

30 Years & 30 Heroes

Hero #16 of 30



Above: Kim wows the crowd in her high-flying days as a camper; Inset: her first camp portrait.

Below: with her niece, Avalon, in California.

Kim is playing an integral part at Camp Fantastic 2012—she’s one of our “social media queens.” (Erica is the other. Follow their reporting at www.speciallove.org.) It’s hard to believe that when she came to Camp Fantastic for the first time in 1996, she was still adjusting to two relapses with rhabdomyosarcoma, a tumor that attacks muscle fibers. She was also diagnosed (and beat) lymphoma in 1998, so she’s 4-for-4 in the cancer butt kicking department. She still remembers her first trip at camp:

“I was a somewhat reluctant camper. I would’ve been content to stay in the comfort of my own home all summer, snuggling with my dogs in front of the TV. Instead, I somehow found myself horseback riding, being an acrobat in the circus [at left], and climbing Becca’s Wall [the 25-foot climbing wall we use at the 4-H Center, named for a former Special Love camper]. Camp allowed me to get out of my comfort zone, try new things, and gain confidence while surrounded by people who encouraged me and understood me. It didn’t matter if I could get to the top of the wall or not, I would still be accepted here. I feel so lucky to come back to camp now as a counselor to watch other campers grow in so many ways, just as I did.”

Kim moved to California (“Silicon Valley!” says Kim) in 2009, where she works as an admin assistant for a general contractor. She enjoys spending time with her nieces and volunteering. She recently started rock climbing—which is no big surprise considering how much time she’s spent in the air at camp. You can keep up with her latest adventures on our website.

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

 **30th Anniversary**
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for children with cancer