casey was a ball!!! We enjoyed the experience so much. It's unforgettable. Thank you for the opportunity, and a unforgettable moment for Jacob and our family.

– Janine, mother of 2-year old Jacob, diagnosed with acute myeloid leukemia from Eastpointe, Michigan







The day was more than I could have imagined. It was so relaxing to just enjoy time with the kids and not be rushing around. This was more than I ever thought it would be and we are so thankful that we were able to be part of it.

The team all interacted with the kids and helped them every step of the way. It was truly an amazing experience that the kids are all still talking about today. Excellent job and it was so nice as a parent that is non stop everyday to just enjoy the time with the kids. Thank you for all you do. You truly make a difference!!

– Lisa, mother of 4-year old Shayla, diagnosed with Trisomy 21, pulmonary hypertension and pulmonary vein stenosis from Flat Rock, Michigan

My family enjoying time together outside of the hospital doing something only this opportunity allowed. Our Horsey House call had to be rescheduled due to my son being in the hospital and the team was so helpful in finding a new time for us to experience this.

It ended up being on our first weekend home from end of the of treatment and start remission, making it extra special. It was the first time my whole family had been together outside of the hospital in over 6 months. My son really enjoyed it and now loves horses!

– Hazel, mother of 2-year old Mercy, diagnosed with high risk acute myeloid leukemia from Detroit, Michigan





The horsey class was cute! I loved everything about this day, it was so special! Thank you for everything! Seeing our baby girl have such an amazing time with the horses and her friends means everything to us. It was a once in a lifetime experience that we will all cherish forever. Thank you for all you do!

– Vanessa, mother of 3-year old Iris, diagnosed with Ebstein Anomaly and tricuspid valve stenosis from Saint Clair Shores, Michigan



Thank you so so much, Camp Casey! **We love you guys** and Isla hasn't stopped talking about Boots!

– Tiffany, mother of 3-year old Isla, diagnosed with B-cell acute lymphoblastic leukemia from Clinton Township, Michigan







Oh my gosh, Julianna's Horsey call House was amazing! Everyone had so much fun! Thank you so much to you and the rest of the Camp Casey team and volunteers! I wish I would have had more time to talk to all the volunteers, but I was just so in awe of all the kids having fun. Julianna was napping on her high after the horsey party! Answering the front door to Boot was so fun, and getting to ride in our own neighborhood was so special!

– Jessica, mother of 5-year old Julianna, diagnosed with lissencephaly and cerebreal palsy from Huntington Woods, Michigan

The event was so beautiful. My family and friends can't stop talking about it. Scarlett had an awesome time and seeing my kiddo this happy was more than I can ask for. A few hours of leaving the reality of her illness, made her spirit bloom. Also, the volunteers were so awesome! Camp Casey was wonderful. The whole staff was fabulous.

My daughter keeps talking, and for sure will be talking about her experience for years to come. From the bottom of our hearts thank you for giving that joy to my child in such difficult time for her.

 Estela, mother of 16-year old Scarlett, diagnosed with acute lymphoblastic leukemia from Macomb, Michigan





The staff was very sweet & patient with the kids. **Everyone** had a great time!

– Jazmine, mother of 7-year old Harlem, diagnosed with sickle cell disease from Detroit, Michigan





It was a great day all around. All the kids enjoyed riding the horse up and down the street. They loved making all the crafts and also feeding Penny. The staff was just amazing!

– Sabrina, mother of 8-year old Emma, diagnosed with acute lymphoblastic leukemia from Macomb, Michigan



I want to thank everyone who showed up and brought such a great vibe for Emma and her guests! You are all greatly appreciated! That was such an amazing day for all of us. Thank you Camp Casey! The staff that arrived at our home was amazing! Very helpful with all the kids. Every kid had a great time. The crafts and pizza were all much appreciated.

 Mike, father of 8-year old Emma, diagnosed with acute lymphoblastic leukemia from Macomb, Michigan





We had such an amazing surprise for our warrior Rowen today! We had a blast with horse camp visiting our house today, & Rowen had a blast riding Lacye around with some equine therapy. It was such a wonderful surprise having hero horse Lacye greeting Row-Row, & just a beautiful, fun day with our family.

Thank you so much Camp Casey, we appreciate this so so much for our cowboy warrior Rowen. Such an awesome organization, we are so very grateful to experience this! Such a beautiful, fun, amazing day...Thank you for giving our family an **unforgettable experience**, it means so much to us.

– Caitlin, mother of 4-year old Rowen, diagnosed with high risk stage 4 neuroblastoma from Howell, Michigan



Thank you so much from the bottom of our hearts. It's hard for people to understand that even after we get done with treatment, nothing is the same anymore. Everyone thinks we just go back to normal life when we have all changed in so many different positive (and negative) ways. This Horsey House Call was exactly what we needed in the middle of our every three month scan. It gave us a bit of relief and for a couple hours we weren't worried about anything besides spending an amazing memorable experience with our close family and friends.

We are so incredibly grateful for the volunteers, the people that donated their money, and especially to Della. She was the perfect horse for Beckett. We sleep with her every night now from the gifts you brought, also. Thank you again.

– Tammie, mother of 4-year old Beckett, diagnosed with atypical teratoid/rhabdoid tumor (ATRT) from Shelby Township, Michigan



You all are absolutely amazing! Thank you so much for providing this incredible and unforgettable experience! Elijah, his sisters, and friends were all smiles! Seeing the best smile and **expression of pure joy** on my son's face while he was riding the horse through our neighborhood. I would also add that having a photographer relieved so much of the stress of trying to capture the moments. It's a natural reflex of mine as a mom to do that, but it was beyond helpful to know that someone was there to capture everything if I missed something.

Our experience with Camp Casey was extraordinary from start to finish. The expression of joy on my son's face was absolutely priceless. I am deeply grateful to all the staff members who were beyond helpful with communicating and making sure all the details were planned properly and everything was in order. They generously provided food, beverages, and activities for the children as each awaited their turn for a ride on the horse. They even provided a photographer to capture all the moments. They made the whole event stress-free to host and allowed us to be fully present, immersed in the awe and magic of it all. Thanks a million, Camp Casey!

– May, mother of 5-year old Elijah, diagnosed with acute lymphoblastic leukemia from White Lake, Michigan



Spending the weekend with Camp Casey, they are one of the groups special of people offering a fun family weekend for families who have been affected by childhood cancer. We thankful are so to included. They've really gone above and beyond to help us have fun. The kids are having an absolute blast (and us too). They were all so amazing at treating the kids so well and helping them enjoy the weekend. What an amazing group people.

– Jessica, mother of 3-year old Wren, diagnosed with Wilm's tumor from Traverse City, Michigan Thank you for inviting our family to this years Cowboy Camp Out! We had an incredible time and it was truly the highlight of our summer. Your organization amazing and we appreciate all you do for families like ours! It has been a really challenging year for our family. Having a be treated like weekend to royalty and have every detail thought out and executed so perfectly was just what needed. Thank you for the fun, and the opportunity to connect with other families!

 Denise, mother of 5-year old Brayden, diagnosed with acute lymphoblastic leukemia from Hudson, Michigan





Camp Casey is incredible!! Thank you for being there for the families at Gilda's!

– Wendi Henning, Program Manager at Gilda's Club

Thank you for the event! My son had a blast!!

– Jessica, Gilda's Club Member



I love volunteering for Camp Casey. Seeing kids with cancer or other illnesses is sad, but we get to bring a horse to their house, and they just forget all about the treatment and other horrible stuff.

– Ricco Ghee Jr., Activity Leader and Volunteer







This morning, I visited 4-year-Isla (whos birthday old happened to be today). Isla is a patient who will cancer finished with her treatments soon and will be able to join the cancer-free club. With the help of Camp Casey, I was a special guest in today's Horsey House Call to Isla's family. It's safe to say that Isla's family and friends were thrilled with visit, activities today's horse rides, and we all left with our hearts more than full.

– Kyla Wright, Miss North America 2024, Volunteer

I really enjoyed volunteering this summer with such a great organization. I volunteered at several Horsey House Calls", bringing joy right to the front doors of children and their families, who really need the and happiness that smiles horses can provide. Everyone that I've worked with in this organization has been kind compassionate, and and always welcoming to new volunteers. I'm looking forward to more Camp Casey events in the future!

Anonymous Volunteer





It was so fulfilling seeing the happiness of the children we served. They were so excited to see, ride, and learn about the horse. They enjoyed the crafts they made and the food. It was a wonderful day and a perfect event.

- Cheryl Melamed, Volunteer



Being involved with Camp Casey has made a tremendous impact on my life, and undoubtably the lives of the families served. Their mission has attracted a community of amazing people and I'm so grateful to be a part of it!

- Anonymous Volunteer







There is something magical about experiencing a Horsey House Call with Camp Casey. When a child opens his front door and is surprised by a horse, you know that child will remember that moment The staff forever. and volunteers are friendly, knowledgeable and fun. This organization is special. If you haven't checked it out yet, now is the time!

- Robyn Ray, Volunteer

Very well organized and managed organization. The work they do for the community is invaluable by spreading joy, unique experiences and hands on learning with animals to children who are traditionally excluded. I hope to work with them again in the future!

- Anonymous Volunteer





What wonderful organization to volunteer They are very well for! organized and provide an amazing experience for the children, families, and The volunteers. Equine Therapists' attention to detail for the safety and emotional needs of the children goes above and beyond.

- Anonymous Volunteer

I had a great time volunteering with Horsey House Calls this weekend, it was so rewarding to see the impact of horse therapy on children with cancer and life-threatening illnesses.

- Tracy Taylor, Volunteer







Camp Casey in 2023. The impact it has made on my life to see how happy these children and their families are for the day is astronomical. I love being part of such a wonderful program and can't wait to see what next year has in store.

- Anonymous Volunteer

My initial experience with Camp Casey was as a volunteer during Horsey House Calls. The care and attention to detail provided by the staff unbelievable. Each family is with treated respect dignity. There is a ton of love in everything that they do. And while precautions are put in place, everyone enjoys the house calls - even neighbors simply watching. As a Board Member it has been a joy to provide some guidance and this wonderful resources to organization.

- Monique Harlan, Board of Directors





had heard about Camp Casey from friend. The a moment I had read about what they do I was on Board. My first volunteer experience with Camp Casey was an amazing experience. Watching a sick child's expression when they see a horse at their home is out of this world. Children with extreme illnesses need a moment, a day, to be happy and forget about what their daily life usually consists of. Camp Casey makes this happen.

- Lauren Burgett, Board of Directors

HERO HORSE TESTIMONIALS



NEEEIIIIGGHH!!! This is the best job ever!

- Lacye, Hero Horse

Visiting campers is my favorite thing, next to treats!

- Della, Hero Horse















HORSEY HOUSE CALLS























COWBOY CAMP OUTS























OUTLAW OUTINGS























HORSES IN THE HALLWAY











