



# The Camp Easter Seal countdown has begun!

Spring has always been a time of year for Camp Easter Seal. The anticipation of another exciting camp season is building and this year is even more special as campers will be returning to Camp after a two-year hiatus due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Without the hustle and bustle of campers, sing alongs by the fire, and laughter echoing from the cabins all the way to the chalet, summer at Little Manitou Lake just hasn't been the same. That's why staff members are counting down the days to open the gates and welcome back hundreds of children, youth, and adults experiencing disability who truly make Camp Easter Seal the most magical place in Saskatchewan. We even have some surprises in store that we know are going to amaze returning campers, like Cody Stack – we can't wait!

**"After a two-year pause of in-person programming, Camp Easter Seal is excited to welcome campers back. We are eagerly planning for 11 weeks of summer camp programming, busy recruiting an amazing team of staff members, and designing great fun for all! We are thrilled to be working towards welcoming campers back on site to experience the true magic that is Camp Easter Seal. What a great day it will be when campers arrive – we can hardly wait!"**

**CHRISTINE EPP, MANAGER AT CAMP EASTER SEAL**




Cody is a familiar face at Camp Easter Seal. The 35-year-old from Saskatoon is known for his big personality, love of jokes, and infectious laugh! "Cody is very outgoing. He's a really thoughtful guy and cares about the people around him and in his life. Cody is always up for a good time. He'll often leave me jokes in my mailbox or via text. He's definitely a fun guy to be around," explains Wyndham Thiessen, Community Leader at L'Arche Saskatoon where Cody resides and spends much time engaging with friends and fellow residents. "I know Cody has a lot of fun memories from Camp but what I remember the most is him coming back with a shaved head. It's one of those things you only do at Camp I guess," shares Wyndham of Cody's 'game for anything' attitude.

**With your support, we can ensure that campers like Cody can return to their most favourite summer recreational and hangout spot! Since 1954, Camp Easter Seal has been providing campers with a safe space to experience freedom, independence, and loads of adventure! Your donations cover the cost of sending kids, youth, and adults experiencing disability to Camp for five full days. And the impact of your generosity also extends beyond just campers – it provides families and caregivers with much needed respite, and the security and trust that their loved ones are well taken care of and having the time of their lives!**

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Cody lives for the moment. It means so much to him and to us, his family, to have an environment like Camp Easter Seal where he can go and squeeze a little bit extra out of life and experience a level of freedom he doesn't usually get! It makes us so happy that he has something that brings so much joy to his life."

JOHN STACK, CODY'S DAD

Words echoed by Cody's dad, John Stack – his son's 'live for the moment' attitude is certainly highlighted at Camp. "Life is different for people with a condition like Cody's. He doesn't sweat the small stuff. His priorities are probably what we should all focus more on – having fun! Whether it's shaving his head at Camp or telling a joke to make someone laugh, he wants to share in the fun, have a good time, and make sure that the people around him are having fun too," explains John who admits COVID-19 has affected Cody, especially during periods of social distancing and isolation from friends and family.

We know that these past two years away from Camp have been difficult for many campers, including Cody. If there could be any silver lining to this time away it would be the opportunity we have had to complete much-needed improvements to Camp Easter Seal's buildings, facilities, and grounds. We are excited to see the look on campers' faces when they return this summer and see firsthand the many upgrades and new additions to Camp. We know Cody is an adventure-seeking, fun-loving guy who will take full advantage of the renovated aquatic centre and accessible treehouse. His outgoing personality will shine through like it always does alongside the many campers who light up Camp and make it such a magical place to be each summer!

The cherished memories collected each summer of adventures had and meaningful friendships made are what has kept Camp alive as campers and staff have been away. Camp Easter Seal is a place where barriers don't exist, being different is accepted, and challenges are met with compassion and patience. For the hundreds of children, youth, and adults experiencing disability who look forward to Camp Easter Seal each summer, being

without an environment where they can truly just be themselves can feel isolating and lonely.

There are so many memories waiting to be made and shared at Camp Easter Seal by Cody and the many new and returning campers. We invite you to share in our excitement and help us make the return to Camp a real possibility for so many campers who we know are counting down the days until summer returns! When you give the gift of Camp you are changing lives, reuniting friends, and providing the ultimate barrier-free adventure for someone like Cody experiencing disability. If you ask Cody – and us – there really is no better gift than that!

Sincerely,

Ian Wilkinson,  
Executive Director

To help keep our fully-accessible camps affordable for families, **EASTER SEALS™ SASKATCHEWAN** subsidizes camp costs. Your financial donations are what makes this possible.



# MONTHLY GIVING

Monthly Giving is the simplest way to make pre-authorized contributions in support of Easter Seals™ Saskatchewan's work to enhance the independence and community participation of children and youth experiencing disability.

By making your gift to Easter Seals™ Saskatchewan a monthly donation, you will make an even more powerful difference in the lives of individuals experiencing disability.

## THE EASTER SEALS MONTHLY GIVING PROGRAM

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