

# Camp Kudzu

BENEFIT LUNCHEON WITH SILENT AUCTION



*"Until there's a cure, there's camp"*

10<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL CAMP KUDZU BENEFIT LUNCHEON  
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2017  
CHEROKEE TOWN & COUNTRY CLUB  
ATLANTA, GEORGIA



*Camp Kudzu*  
BENEFIT LUNCHEON WITH SILENT AUCTION

*Dear Friends,*

Welcome to the Tenth Annual Camp Kudzu Benefit Luncheon! Thank you for supporting this important effort. It has been our privilege to serve as co-chairs of this special celebration along with the committee members. Raising the funds to support children living with type 1 diabetes is always an important reason to unite, but it's even more significant this year as we pay tribute to Alexandra "Alex" Allen and recognize the inaugural class of the Camp Kudzu Ambassadors.

Eighteen years ago, after her two children were diagnosed with type 1 diabetes, Alex realized that other children and families living with this incurable disease needed more support than was readily available. Alex rallied friends and doctors together to address the needs of insulin-dependent children in Georgia. Camp Kudzu was born! Since then, Alex has served as Founding Board member, lead volunteer, and, most recently, Executive Director.

In addition to paying tribute to Alex's contributions and sharing lighthearted moments, we are delighted to recognize the inaugural class of Camp Kudzu Ambassadors. They collectively represent Alex's successful efforts. We know that they will continue to light the way for children who need our programs — like Alex did years ago—to make sure that no child has to face type 1 diabetes alone.

Since Camp Kudzu offered its first session, thousands of children have benefited from the programs. As the number of children in Georgia diagnosed with type 1 diabetes increases every year, the resources needed to help them must also grow. We are here today honoring the unwavering commitment of Alex, recognizing the young people who have benefited from that commitment, and acknowledging their commitment to light the way for future campers. We are proud and thankful for the efforts of the committee and supporters that make Camp Kudzu's programs possible and for Alex Allen and the Camp Kudzu Ambassadors.

Sincerely,



Ann & Pat Brumbaugh, Co-Chairs  
2017 Annual Benefit Luncheon Co-Chairs

*Benefit Luncheon Program*

**10:00 AM GUEST REGISTRATION AND SILENT AUCTION  
CRYSTAL ROOM AND FOYER**

**12:00 PM LUNCHEON  
EAST AND WEST BALLROOMS**

**WELCOME REMARKS  
ROBERT G. SHAW, CAMP KUDZU EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
KATIE WALLS, WSB-TV METEOROLOGIST, LUNCHEON HOSTESS**

**12:30 PM: SILENT AUCTION CLOSES**

**BENEFIT LUNCHEON  
TRIBUTE TO ALEXANDER ALLEN, FORMER CAMP KUDZU  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND CO-FOUNDER**

**INTRODUCTION OF INAUGURAL CLASS OF AMBASSADORS  
CATHERINE "KAKI" BENNETT**

**JAMIE CROSS  
ANNA RAMBO  
KATIE RHEA  
KELSEY ROGOWSKI  
ANDREW STURNIOLO**

**FUND-A-CAMPER**

**1:30 PM: SILENT AUCTION CHECK-OUT  
CRYSTAL ROOM**

## *Luncheon Host*

### **KATIE WALLS, WSB-TV**



Katie Walls joined Severe Weather Team 2 in June 2014. Prior to joining WSB-TV, Katie worked in southwest Florida and southern Illinois, where she met her husband, Ryan. The couple welcomed their son, Kenneth, in December 2016.

Graduating Phi Beta Kappa, Katie received her Bachelor of Science degree in Meteorology from Florida State University in 2007. (During her tenure at FSU, she performed in the Florida State Flying High Circus!) After her stint in Tallahassee, she attended Penn State University for her Master of Science degree in Meteorology and focused her thesis on flooding. While at PSU she honed her forecasting skills and was one of the meteorologists on the statewide show, *Weather World*.

Born and raised in wild and wonderful West Virginia, Katie has always had a passion for weather. She remembers crippling blizzards and devastating floods in her hometown of Lewisburg. Her drive to understand the science behind the weather led to a career in meteorology.

In 2010 Katie was awarded the prestigious Certified Broadcast Meteorologist designation by the American Meteorological Society. This award is given to degreed meteorologists who exhibit extensive weather knowledge and communication skills.

Katie enjoys traveling and spending time outdoors with her family.

# *Welcome from Camp Kudzu*

Welcome to the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Camp Kudzu Benefit Luncheon. The staff, volunteers and I are all grateful to share this special gathering with you as we celebrate Alex Allen's leadership these past 18 years as a founding member and most recently as Executive Director. Today we also will recognize our most committed alumni and the very heart of our organization, our Camp Kudzu Ambassadors. Together Andrew, Anna, Jamie, Kaki, Katie and Kelsey have illuminated the way for future camper generations with a combined 90 years of committed giving.

Camp Kudzu's vital purpose is to educate, inspire and empower our children and families living with type 1 diabetes (T1D). Since our inception, Camp Kudzu has positively transformed the lives of more than 3,500 children and their families. In the past year alone, we reached a high mark in serving more than 700 campers through summer and year-round programs.

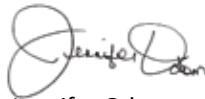
We also find ourselves at a pivotal time, as we position ourselves to achieve more, expand our organizational footprint and reach the most children living with T1D across the state of Georgia that we possibly can. Our most critical goals for 2017-18 include expanding outreach efforts and identifying and actively recruiting 100 new campers next summer.

We look forward to today's successful luncheon and want to also acknowledge the incredible effort of our Luncheon Committee and of course Ann and Pat Brumbaugh's leadership serving as our 2017 Luncheon Chair.

With our sincere appreciation,



Robert G. Shaw  
Executive Director  
Camp Kudzu, Inc



Jennifer Odom  
Chairman, Board of Directors  
Camp Kudzu, Inc

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### *Signature Sponsor*

Sharon Loy

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# *A Note from Alex*

*Dear Friends,*

What privilege it is to be here today with young people who strive to prevail over diabetes. These people are remarkable not just for what they are accomplishing with their lives, but for the heart they have for the generation that follows them.

My family's story with diabetes began in 1994. My husband and I took the diagnosis of our daughter Cammie's diabetes very hard. Our family turned inward as we dealt with its almost hourly demands on her life. I know I would have been a better mother if I had learned from others at programs that Camp Kudzu now offers to families.

By the time our youngest son was diagnosed with diabetes, we had the technical knowledge to cope. But our hearts were exceedingly heavy. Offering Ellis the chance to go to camp was the silver lining in a very dark cloud for him.

I would not be here today, and Camp would not have grown to serve 700 children and teens a year, without the wonderful people who helped found and develop our organization and serve our kids. Some have been on our Board, some on our staff and some as volunteers. Many are here today. Several are in my family, including John, Cammie and my husband Billy. Thank you all!

I treasure your friendship and hard, hard work throughout the years. Together we have offered hundreds of children and teens a chance to feel free, accepted, supported and nurtured. Yes, they learned about managing diabetes, but more importantly, they grew in confidence and resilience.

The time is right to make room for all the brilliance you'll see today! So let's be inspired by our young people and strengthen our resolve to keep changing young lives for the better!

Love,

*Alex Allen*

# Camp Kudzu

BENEFIT LUNCHEON WITH SILENT AUCTION

*'Til there's a cure, There's Camp!*

CAMP KUDZU IS CELEBRATING LEADERSHIP



*Camp Kudzu Salutes Alex Allen for her 18 Years of Empowering, Educating, and Inspiring Children Living with T1D!*

In recognition of Alex Allen's retirement after 18 years as a Founder Board Member, lead volunteer and Executive Director — Camp Kudzu will rename the **Light the Way Award**, that recognizes dedication to educating, empowering and inspiring children with T1D and the broader community, as the "Alexandra Allen Light the Way Award."

During the 10th Annual Benefit Luncheon, Camp Kudzu presents the inaugural class of the Camp Kudzu Ambassadors: **Kaki Bennett, Jamie Cross, Anna Rambo, Katie Rhea, Kelsey Rogowski and Andrew Sturniolo.**



*Camp Kudzu 2017 Annual Benefit Luncheon Committee and Staff*

The Camp Kudzu Annual Benefit Luncheon, scheduled for November 14th, will raise more than \$250,000 for scholarships.

**THANK YOU ALEX!**



Thank you to all who strive to make a difference in the lives of the children we love.

## The Lamons and Allen Families

Eloise, Frank, Harrison, Helen, Mallory, Chris and Paige  
Billy, Alex, John, Cammie and Ellis



The Lamons



The Allens

## *2017 Camp Kudzu Ambassadors*



### **Catherine "Kaki" Bennett**

Years as a camper: 8

Years as volunteer staff: 2

Roles at camp: Counselor-In- Training (CIT), Counselor, CIT Head Staff

Kaki is currently in her 2nd year of Medical School at Emory University.



### **Jamie Cross**

Years as a camper: 9

Years as volunteer staff: 8

Roles at camp: Counselor-In-Training (CIT), Counselor, Medical Clinician-In-Training (MCIT), Clinician

Jamie works as a Pediatric Intensive Care Unit Nurse at Children's Healthcare of Atlanta.



### **Anna Rambo**

Years as a camper: 9

Years as volunteer staff: 7

Roles at camp: Counselor-In-Training (CIT), Counselor, 8-12 year old Girls Head Staff, Year-round Office Staff

Anna works as the Program Coordinator in the Camp Kudzu Office.

## *2017 Camp Kudzu Ambassadors*



### **Katie Rhea**

Years as a camper: 6

Years as volunteer staff: 11

Roles at camp: Counselor-In-Training (CIT), Counselor, CIT Head Staff

Katie is employed by Gwinnett County Public Schools as a Special Education Teacher.



### **Kelsey Rogowski**

Years as a camper: 4

Years as volunteer staff: 9

Roles at camp: Counselor-In-Training (CIT), Counselor, CIT Head Staff, Teen Girls Head Staff

Kelsey works as a Clinical Research Coordinator within the Aflac Cancer and Blood Disorders Center at Children's Healthcare of Atlanta at Egleston.



### **Andrew Sturniolo**

Years as a camper: 7

Years as volunteer staff: 8

Roles at camp: Counselor-In-Training (CIT), Counselor, 8-12 year old Boys Head Staff

Andrew is currently a Financial Specialist in the Medical Mergers & Acquisitions field.



# EDUCATES



## *Executive Officers*

JENNIFER ODOM, CHAIR OF THE BOARD  
RICHARD BARTOLANZO, TREASURER AND FINANCE CHAIR  
KRISTIN GORAN, SECRETARY

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DORIS PIERCE-HARDY, DEVELOPMENT MANAGER  
MANDY CONROY, INTERIM CAMP DIRECTOR  
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WHITNEY LEHEW, OUTREACH AND PROGRAM MANAGER  
LASHONDA REESE, ADMINISTRATIVE COORDINATOR  
ANNA RAMBO, PROGRAM COORDINATOR



**Sharon Loy is proud to support  
Camp Kudzu**

***“My wish is that every child with type 1  
diabetes in Georgia could attend camp!”  
Thank you Camp Kudzu for all that you do for  
these kids!  
Sharon Loy and Family***



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**CarterBaldwin Executive Search is a proud sponsor of Camp Kudzu. With a son who has T1 diabetes, CarterBaldwin Founding Partners, Dave and Jennifer Sobocinski, are all too familiar with the challenges diabetes presents and how it can affect every aspect of family life. CarterBaldwin is thankful for the work Camp Kudzu performs in helping children have a great camp environment – where they get to be ‘just kids’! Thank you to Camp Kudzu from the entire CarterBaldwin team!**



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2017-18

## Diabetes services

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Camp Kudzu

Fragile Kids Foundation

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Camp Kudzu has had a tremendous positive influence on my life for the past 8 years that I have been attending their summer camps and teen retreats. Every year I look forward to going to camp and I always have an amazing time thanks to all the volunteers and Kudzu staff. Specifically, Mrs. Alex, who has changed my life forever because of everything she has done for children with diabetes. Because of her I have learned many life skills and met some of my closest friends. I will forever be grateful for the effect she has had on my life and how hard-working and determined she is. One thing that is extremely special about Mrs. Alex is that she really gets to know each and every camper on a personal level. Her kindness and generosity will forever be remembered. Thank you Mrs. Alex, I love you!

-Spencer Boykin

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## *Past Benefit Luncheon Honorees*

PHIL SOUTHERLAND – 2010

JANE DEAN – 2011

INGER HANSEN, MD - 2012

MELANIE BOLTAX - 2013

ELOISE LAMONS – 2014

HOLLY HAILEY- 2015

CHRIS CANN – 2016

# INSPIRES



*A special thanks...*

*Thank you to the Benefit Luncheon Committee for dedicating your time and efforts in creating a dynamic and memorable event benefitting Camp Kudzu. We cannot thank you enough for all that you have done!*

*Benefit Luncheon Chairs*

ANN AND PAT BRUMBAUGH

*Benefit Luncheon Committee*

CHRIS CANN	JENNIFER ODOM
JULIE CARSON	SANDI ROSS
CONSUELO ECUYER	TIFFANY RICHBURG
ROBIN GLEASON	PAMELA SIGLIN
KRISTIN GORAN	JENNIFER SOBOCINSKI
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LISA HERMAN	SHANNON WALDNER
LISA KLUMOK	AMY WETHINGTON
ELOISE LAMONS	KATHY WOMACK
SHARON LOY	MELISSA ZGONC

*Table Hosts*

BENNETT THRASHER LLP	MEDTRONIC
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# camp kudzu



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