



National Nursing Week: Campfire Circle's Nurses Help Provide Camp Experiences for Kids Affected by Childhood Cancer or Serious Illness

Campfire Circle's nurse volunteers allow us to provide accessible camp-inspired experiences for kids on active treatment or requiring complex medical care.

Toronto, May 4, 2023: In the midst of what the news has been calling “a national nursing crisis”, this National Nursing Week, May 8-14, 2023, Campfire Circle is acknowledging the dedicated nurses who spend their time with Campfire Circle.

Two nurses making a significant impact at Campfire Circle are Gabriella and Sarah. They have both been volunteering with the organization for several years in addition to their demanding roles as nurses at busy hospitals in Toronto and Norfolk County.

Both of these nurses are **available for interviews** during National Nursing Week.

Gabriella Joyette is a paediatric oncology nurse who works in the Bone Marrow Transplant Unit at SickKids in Toronto. A Campfire Circle volunteer since 2019 when she was still in nursing school, Gabriella was a nurse at overnight camp in Muskoka this summer. She believes that volunteering at camp is a part of her self-care and provides her with the long-term perspective she needs to do her job.

“I love seeing the kids thrive after transplant. It can be very disheartening to see kids in the hospital who are so sick, but when you go to camp, the kids are able to just have fun. They're not just kids with cancer.”

Sarah Haze is a nurse in a rural emergency room in Norfolk County. She began volunteering as a nurse with Campfire Circle in 2014, after hearing about the charity through her younger cousin, Daniel, who attended camp after being diagnosed with cancer. Sarah volunteers every summer for a few weeks and for one weekend at camp each season. In 2015, she worked at the Rainbow Lake site for the entire three months of summer.

“Camp is just so magical – all these people trying to help out through such a difficult time. I really wanted to be a part of that somehow, to give back.”

“During National Nursing Week, we want to acknowledge the critical role that nurses play in our organization,” says Alex Robertson, CEO, of Campfire Circle. “The healthcare system has been hit hard, but your dedication to the kids who need you has never wavered. Thanks to our nurses, we are able to provide transformational camp-inspired experiences for kids affected by childhood cancer or serious illness.”

To learn more about Campfire Circle, visit www.campfirecircle.org.

About Campfire Circle:

Since 1983, Campfire Circle has provided healing through happiness by providing camp-inspired programs to kids and families affected by childhood cancer or serious illness. Programs are delivered in hospitals across Ontario, at community events and at overnight camp. At no cost to families, these programs help improve overall well-being, build self-confidence and resiliency, and provide much-needed connection with others who share a similar journey. For more information, visit:

www.campfirecircle.org. Follow @campfirecircleorg on Instagram, Facebook, YouTube and LinkedIn, and @campfirecircle_ on Twitter.

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