



## Camp New Dawn registration open for campers and volunteers

April 5, 2018



Fun and friendship are the centerpiece of the healing experience of Camp New Dawn, a grief retreat summer camp offered through Compass Regional Hospice.

ceremony on Monday, August 20 at 4:30 pm.

Camp New Dawn also includes an overnight adult and family retreat that begins on Sunday, August 19 at 4:00 pm. While their campers are busy learning how to cope with their grief, parents and guardians are invited to attend the adult retreat designed to help restore participants to a place of wholeness as they learn to navigate their own grief journey. Activities include grief support groups, therapeutic workshops, and restorative activities like sunrise yoga and nature walks. The adults are then joined by their children for overnight family camp where they come together to learn skills that they can take home with them. Family camp ends on Tuesday, August 21 after the closing ceremony at 7:00 pm.

Registration is open for the 24<sup>th</sup> annual Camp New Dawn, a grief retreat summer camp offered through Compass Regional Hospice. Camp New Dawn is a four-day, three-night retreat held each summer at Camp Pecometh in Centreville. The retreat is designed to meet the needs of all ages and stages of grief, serving children and teens between the ages of four and 17 and their families.

“Under the guidance of professional grief support staff and specially trained volunteers, participants are taught healthy ways to express their grief in a safe, supportive and fun environment while also getting to know others who are on a similar journey,” says Camp New Dawn Director Rhonda Knotts.

This year’s Camp New Dawn kicks off on Saturday, August 18 at 12:30 pm, when campers ages seven through 17 arrive at Camp Pecometh. The campers attend therapeutic workshops, age specific grief support groups and may participate in supervised camp activities such as swimming, fishing, and arts and crafts. A mini retreat for children ages four to six is held on Monday, August 20 from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm. The retreat for campers wraps up after the closing

Camp New Dawn would not be possible without the support of our specially trained volunteers. Over 100 volunteers help to ensure that the weekend encompasses fun, friendship and learning. The most visible volunteers are Buddies— caring and compassionate adults who are paired up with campers to provide support. There are also support staff volunteers who tend to every detail of camp by helping plan, set up and facilitate activities. Former campers, PALS and Campatiars, can be found helping in an assortment of ways around camp and sharing their own personal camp experiences with new campers.

The cost of Camp New Dawn is \$30 per camper and \$75 per family. These fees represent a small fraction of the actual cost of operating Camp New Dawn. No one is ever turned away due to inability to pay. To offer your financial support toward the cost of camp or to sponsor a child to attend, contact Kenda Leager, development officer, Compass Regional Hospice, 443-262-4106, [kleager@compassregionalhospice.org](mailto:kleager@compassregionalhospice.org).

For more information or to register for Camp New Dawn, contact Rhonda Knotts, Camp New Dawn director, Compass Regional Hospice, 443-262-4109, [rknotts@compassregionalhospice.org](mailto:rknotts@compassregionalhospice.org). To become a volunteer, contact Courtney Williams, Assistant Camp New Dawn Director, 443-262-4112, [cwilliams@compassregionalhospice.org](mailto:cwilliams@compassregionalhospice.org).

### **Compass Regional Hospice – Care on your terms**

Compass Regional Hospice is a fully licensed, independent, community-based nonprofit organization certified by Medicare and the State of Maryland, and accredited by the Joint Commission. Since 1985, Compass Regional Hospice has been dedicated to supporting people of all ages through the challenge of living with a life-limiting illness and learning to live following the death of a loved one. Today the organization is a regional provider of hospice care and grief support in Queen Anne’s, Kent and Caroline counties. “Care on your terms” is the promise that guides staff and volunteers as they care for patients in private residences, nursing homes, assisted living facilities and the residential hospice centers in Centreville, Chestertown and Denton. Grief support services are offered to children, adults and families of patients who died under hospice care, as well as members of the community who are grieving the loss of a loved one through The Hope & Healing Center. For more information about Compass Regional Hospice, visit [compassregionalhospice.org](http://compassregionalhospice.org).