



HISTORY: In the mid-1960's, three University of Virginia pediatricians, Dr. Peter Houck, Dr. Elsa Paulsen, and Dr. Robert Selden had a vision: **a camp for children with special health needs. One that would provide the fun of the outdoors with the safety of round the clock medical supervision.**

Originally, each physician operated their own camp, and early facilities included local schools, churches and the back yard of a hospital. In 1973, with considerable community support and the gift of 75 acres of land, Camp Holiday Trails, Inc. was founded. **The first buildings were put together by volunteer hands and in 1974 Camp Holiday Trails became one of the first camps in the country welcoming children with diverse medical diagnoses.**

Camping in cabins, fishing with real worms, and learning camp songs – the focus no longer on the illness, *but on the child.*



PROGRAM: Camp Holiday Trails celebrates the Camper, not the illness. CHT offers an active year-round program that engages our Campers in activities such as: horseback riding, swimming, canoeing, sports, drama, arts and crafts, and a challenge course designed to build self-confidence.

FAMILY CAMP: Extending the fun to the whole family, CHT organizes Family Camps with programs focused on family bonding and support. We offer families much needed respite and camaraderie in our caring community.

BLAZER PROGRAM: A leadership development program for our teen Campers designed to promote service, leadership, environmental awareness, self-reliance, a strong work ethic and an enhanced self-image.

*"Camp Holiday Trails is not the real world, but is what the real world **should** be" –Camper*

Camp Holiday Trails

is a caring community committed to empowering, encouraging and educating campers with chronic illnesses, their families and healthcare professionals by providing year-round camp programs aimed at personal growth.

**Watch us make
CAMP MAGIC!**

www.campholidaytrails.org/campmagic

IMPACT:

We teach independence.

At CHT, kids learn to better manage their own healthcare.

We foster a sense of community.

Campers, counselors, and medical volunteers develop a strong peer group and lasting connection to CHT.

We develop leadership skills.

Our counselors and volunteers learn to be positive role models and most pursue medical, teaching and social services careers.

We improve medical care.

At camp, future medical professionals improve their medical skills and learn to celebrate the Camper, not the illness.

And...WE HAVE FUN!



In honor of our 40th Anniversary, CHT secured funding to renovate four of our youth cabins and for a much needed updated to our Challenge Course. Improvements include adapted areas for all special needs, a new face to the challenge wall, and a new high ropes element—the Leap of Faith.



THE MATH:

Cost per two week session	: \$2,500
Camper family contribution	: \$125
Financial aid awarded	: \$312,455



"I am so happy to have one place on this earth that not only Leah loves, but also that I can feel comfortable that she is being cared for in the best possible way."

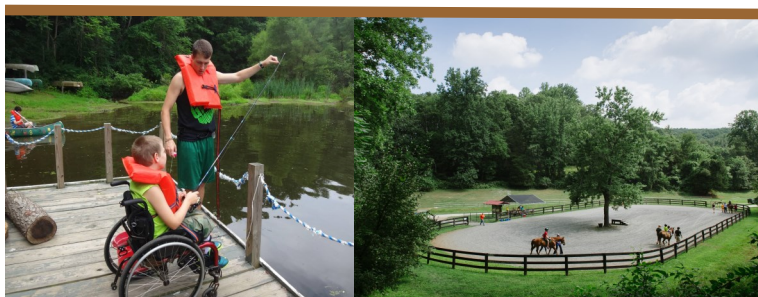
- Camper Parent

WHO COMES TO CAMP: Camp Holiday Trails is open to **any child with special health needs**, who is cognitively on age and inside the U.S.—focused on the Mid-Atlantic region. Campers interact with Campers who have medical conditions both similar and very different from their own, fostering a community of support and empathy. Some medical diagnoses accepted at Camp Holiday Trails include, but are not limited to:

- | | |
|-------------------|-------------------------|
| » Arthritis | » Hearing impairments |
| » Asthma | » Hemophilia |
| » Cancer | » Immunodeficiency, HIV |
| » Cardiac issues | » Kidney disease |
| » Cerebral palsy | » Organ transplant |
| » Cystic Fibrosis | » Sickle cell |
| » Diabetes | » Spina bifida |
| » Epilepsy | » Visual impairment |

NEW: CHT welcomes children with autism

As of summer 2013, CHT offers a week long session for children with autism. The VA Institute for Autism provides a close resource as staff go through an additional intensive two-day training before the children arrive. The counselor to camper ratio is 1:1 with staff adapting the camp experience to each child. In 2014, 14 of the 17 campers stayed overnight—a huge accomplishment for a child on the autism spectrum!



SITE RENTALS: Camp Holiday Trails is open for day meetings, as well as multi-day events and overnight stays. We offer a variety of meeting spaces and lodging options, including newly renovated and winterized cabins. Rentals can include access to our waterfront, dining hall, pavilion, and challenge course! **CHT has hosted weddings, birthdays, dance and yoga retreats, church groups, family reunions, pig roasts, and bluegrass concerts.**



PARTNERSHIPS: Camp Holiday Trails has a long history of **community collaboration and partnerships**. Civic organizations like the Lions Club, the Kiwanis Club and the Rotary Club serve both as volunteers and donors, helping to maintain our facility and fundraise for our camperships. CHT works with the University of Virginia Department of Medicine, Martha Jefferson Hospital, and children's hospitals throughout the Mid-Atlantic region to get children to camp. CHT also partners with special interest groups in implementing their own camps, including Central VA Burn Camp, VA Hemophilia Foundation, UVA Ryan White Clinic and many more. We rely on over 600+ volunteers every year.

BUDGET: CHT's annual operating budget is approximately \$800,000. **On average, 94% of our Campers need financial assistance to attend camp.** In 2015, CHT awarded \$312,455 in financial aid.

CONNECT: Getting involved at CHT is easy...

- | | |
|---------------------|-------------------------------|
| » Volunteer | » Donate to a capital project |
| » Sponsor a Camper | » Hold a fundraiser |
| » Rent our facility | » Spread the word |



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www.campholidaytrails.org



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