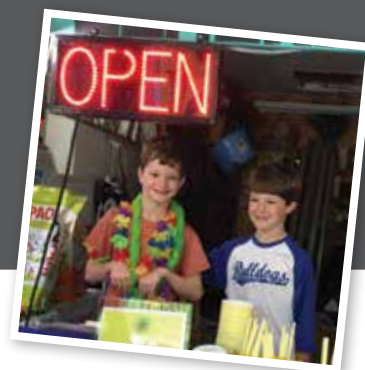


cameron CAN

NEWSLETTER

Fall 2015



Inspired by Cameron Dominick

The mission of the Cameron Can Foundation is to provide a continuing legacy of care for children who need long term medical assistance. No child should be denied a bright future because of the need for ongoing medical care.

In The News

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Now Accepting Friends of Cameron Grant Applications

If you have a child with long term medical needs as the result of a neurological condition such as hydrocephalus or spina bifida, or know of a family in need of funding, please contact us for a Friends of Cameron grant application. You may also visit cameron-can.com and click "Friends of Cameron" to download an application.

Letter from the Editor

It's hard to believe that The Cameron Can Foundation is almost six years old! It seems like just yesterday we were sitting at Cameron's crib-side in the NICU at Children's Memorial Hospital as he underwent his first brain surgery. Cameron would not be where he is today if not for the inaugural Cameron Can 2010 and Cameron Rocks On 2011 benefits, both of which helped our family pay for his ongoing medical services. While the Cameron Can Foundation no longer directly benefits Cameron or our family, it is our dream that this foundation will be Cameron's legacy to other children battling life-long neurological conditions, especially Hydrocephalus.

We know first-hand how financial support – however large or small – can change the life of a child with long-term medical needs and the family that supports him or her. That is why, since 2011, we have dedicated ourselves to making good on our promise of paying it forward. To date, we have raised more than \$400,000 for other families and children with chronic medical conditions.

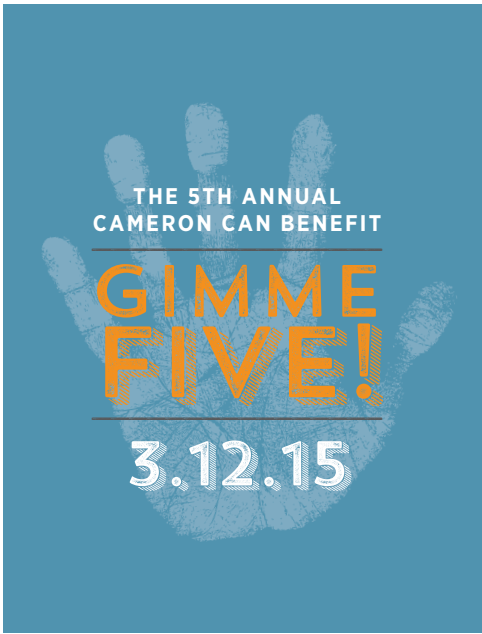
Medically, 2015 was a challenging year for Cameron, with multiple hospitalizations to address his ongoing slit ventricles. After frequent adjustments to his shunt over the summer, Cameron was cleared to attend his first-ever sleep away camp. He loved every minute of his time at YMCA Camp Independence: kayaking, dancing, sleeping in a bunk bed – he didn't miss a beat. For us as parents it was a huge relief to know Cameron would be safe at camp with 1:1 counselor support and a team of nurses and physicians on staff.

Cameron began fourth grade this fall and soon after received the best "report card" ever – a stable MRI scan. It was a great way to kick off the school year. In addition to working hard to keep up with his peers in class, he loves to sing and dance; and he is fascinated by fire alarms, tornado sirens and anything electronic. Ever the entrepreneur, he also continues to run his popular lemonade stand (complete with electricity!) after school and on weekends when the weather cooperates. We are so proud of all Cameron has accomplished in nine years.

And speaking of accomplishments, we have our sights set on breaking the \$500,000 mark in 2016! In order to achieve this lofty goal, we are asking for your help in taking the Cameron Can Foundation on the road. Rather than throw one large fundraising event in Chicago next year, we are launching Cameron's Rockin' Road Trip 2016, where our Cameron Can Rock Stars host their own fundraising events across the country! Look for more details about this fun giving campaign at cameron-can.org and in the attached letter.

We are forever grateful for your continued support of our efforts and for the many friends, family and volunteers who help us continue to provide bright futures for children with long-term medical conditions. On behalf of Cameron and our family – thank you!

With deep gratitude,
Rory and Matt Dominick



Cameron Rocks On 2015 Raises \$100,000!

A big “high five” to everyone who helped us celebrate five years of Cameron Rocks On – Gimme Five! We especially want to thank Honorary Chair Cheryl Scott of ABC 7 Chicago and Master of Ceremonies Melissa McGurren of 101.9 The Mix – your time, energy and support were critical to making the event a resounding success. We thank you both from the bottom of our hearts.

This year Cameron Rocks On – Gimme Five! benefitted Matthew Tristano, Aaron Holiday, Fionna Callanan, YMCA Camp Independence, Pediatric Hydrocephalus Foundation and the Hydrocephalus Association.

Thank you! You ROCK.

We are humbled by the amount of support we received in 2015. We are grateful for the many monetary donations, donations of raffle and silent auction items and the giving your time and talent. We do our best to ensure that we send out a written thank you note or verbally thank all those that contributed, but know we sometimes miss some of you. Please know that your support means a great deal to us, and every dollar contributed or hour volunteered helps us achieve our goals.

If you did not receive a tax receipt for a donation you made to the Cameron Can Foundation in 2015, please email us at rdominick@cameron-can.com.

CAMERON CAN CELEBRATES FIVE YEARS OF SUCCESS:

- \$450,000**
RAISED TO DATE
- \$65,000**
DONATED TO RESEARCH, ADVOCACY AND YMCA CAMP INDEPENDENCE
- 12**
CHILDREN'S DREAMS FULFILLED
- 5**
YEARS OF SPREADING THE LOVE
- 1**
AMAZING VOLUNTEER-LED NON-PROFIT FOUNDATION





What We've Been Up To:

In August the Pediatric Hydrocephalus Foundation gathered in Washington, D.C. for the 5th annual Day on Capitol Hill for Hydrocephalus Awareness. We were proud to once again sponsor their efforts and all of the good work they do on behalf of kids with Hydrocephalus!

In case you missed it, the Cameron Can Foundation was the recipient of a \$500 donation from the Meredith Corporation and featured in the September issue of Parent's Magazine! It was great fun to hear from friends and supporters nationwide as they came across a picture of Cameron in the magazine throughout the month.

While we typically don't enjoy trips to the hospital, last month we were thrilled to stop by Lurie Children's Hospital for the Eric and Kathy 101.9 Mix Radiothon benefitting the Hospital. Although our hero Cameron didn't say much during his radio debut, he was happy to present a check to the hospital for \$2,500.

We love and appreciate all of our supporters, and our Riverside community of supporters are among our favorites. Recently Cameron Can Rockstar Katie Lorch donated 50 percent of the August proceeds from her Shakeology business to Cameron Can. Also in August, the Zalewski family hosted a birthday party for their children, and in lieu of gifts asked for donations to Cameron Can. Would you believe their combined efforts brought in \$1,000! Thanks so much guys!

Our talented friend of Cameron Can Allison Fonseca held a day of family photo shoots and donated all proceeds to Cameron Can. Her hard work generated \$1,000 for the Foundation. Thank you Allison!

Budding documentary director and Columbia College student Haley Buntrock dedicated endless hours producing an amazing video about the Cameron Can Foundation. If you haven't seen it yet, please check it out on our website: cameron-can.com.

In September we participated in the Hydrocephalus Association Chicago Walk "Every Step Closer to a Cure." It was a rainy day, but that didn't dampen our spirits. As Matt said, "Water on the brain doesn't stop Cameron, so let's walk!"



Support Cameron Can Foundation by shopping at AmazonSmile.

Remember, when you shop at AmazonSmile, Amazon will donate to Cameron Can Foundation, just start each shopping session at the URL <http://smile.amazon.com> every time you shop.



Get Involved

Will you help us take Cameron Can on the Road? Check our website, social media and the enclosed letter for some fun and easy ways to help us meet our goal for 2016! Contact us today to talk about how you'd like participate in Cameron's Rockin' Road Trip.



As the Cameron Can Foundation continues to grow, we are always looking for people willing to share their time and talents – please reach out if you want to be a part of our amazing team of volunteers! Email rdominick@cameron-can.com for more information on how you can get involved.



Friends of Cameron:

We are proud to continue to grow the number of children we help each year, providing them with memorable experiences and much needed medical care and therapy. **To date we have helped 12 children be all they CAN be!**

1

Tristano Family Story – Update on Matt Tristano

We love receiving updates from our Cameron Can grantees and a recent letter from the mother of Matt Tristano a grant recipient who has hydrocephalus, touched our hearts. It was wonderful to read that “Life is great in the Tristano household,” and that Matt is enjoying third grade – especially riding to and from school on the bus with his sisters. Our grant allowed the Tristano family to pay off all of their outstanding medical bills! In addition this year we are supplementing the therapy Matt receives in school and providing him with three additional targeted occupational and physical therapy sessions every week. Thanks to these extra services Matt is stronger and more agile than ever and his balance has improved as well. Keep up the great work, Matt!

2

Aaron Holliday

This year we are excited to send Aaron Holliday, a sophomore at Homewood-Flossmor High School, on a once-in-a-lifetime trip abroad with his high school choir. Aaron has Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus, and without the support of the Cameron Can Foundation his trip would not have been possible. As his mother told us, “His disability should not be a barrier to his participation.” We could not agree more! Aaron **CAN** now share his beautiful voice alongside his peers throughout Budapest, Vienna, Bratislava, and Prague this spring! We can't wait for a full recap of his trip!

3

Fionna Callanan

Cameron Can newsletter devotees may recall reading about eleven year-old Fionna Callanan, who was diagnosed with Angleman Syndrome at birth. Last year we learned she had outgrown her prized adaptive bike, which served as her primary mode of transportation. We were thrilled to purchase her a new bike with funds raised from our Cameron Rocks On benefit. This year we were able to provide her with a new medical-grade stroller which allows her to be safely transported to and from school. Here's to a terrific school year Fionna!

