CARING FOR CAMPS 2015:
A Year In Review

SUPPORTING CHILDREN WITH DIABETES—
Lilly’s Commitment to Diabetes Camps

It’s been another amazing season of diabetes summer camps, but sadly all good things must come to an end. While school bells have begun ringing, let’s look back on what camps offered children with type 1 diabetes this summer.

This year, Lilly Diabetes donated roughly 23,000 educational book packs and caregiver kits to camps across the U.S. We also continued to send children to diabetes camps through our support of the ADA’s campership program. And, our new Camps in Color program rolled on, helping 110 camps grow “Dream Trees” and build dreamcatchers with their campers.

Our camp ambassadors had a terrific year, too. NASCAR driver Ryan Reed won his first major race in dramatic fashion, and Olympian Kris Freeman dominated on snow and foot. He became the U.S. Super Tour Overall winner, captured his 17th national cross-country title, won three triathlons, and still had time to attend eight camps. We are so proud to work with these amazing athletes as they defy the odds and show children with diabetes what’s possible.

Lilly Diabetes is privileged to help children with diabetes thrive at camp and in their everyday lives. Through medicines, educational materials, scholarships, and volunteers, we will continue to support camps and the communities they serve. We hope you had a great summer, and we’ll see you next year.

Matt Caffrey
Senior Director, Consumer Marketing, Lilly Diabetes

RYAN WINS ALL AROUND

Wow, what a year! Back in February, I won my first major NASCAR race at Daytona International Speedway. It was a close, exciting race and I was excited to come out on top. Of course, winning at Daytona was an important victory, but after all the parties were over, I knew it would be just as important to every young person diagnosed with diabetes. Succeeding with diabetes is possible!

As an ambassador for the Lilly Diabetes Camp Care Package program and Drive to Stop DiabetesSM campaign, I love sharing my diabetes story with children, some not much younger than me, at summer camps. In my second official year, I’m so thankful for the opportunity to talk to campers and encourage them to pursue their dreams. My win this year was a significant milestone in my career, but helping these guys learn to cope with diabetes’ daily challenges will continue to be a highlight of my life.

Thank you for hosting me again this year. I look forward to seeing you next summer.

@driverRyanReed

FUN FACT:
Since 2001, Lilly Diabetes has donated nearly $31 million in insulin to diabetes camps.

The 2015 Kris Freeman & Ryan Reed Camp Tour

Kris’ Tour
6/10: Camp Seale Harris - Jackson’s Gap, Ala.
6/16: ADA Camp JADA - Jacksonville, Fla.
6/17: Camp Bluebonnet - Austin, Texas
7/12: Tennessee Camp for Diabetic Children - Hixson, Tenn.
7/16: Diabetes Youth Services Little Shots Camp - Toledo, Ohio

Ryan’s Tour
6/18: Camp Discovery - Chicago, Ill.
7/7: Camp Victory Junction - Randleman, N.C.
I first heard about Camp Kudzu outside Atlanta, Georgia, when I was diagnosed with diabetes at age seven. The following summer, my parents packed my bags and the next thing I knew, I was there. That first year, you could easily find me competing for the “Golden Syringe,” which is awarded to campers who try something new related to their diabetes care; singing and dancing; and on the final day, refusing to pack my bags.

Little has changed in my passion for diabetes camp. I haven’t missed a single summer in 15 years and most of my closest friends – well, family – come from camp. I learned about diabetes management and life in general from the people around me. I keep in touch with many friends I made my first year, including my two counselors and a clinician.

In addition to what camp gave me, it also gave my parents a week to sleep. Every year it was an easy sell when camp registration came around, since they checked on me nightly while I was in bed, especially in those early years.

Attending camp taught me it’s more than just “okay” to be yourself. I realized early on that if it weren’t for camp, I’d have barely interacted, let alone become best friends, with the people in my life who simply “get it.” My experiences at camp also influenced my decision to get involved with my chapter of the College Diabetes Network at the University of Georgia, because chapter involvement was like camp all year.

Diabetes camp is a powerful and empowering experience. For one week every year, I’m not the only one. Camp is family. Camp is always there for me. Camp changes lives, including mine.

Mindy Bartleson
Program Assistant, College Diabetes Network
@CollegeDiabetes

Letters from Camp - A “Hands and Hearts” Volunteer Experience

I’ve been involved with the Diabetes Youth Foundation of Indiana for many years as both a board member and medical staff supervisor. As a board member, I help make important operational and financial decisions, but it is my role as a camp medical staff member that I love most. One of my favorite times is check-in, when campers get cabin assignments, hoping to bunk with old friends and excited to make new ones. Hugs, high-fives, laughter, and nonstop chatter are everywhere. It is obvious how important this camp is to our children with diabetes and their parents.

Camp offers a safe place where diabetes doesn’t make someone different. They’re no longer that “kid with diabetes,” but one of many enjoying traditional summer camp activities. Each camper knows what it means to manage finger sticks, insulin, and blood sugars every day. They support, encourage and learn from each other. They sing, laugh, and sometimes cry. But most of all, they have lots of fun, and that’s what keeps us all coming back year after year.

Robyn Poltom, MSN, APN, CDE
Sr. Clinical Research Scientist, Lilly Diabetes

FOR ONE WEEK EACH YEAR, I’M NOT THE ONLY ONE
A Camper’s Experience

Preparing for diabetes summer camp each year is as much a part of me as training for races. I always look forward to getting my camp tour itinerary and hitting the road for another great summer of inspiration and fun.

We covered a lot of ground this year. I played soccer and basketball, fished, and hiked from coast to coast. But the best times were talking to campers in groups or one-on-one about the challenges I’ve encountered and listening to what they’ve faced in their lives. I always walk away with a new perspective on diabetes after spending a day with these amazing young people.

Lilly Diabetes is committed to supporting children with type 1 diabetes and their families. As an ambassador, I’m lucky to participate in the Camp Care Package program. It’s my mission to inspire campers by sharing my experiences and showing them they are not alone in the fight against diabetes. I’ve traveled the country with this message for the last decade, and I wouldn’t have it any other way.

Thank you for your continued support and for welcoming me to camp again this year.

Robyn Pollom, MSN, APN, CDE
Sr. Clinical Research Scientist, Lilly Diabetes

Fun Fact:
In 2015, Lilly Diabetes donated roughly 23,000 L.L. Bean® educational book packs to diabetes camps.

Fun Fact:
In Kris Freeman’s 11 seasons at camp, he’s traveled nearly 140,000 miles and met 12,000 campers.

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Kris Freeman tells campers they’re not alone.

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Sr. Clinical Research Scientist, Lilly Diabetes

DID YOU KNOW: Lilly has been helping type 1 families since 1923! Today, support for initiatives like the Journey Awards<sup>TM</sup>, JDRF, and College Diabetes Network continues our mission to help families like yours live life to the fullest. Learn more at LillyDiabetes.com and follow us on Twitter @LillyDiabetes.

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