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Camp Rainbow Gold to Hold First Camps at New Property

Idaho children with cancer will return to summer camp after a year of virtual programs.

FAIRFIELD, IDAHO, JUNE 30, 2021 — If you think about it, kids with cancer are already experts when it comes to quarantining and ongoing health scares. So, last fall with COVID-19 still at the forefront, the doctors and nurses of Camp Rainbow Gold’s medical team challenged the children’s cancer organization to figure out a way to host face-to-face camps for this summer. And they got to work.

Work may be the understatement of the year. In less than a year, and with the help of an army of supporters and donors, Camp Rainbow Gold pulled off a renovation that would make *Extreme Home Makeover* fans open their mouths in awe. In 2019, Camp Rainbow Gold purchased 172 acres outside of Fairfield; a former golf course with 26 buildings on site (most of them shuttered since 2015).

During the pandemic, the nonprofit organization rallied supporters, donors and volunteers and completely remodeled more than 14 buildings — new roofs, exterior painting, log chinking, staining, ADA bathrooms in some, all new flooring, window coverings and paint. In addition to the buildings, miles of fencing around the ponds, replacing a pool and spa with a new outdoor eating area, a wheelchair accessible ropes course, bicycle trails, culverts for the creek and a whole lot of repairs.

The first campers are set to arrive at Hidden Paradise Camp on July 11 with subsequent camps running through the end of the month. But before the kids arrive, Camp Rainbow Gold hosted a “Share Your Heart” preview of the property for supporters, sponsors, and volunteers on Saturday, June 26.

Those in attendance were able to tour the sprawling property, walk inside the cabins where children, doctors, nurses, and volunteers will sleep and take in the exquisite views of the mountains and the Camas prairie. In all, \$129,650 was raised that day to support Camp Rainbow Gold’s mission that no Idaho child or family will ever pay for this camp experience and to help building at Hidden Paradise moving forward. Visitors also placed large, colorful hearts in a *Field of Love* art installation that will welcome campers to Hidden Paradise in July.

There’s still time to add more hearts to the *Field of Love* and anyone interested in donating or getting involved with Camp Rainbow Gold or Hidden Paradise are encouraged to visit www.camprainbowgold.org.

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About Camp Rainbow Gold

Camp Rainbow Gold is an independent nonprofit organization providing emotionally empowering experiences to families who have experienced a pediatric cancer diagnosis. Camp Rainbow Gold offers oncology camps, sibling camps and family retreats, college scholarships and a teen support group. Its programs are sustained by community fundraising, private donations and volunteer efforts. Camp Rainbow Gold provides services to more than 400 Idaho family members, is supported by more than 300 volunteers from across the nation and has been accredited through the American Camp Association since 2002. Learn more at www.camprainbowgold.org.