

fact sheet

ABOUT SeriousFun:	Founded by Paul Newman, SeriousFun Children's Network is a growing global community of independently managed and financed camps and programs creating opportunities for children with serious illnesses and their families to reach beyond illness and discover joy, confidence and a new world of possibilities, always free of charge. The name "SeriousFun" captures Paul Newman's belief in the power of taking fun seriously for children with serious illness and their families, and was an expression that he liked and used. The name reflects both the "serious" components of impact and outcomes and the "fun" experience provided by camp.
LOCATIONS:	SeriousFun Camps are located in the United States, Europe and Israel, as well as in Africa, Asia, South America and the Caribbean. A Support Center, with offices in Westport, CT and New York City, provides technical expertise and professional development to support member camp sustainability, and works to expand the Network with new camps. The Support Center also assists regional, national and transnational donors interested in providing financial support to multiple camps.
CAMPS & PROGRAMS:	<p>Each SeriousFun Camp is an independent, not-for-profit organization dependent upon private funding to serve children at no cost to their families. Programming and facilities have been skillfully adapted to fit different cultures and medical conditions and every attempt is made to be inclusive and accessible. Through its Global Partnership Program, SeriousFun works in collaboration with other international organizations to deliver the camp experience to children with illness in more remote parts of the world.</p> <p>SeriousFun Camps serve children living with more than 50 different types of medical conditions, including cancer, HIV, blood disorders, heart diseases and severe asthma. Through intentional programming delivered at camp and through outreach programs, children are helped to reach beyond the barriers of their conditions to build connections and foster resilience.</p>
Serious IMPACT:	<p>Since the first camp was founded in 1988, camps and programs have served more than 440,000 children and families from over 50 countries and on five continents. Camps and programs serve more than 58,000 children and families dealing with serious illness each year.</p> <p>A 2012-2013 evaluation of SeriousFun parents and children by the Yale School of Medicine indicates that children with serious illness who attend camp showed improved confidence, higher self-esteem, a greater sense of independence and increased interest in social activities. The study also revealed that children's stress related to their illness decreased as a result of the camp experience. The results provide scientific support to what camps have perceived for years.</p>
HISTORY:	Hollywood legend and philanthropist Paul Newman founded the first camp, The Hole in the Wall Gang Camp, in 1988 on the premise that every child should have the chance to experience the life-changing adventures and meaningful friendships that go hand-in-hand with summer camp; where kids could escape the fear, pain, and isolation of their medical conditions, kick back, and – as Paul put it – "raise a little hell." That concept has grown to now include 30 camps and programs worldwide.
SUPPORTING SeriousFun:	Thanks to SeriousFun's Board of Directors and Newman's Own Foundation, who have underwritten the administrative expenses of the SeriousFun Support Center, 100% of funds raised by the Support Center directly benefit the camps and programs. Individuals, corporations and groups interested in partnerships or making a donation should visit SeriousFun online. Individuals can also support camps by participating with Team SeriousFun, a training and fundraising program of global endurance events.
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