



A few of Eden's many "firsts" at Camp Fantastic.



30 Years & 30 Heroes

Hero # 3 of 30

Eden was born in Eritrea (to the east of Sudan in the Horn of Africa) and came to the United States when she was 12 years old because the doctors in Eritrea couldn't figure out why she was sick. Her mother was not allowed to travel with her, so she came alone to live with her uncle in Washington, DC. Lung complications led her to the National Cancer Institute, where she was introduced to Camp Fantastic in 2009. As Eden recalls,

"At first I was excited to go to Camp Fantastic, but I was scared. When I got there, I tried six things for the first time in two days: a hot dog, a snow cone, barbequed chicken, horseback riding, a hot air balloon ride, and a motorcycle ride. That year was also my first camp ever and the first time I was away from home, but I had so much fun and felt (for the first time) that other patients understood what I was going through and I didn't have to tell them anything! That feeling was amazing and I had a lot of friends faster than I thought was possible."

Eden is now a senior in high school and plans to go to college to become a nurse she she can "help others like they helped me." She was a first-time "YACer" at our Young Adults with Cancer Weekend in 2011 — just the latest of her many firsts from Special Love!

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