



Special Love's programs are not about being sick—they are about building a community of essential support and resiliency. Children with cancer as well as their families need support as they face the trials and triumphs of battling the disease. Comprised of other patients, parents, siblings, volunteers, and dedicated partners, each year the Special Love network offers hundreds of children and their families unspoken understanding and wrap-around support during and after the cancer experience.

Special Love

for Children with Cancer

There is an unspoken bond among kids with cancer. They exist on a higher plane—a place where strength is demanded and resolve is essential. Together, these youth are an inspirational, irrepressible force. Joined, they can surmount their illnesses and celebrate the simple joys of childhood. Special Love's summer camps, day trips, and weekend activities offer these amazing children a community that cares. No matter how sick our kids are, Special Love builds bonds, creates memories, shares adversity, and celebrates life.



Special Love

for Parents

Watching any child battle cancer is devastating; watching your own child is paralyzing. Parents often feel isolated, helpless, out of control, and out of answers. Special Love offers parents of children with cancer safety, support, and solace in shared experiences. Our parent and family week-ends help parents deal with the facts of cancer individually, and ultimately, regain a sense of control. This shared community offers hope, strength, and respite in adult-sized doses.



A Community of Support for children with cancer and their families

Special Love

for Siblings

When a sister or brother is diagnosed with cancer, siblings' lives are changed forever. Sometimes feeling guilty, invisible, or ignored, healthy siblings experience the same upheaval as their parents. But as children, they may have less capacity to cope. Our BRASS (BRothers And SiSters) programs offer activities like camping, canoeing, and horseback riding along with camaraderie and peer empathy—an open dialog among campers and counselors to ensure siblings going through the cancer experience are enveloped in the same support system as their parents and their sick brothers or sisters.



Special Love

for Families

Cancer affects the whole family, changing the fabric and the focus of everyday life. During this time, Special Love offers an unwavering, unconditional community of support. A community that knows. A community that understands. Current patients and families, survivors, and bereaved families join to share what they learned, how they coped, and why, even at the darkest times, there is room for joy.



Special Love, Inc.

Main | 117 Youth Development Court, Winchester, VA 22602 | 888.930.2707 | fax 540.667.8144 | www.speciallove.org



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Supporters and donors



A Special Brand of Healing

Special Love programs are not about being sick—they are about building a community of essential support and resiliency. They are about laughter, love, and life. Throughout the year, our special brand of healing offers a break from lives that have become profoundly, and often abruptly, changed. Weeklong and weekend summer camps for children with cancer and their siblings, parent weekends, and spring and fall activities are the heart and soul of Special Love. They are about the moment a smile comes back. The first hint of laughter after many months of treatment. The palpable relief among parents who have been to the brink and found comfort, caring, and understanding. This is our special brand of healing.

A Community of Support

Children with cancer and their families often feel lonely, paralyzed by a situation they cannot control. Special Love creates a community of support around its families, offering a network of patients, parents, siblings, and volunteers who understand what it is to battle cancer because they have been through the war themselves. In the unique safety of shared experiences, families find respite, emotional support, essential knowledge, and very often, healing. The connections made at Special Love camps and events help establish a sense of normalcy, safety, and control. And ultimately, they deliver a renewed sense of joy.

A Financial Fall-Back

A cancer diagnosis changes every aspect of a family's life. Next to the well-being of a child, a parent's most pressing concern is often financial. When possible, Special Love helps campers with non-medical financial needs—to date, we have delivered more than \$125,000 in emergency funds. We also look down the road, toward college educations and scholarships. Cancer leaves many survivors with both debts and learning challenges that may make getting into college difficult. Each year, we fund more than \$30,000 in books, housing, and tuition. Because it's not just their future—it is also ours.

A Transformative Volunteer Experience

Inspiration, motivation, good work, and goodwill are a few of the many words our volunteers use to describe the Special Love experience. Spending a week or a weekend—or even just an evening—with Special Love children is for many volunteers a transforming experience. Our volunteers are children, adults, camp counselors, event planners, corporations, and even executive teams. A joyous addiction, many return again and again for the special love and care our programs provide.

A Youth Leadership Engine

For our young volunteers, patients, and siblings, the Special Love community offers a singular opportunity to be a leader, a mentor, and a friend. Children with cancer look to the survivors for inspiration and strength. Siblings look to other siblings for advice about changes to expect and how to cope. Youth volunteers become leaders as they spearhead camp activities and songs, creating an environment of fun for children who experience little of it in their everyday lives. Together, these remarkable youngsters lean on each other, draw strength from each other, and ultimately, inspire us all.

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Development Office | 31 Center Dr., Box 2062 | Bethesda, MD 20892 | 888-930-2707 | fax 540-667-8144 | www.speciallove.org