

Josh's story

In March 2000, two and a half year old Joshy was diagnosed with Leukaemia. For his parents, the end of the world had come. Even when the doctors did their best to reassure, they could not see beyond their worst possible nightmares.

Before long, Joshy was put on a programme of treatment that involved endless hospital visits, tests and a three year course of chemotherapy. Joshy's two brothers, Avi and Zak seemed to cope magnificently, although they had to contend with long periods without attention from their parents who were needed at the hospital.

A friend put Joshys' parents in touch with Camp Simcha. Immediately, two of the most fantastic young volunteers swung into action. The first volunteer started to visit Joshy in hospital, taking him presents and treats. When his birthday came around Camp Simcha organised a special party with balloons, clowns and music. The visits and treats made all the difference to his struggle.

At the same time the second volunteer started to visit Avi and Zak at home. He helped them with their homework, took them for a pizza and gave them much needed attention. He even took them to see their favourite football team play.

Today, Joshy is in remission and regularly participates in Camp Simcha outings and parties. In the spring, Joshy's whole family, together with seven other families, attended the most outstanding retreat.

Last summer Joshy went to Camp Simcha USA in the Catskill Mountains. There, for the first time since his diagnosis, he was no longer different. There he learnt that he was part of a special family of people with unique bonds, experiences and abilities.

According to Joshy's father "We could not have got this far without Camp Simcha by our side. Words cannot explain the difference that they made".

Camp Simcha exists in order to improve the quality of life for children with cancer and other life threatening illnesses.

There is so much more Camp Simcha can do with your help.
For more information call 020 8731 6788