



30 Years & 30 Heroes

Hero #7 of 30

Sometimes it pays to be lucky and **Mia**, our Hero #7, considers herself fortunate to be a healthy, active 15 year-old after being diagnosed with leukemia at age 3. She grew up with Special Love and has been to almost every program we offer, starting with Under Seven Weekend in 2001. The first of her two trips to Camp Fantastic was in 2005 and, now that she's a teen, she enjoys Winter Weekend and Fantastic Friends (inset and making rabbit ears at left.) Her sister Julia also had a blast at BRASS camp and always came back with several days worth of stories to share. Mia says she can't wait to become a Special Love volunteer herself when she is old enough and help make sure other kids have as much fun as she did. Her mom adds,

"It's hard for any parent to send their child away to camp, and Camp Fantastic was Mia's first sleep away camp experience, but we never doubted she would be happy, safe, and well cared for. From the minute she got on the bus she never thought twice about leaving her family and sister behind, and loved the chance to ride horses for the first time, canoe, play tricks on counselors and campers, and just hang out with her roommates and counselors. Mia continues to get letters from some of her counselors from time to time, a testament to the strong bond they formed in such a short time period. The Special Love staff and volunteers are an amazing, dedicated group."



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