

# Winter 2017 MCCC News

## Meet Super Nate

And Learn About the 2017 MCCC Moonlight Challenge!



If you attended the MCCC Moonlight Challenge at Shawnee Peak in January, you may have seen Nate Wade (a.k.a. Super Nate) swooping down the giant slalom race course with the help of his dad, Tim. Nate, now 6 years old, absolutely loves to ski; most weekends during the winter, you can find him at his home mountain of Sugarloaf, practicing turns with his family and friends. We were thrilled that Nate and his family joined us at Shawnee Peak to take part in our special MCCC event, which continues to grow each year.

For the past two years, Nate and his family have participated in the MCCC Moonlight Challenge at Shawnee Peak – and at this year’s event, there were a total of four teams racing in honor of Super Nate! Their support was tremendous; Nate’s race team “New Meadows Marina Super Nate” came in second place for fundraising by a team, and Super Nate himself was the second place fundraising individual. It is not only the family’s love of skiing that brought the Wade’s to the MCCC Moonlight Challenge; they also have a special place in their hearts for Maine Children’s Cancer Program.

In April of 2015, when he was just over 4 years old, Nate was diagnosed with Ewing’s Sarcoma. He began treatment at Maine Children’s Cancer Program, which lasted for 10 months until February of 2016. Nate’s course of treatment required him to be brave; he had to have a tumor and 3 inches of 3 ribs on the right side of his chest removed. Now, Nate is doing great, and he is able to spend time and energy on enjoying his favorite pastimes, including soccer and drawing/coloring, as well as skiing.

Nate and his family are among a growing group of MCCC patients and families who have become involved with the MCCC Moonlight Challenge at Shawnee Peak during the three years this event has

taken place. For the Homer family, owners of Shawnee Peak, hosting a charity ski/snowboard race that these brave children can actually take part in is a natural extension of their incredible commitment to MCCC. For many years, Shawnee Peak has generously helped MCCC patients and their families come to the mountain to enjoy winter recreational activities and forget about childhood cancer for a while.

This year's MCCC Moonlight Challenge broke all records from the past two years: 160 participants took part in the race, and over \$68,000 was raised to support the work of Maine Children's Cancer Program! NONE of this would be possible without the incredible generosity of Shawnee Peak, a true champion for kids fighting cancer. Special thanks to this year's corporate sponsors for creating a foundation for the event's fundraising success: On Target Utility Services (Naming sponsor), Homer Family Foundation and Strategic Media, Inc. (Gold Medalist sponsors), AdSpace Communications, Nathan Charles Cuts for Men and Northeast Safety, Inc. (Silver Medalist sponsors), Anthem Blue Cross & Blue Shield, Bangor Savings Bank, Law Firm of Eaton Peabody and Law Firm of Norman Hanson & DeTroy (Bronze Medalist sponsors), Dyer Elementary School and Law Firm of Eaton Peabody (Team sponsors) and Channel 8 WMTW and Maine Magazine (Media sponsors).

Congratulations to all of the individuals and teams who placed in the categories of speed and fundraising! For a full list of winners, please visit [www.moonlightchallenge.org](http://www.moonlightchallenge.org). We hope to see you at next year's MCCC Moonlight Challenge at Shawnee Peak – we will be announcing the date soon!

## Recent Events

### A Winter's Worth of Successes to Celebrate



From basketball tournaments to ice fishing derbies (not to mention ski/snowboard races, wine socials and polar dips), the winter of 2017 was a busy one for events supporting Maine Children's Cancer Program. It was a season that we are incredibly proud of! With the help of so many dedicated supporters and sponsors, previous records were surpassed, new friendships were forged, and important funding and awareness for our program was achieved.

Things started off with the Hot Stove Dinner, hosted by the Portland Sea Dogs on Friday, January 13th at the Portland Marriott at Sable Oaks. This year's headliner was former Red Sox catcher, Jason Varitek. A sold out crowd sat mesmerized by Varitek's anecdotes about his time as one of the beloved Red Sox. This annual event benefits Strike Out Cancer in Kids, the longstanding partnership between the Portland

Sea Dogs and Maine Children's Cancer Program, supported by TD Bank, Anthem and other community supporters. This event marked the first public appearance by the 2017 Slugger Kid, 8 year old Seth Jones. Seth has bravely fought Wilm's Tumor; you will learn much more about him throughout the year, since he is this year's ambassador for Strike Out Cancer in Kids!

Following shortly thereafter, the 23rd Annual Swish-Out Childhood Cancer Challenge 3-on-3 basketball tournament took place on Sunday, January 15th, 2017 at the University of Southern Maine, Gorham Campus. This event, led by MCCC Board member, Jon Paradise, raises a significant amount of funding and awareness year after year, with 100% of proceeds going to MCCC. Raising a remarkable \$52,650.00 for 2017, we are beyond thrilled to announce that, to date, the event has now raised more than \$425,000 for children battling cancer and their families. What began with 7 teams raising \$575.00 for MCCC in 1994 has now grown to include over 50 adult and junior teams! Thanks to the leadership of Jon Paradise and dedication of longstanding volunteers, along with Jon's love for MCCC, our program is able to continue efforts in "swishing-out" childhood cancer.

The Sanford Elks MCCC Committee was faced with unfriendly weather conditions leading up to the 8th Annual Ice Fishing Derby at Square Pond; however, in true Elks fashion, our friends managed to pull off another wildly successful event to support MCCC, raising over \$16,000.00. 254 registered fishermen of all ages spent Sunday, February 19th out on Square Pond, catching fish for a cause! The commitment that the Sanford Elks have shown over the years in dedicating themselves wholeheartedly to MCCC is inspiring, and has quite clearly spread through their local community. You could feel the love on Square Pond, especially when first place winner, Isaac Pepin, donated his \$1,000.00 grand prize back to MCCC. Kindness from individuals like Isaac, from organizations like the Elks, and from the community of Sanford as a whole is what makes every Sanford Elks MCCC event so successful and so inspiring.

We are so fortunate to work with the dedicated members of the community in putting on this winter's fundraisers: the Hot Stove Dinner, the MCCC Moonlight Challenge at Shawnee Peak, Party With A Purpose and, of course, the Swish-Out Childhood Cancer Challenge and the Sanford Elks Square Pond Fishing Derby. Thank you all for a season's worth of memorable moments, great successes and continued support for our program.

## Star Supporters

**Party with a Purpose Was a Hit; Thank You DiMillos!**





This year's Party with a Purpose event raised \$50,000.00 to support MCCP, an impactful amount that will benefit kids fighting cancer and blood disorders and their families here in Maine by ensuring that MCCP can provide the best care available. The night was special, from start to finish. A huge thanks to the Portland Sunrise Rotary Club for their commitment to the event over the last 19 years, and special recognition for David Swardlick who, for the past two years, has contributed his marketing and event planning expertise and has helped to maintain the integrity of the event while infusing fresh ideas and improvements that will benefit the event for years to come.

Support from our sponsors was crucial in contributing to the success of this year's event: we give huge thanks to WEX (presenting sponsor), Alexander & Schmidt and Norway Savings Bank (co-presenting sponsors), Village Veterinary Clinic, Ringler & Associates and Bernstein Shur (captain sponsors), and Purdy Powers, Back Cove Financial, Windham Group, Veroneau Insurance, Gardens to Go, Strategic Talent Management and Ship-Right Solutions (commander sponsors). Thanks as well to the local businesses who kindly donated auction items. And, of course, Party with a Purpose would not have been such a memorable evening without the incredible story delivered by Holly Frey Bosse about her resilient, show-stopping, cancer-fighting daughter, Kinzie, as well as the heartfelt address delivered by Kinzie's doctor at MCCP, Dr. Aaron Weiss. It takes a village to make these evenings extraordinary, and we greatly appreciate everyone who makes up our village.

As we reflect on this year's Party with a Purpose event and all of the key players that stepped forward to make it possible, one party stands out in particular: for their continued generosity and support, the DiMillo Family deserves a moment in the spotlight.

MCCP feels incredibly honored to have had the opportunity to work with the DiMillo family year after year, through the Portland Sunrise Rotary Social in particular. The DiMillo family's hospitality over the last 19 years is outstanding, and it's something we are eternally grateful for. They have opened their doors to MCCP and the Portland Sunrise Rotary Club, providing a warm, welcoming atmosphere for this event, and their graciousness in lending their space, amazing staff and wonderful services for an evening is above and beyond the call of duty. We know that the DiMillo's are a modest family, never looking for an ounce of recognition for all they do in the community, but they are absolutely deserving of every moment to shine. We have thoroughly enjoyed working with the DiMillo family for almost twenty years and look forward to a long lasting partnership & friendship for years to come. Full steam ahead!