



*(From top): Julie and her counselor, Suzette, in an iconic photo from 1984; front and center in the '84 camp photo, and starring in our new promo video!*



## 30 Years & 30 Heroes

Hero #29 of 30

**Julie** could just as easily be called an “icon” as a hero. Her classic camp photo (at left), taken during her first year at Camp Fantastic in 1984, has appeared in numerous Special Love publications and videos, including our most recent one, which was produced by Visionista, the company for whom Julie currently works. It premiered at our gala in 2013 and currently heads the list on [Special Love's YouTube channel](#). As the photo illustrates, camp was where kids like Julie could get away from the hospital and feel like real kids again. That was especially important for a little girl who was suffering from bi-lateral Wilm's tumor (meaning it had invaded both her kidneys) and at one point was given only weeks to live.

**“My day to day life was really living in and out of that hospital,” Julie says in the video. “Camp Fantastic helped me with my social skills. It really kinda prepped me for later on in life. Once I got home from camp, that feeling really stuck with me. Most kids get homesick; I got campsick—that’s what a great experience and such a powerful impact it had on me.”**

After two decades away from Special Love, Julie rediscovered us through Reunion Family Weekend in June of 2008. We featured her in the [“Fantastic Flashback”](#) section of our LoveLetter that year and she began thinking about how her production company could help her give back to the organization that had given her so much as a child. Meetings and discussions ensued and filming began in 2012. The video is now available for the world to see and, if Julie has her way, that’s exactly what will happen. “I’d love to see the video go viral,” she says. “Then everyone will know what an amazing organization Special Love is.” For those of us who know her, the feeling is mutual.

To support more kids like Julie, [click here](#), visit us on [Facebook](#), or call 888-930-2707!

