



MISSISSIPPI'S TOUGHEST KIDS FOUNDATION CAMP KAMASSA

UNDER CONSTRUCTION



Conceptual rendering of the campus core

Mississippi's Toughest Kids Foundation (MTK) is building Camp Kamassa, Mississippi's first and only year-round handicap accessible camp facility for children and adults with serious illnesses, physical and mental challenges and other special needs. MTK's vision is to provide a fun, safe environment for kids and adults to experience the adventure of the great outdoors, regardless of different abilities. Nestled on 426 acres in beautiful Copiah County, Camp Kamassa will serve all 82 Mississippi counties.



Mrs. Mary

Mary Kitchens, Founder and Executive Director of Mississippi's Toughest Kids Foundation knows better than anyone the value of a camp experience for a child with special needs. According to Mrs. Mary, "Children with special needs can be found in hospitals, shelters, foster homes, next door, or down the street. Just like all children they want to swim, ride horses, jump in a lake, swing on a rope, use a hammer and a can of paint. Camp Kamassa will provide campers new and exciting opportunities. It is a place where children and adults will find unqualified acceptance and friendship. It is important that all campers experience joy and a level of dignity they deserve. Medical teams will care for the medical needs of campers and build trusting relationships with their patients through interactive fun and games".



Everything about Camp Kamassa is accessible to everyone. The full scope of Camp Kamassa includes 8 duplex cabins, 6 family cabins, a welcome/conference center, an open-air recreation building, a cafeteria, a state-of-the-art infirmary, a multi-use activity building, a chapel, 2 lakes, hiking trails, archery range, sports field, equestrian center, ropes course, swimming pool, playground, outdoor classrooms, and more. The entrance to Camp Kamassa will boast an agri-tourism area with a general store, pumpkin patch, corn maze and Christmas Tree farm.

The Need is Real.....



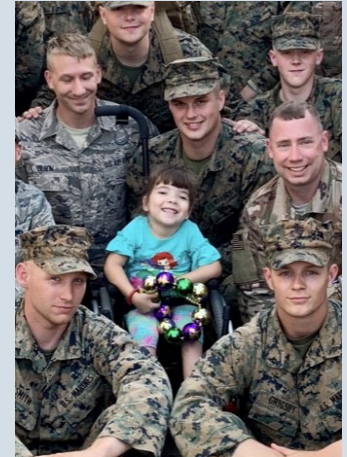
Dr. Mary Taylor, Chair of Pediatrics at University of Mississippi Medical Center has devoted her life to the medical care of children. In her words, "Camp Kamassa will offer a wonderful place of hope for children with special needs and medically sensitive challenges.

At Children's of Mississippi, we are delighted to collaborate with Camp Kamassa to help assure that children have their medical needs met while enjoying the wonder of a camp experience. Our patients and families are so grateful to have this opportunity so close to home, a place made especially for them!"

Arlie and her pirates.....

One of the most unique partnerships MTK has formed is with the Department of Defense's Innovative Readiness Training (IRT) Program. Through this program, soldiers from all over the nation and all branches of the military come to Mississippi to participate in building Camp Kamassa. Military Units receive deployment readiness training and MTK receives the value of their in-kind labor. This amazing partnership has helped Camp Kamassa to gain national attention. In the process it has changed the lives of the many service members who have been honored and humbled to be a part of making dreams come true for Mississippi's kids and adults affected by special needs.

Arlie is excited about being a camper at Camp Kamassa. She will be able to ride horses, swim, climb the rock wall and ropes course, play ball, and participate in tons of other fun activities....just like any other kid. When she met the Service Members building "her camp" she said to her mom, "Look mama, the pirates are building me a castle!"



- ◇ There are over twenty organizations in Mississippi that hold camp weeks for kids with special needs in facilities not equipped to meet the needs of their campers
- ◇ Mississippi currently has no fully accessible year-round camp facility devoted exclusively to organizations that serve special needs communities— Camp Kamassa will be Mississippi's first
- ◇ There are almost 500,000 Mississippians living with some form of disability*
- ◇ There are over 58,000 children ages 6-21 identified as having a disability**

*2018 Annual Disability Statistics Compendium

**Mississippi Department of Education Website



Several years ago Kamiya was a camper at Camp Rainbow, a pediatric oncology organization that holds a camp week each summer for children currently battling cancer or in remission. MTK Founder and Executive Director, Mary Kitchens had the pleasure of transporting Kamiya to camp. She recalls the first day, Kamiya sat quietly in the back seat in a hooded jacket with her head covered. She seemed shy and timid... that is until they pulled up to where the other children were gathered. As soon as Kamiya saw other children with no hair, the hooded jacket came off and she quickly made many new friends. Being around other children with similar experiences gives kids a level of comfort and acceptance. Insecurities melt away and walls come down.

Kamiya is no longer with us but her time at camp brought her tremendous joy.

The Facts.....

- ➡ Camp Kamassa is a \$28 million Capital Project
- ➡ Over \$14 million secured funding & in-kind donations
- ➡ 100% of funds raised stay in Mississippi
- ➡ Timetable: Groundbreaking was May 2018 and facility usage will begin in 2024
- ➡ MTK's partnership with the Department of Defense IRT Program is introducing thousands of U.S. Military personnel to Mississippi. These Servicemen and women from all over the nation are leaving a generational legacy for Mississippians affected by special needs.
- ➡ MTK has established dozens partnerships with organizations that serve individuals affected by special needs and with existing similar camp facilities in other states.
- ➡ Camp Kamassa will be the only facility of its kind in Mississippi designed and built to meet the unique needs of ALL campers
- ➡ The infirmary will be a place for campers to receive essential medical care while at camp

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Mississippi's
Toughest Kids
Foundation



MTK's Camp
Kamassa



[mtk_camp_kamassa](https://www.instagram.com/mtk_camp_kamassa)

Ways to Give...

- Mail: Checks made out to Mississippi's Toughest Kids Foundation
- Online Giving at www.campkamassa.com
- iGive.com
- AmazonSmile
- Kroger Community Rewards #VG910
- Camp Kamassa Specialty tags for your automobile
- Community Foundation for MS Endowment Fund
- DFA Direct
- Venmo @MTKCampKamassa



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