

## Counselor

## **Tracy Wheeler - Physical Therapist**

Tracy is a Physical Therapist who travels from Ohio to participate in camp for the week. She is also one of our amazing cabin leaders. And, she travels back to Indianapolis for the Silver Sneaker Benefit Ball every year!

How did you get involved with camp? I worked with another counselor who had gone to camp for years. I knew I had to get involved.

After your first year, what inspired you to keep coming back? My first year was life changing. I was in a cabin with boys, and seeing them thrive in the environment, seeing the counselors interact and love and encourage them, seeing them accomplish all that they did that week, It was huge! I have three boys of my own, all able-bodied, healthy kiddos. I was humbled that week by the intense care that these campers required daily, and it really hit me hard how much their families went through on a daily basis. What was even more is that they trusted us, (me!), to help care for their child for a whole week in the woods!! I knew that I would come back year after year to do this. To be with these kids, and watch them change and grow. To give the families a respite and peace of mind that their child is being cared for. To be a part of something way bigger than myself.

How has camp impacted your personal and professional life? As I said before, it's a very humbling experience to have three healthy boys. I don't take it for granted, how easy it is to get through our daily routines, especially now that they are older and more independent. I try to never judge someone based on what they look like, or what their disability might be. These kids have shown me that if you put your mind to it, you can accomplish anything!

What is your favorite camp memory? Oh man, so many...I love helping at the tower, although my body has told me that I may be getting too old for that! I love seeing the kids' creativity come out in arts and crafts. I love the down time in the cabins where we all can really get to know each other.

Tracy also serves as one of our climbers at tower encouraging our campers!



2015



2023