

I want to start by saying Maine is beautiful. I knew on the bus ride from Boston to Portland that this was going to be life-changing and it was. My favorite movie as a kid was Indian Summer. I used to sit on the floor next to my mom and watch it. My favorite things about the movie were the scenery and the bonds these families made. I felt like I was in that movie. We met so many families in the same situation as us, yet every family's story is different and unique. In the end, we all walk a different walk but none of us walk alone. We are all complete strangers; but circumstance brings us together and makes us family. One thing I learned during my time at Camp Sunshine is when you can't change your circumstance, change yourself. I was able to let go of some things I was holding on to. I will be going back to Texas a new person, we all will. For two years my girls, Emily (9) and Haley (7) have not left our side. The social workers, child life specialists and close family have all tried to get them to venture away and they have failed. Camp Sunshine was able to get them away from us from day one and for seven hours!! My husband and I were able to work on our own relationship for the first time since diagnosis. We enjoyed walks through the foliage, sharing apples from the apple tree, talking with other adults and then hearing the excitement in our girls' voices as they told us all about their day. Camp Sunshine did so much more than just entertain us. They helped us heal. Our family is returning home new and we have you to thank for that. Thank you so much! Thank you for the wonderful memories.

Sincerely,

Meg ~~and~~ Emily & Haley