



# Counselor

## Bev Kramer - Nurse

Bev Kramer, LPN, celebrated her 30th anniversary as a camp counselor at CHAMP Camp 2023! We asked Bev for some insight about her time at camp.

**How did you get involved with camp?** I applied for camp with a camper. Clare had gone to camp the previous summer and didn't have the best experience. At that time, someone video taped the camp experiences and sent a copy to the campers. I watched the video and thought it looked so amazing~ it wasn't the camp experience we have now but Erin in the horse cart melted my heart. I wanted that camp experience for Clare.

**What inspired you to keep coming back for 30 years?** The first year was great for Clare but maybe not so great as a counselor. It was overwhelming at that time to have 8 vent dependent quads to care for. I could see the potential that camp represented for the campers. It was the potential to draw outside the lines and see how far they could soar that was so intriguing. Medicine and technology 30 years ago was so different. The potential to really provide an opportunity to live out loud and not simply exist with a complex health challenge was so inspiring.

**What does attending camp do for you both personally and professionally?** Camp is such a community. It is the absolute best!! The most caring people who give so freely of themselves to help build each other up. The week of camp fills my cup to overflowing. It replenishes my soul! I learn so much at camp both from my fellow camp counselors as well as the campers. The lessons I've learned in grace, gratitude, perservance, patience, acceptance and love are truly immeasurable and the impact goes beyond camp and makes me a better person in all aspects of my life.

**Why should someone apply to be a nurse at CHAMP Camp?** I have tried recruiting numerous nurses. I always tell them that camp teaches you what you need to learn. Not only do you get to see all kinds of technologies and sometimes cutting edge things but it helps you "to see beyond" the clinical setting and see your patients as people with unlimited potential & not just as a diagnosis/prognosis .

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Look who's awesome! 30 years and counting!

