

The diagnosis came fast.

One day your child is just a kid. The next, you're drowning in numbers, needles, and a fear that never fully sleeps.

Then you find them — families who already know. Who look at you and say:

"We get it. You're not alone anymore."

That was the moment everything changed.





THE
DIABETES
FAMILY
CONNECTION

2025 ANNUAL REPORT

Positively transforming life with diabetes through the power of community.

—
178

CAMPERS AT CAMP MORRIS

—
450+

COMMUNITY EVENT PARTICIPANTS

—
170

PMA CARE PACKAGES SENT

—
500+

VOLUNTEERS SINCE 2023

—
393K+

SOCIAL MEDIA REACH



THE DIAGNOSIS CHANGES EVERYTHING

When a child is diagnosed with type 1 diabetes, the whole family's world shifts. Suddenly, every meal requires math. Every school day requires a plan. Every night carries the quiet worry of a low blood sugar that comes while everyone's sleeping.

But the hardest part isn't the logistics. It's the isolation. It's the feeling that no one around you truly understands — that you're navigating something enormous, and you're doing it alone.

No family should have to walk this journey alone.

That's why The Diabetes Family Connection exists. Not to manage diabetes — but to make sure every family facing it knows they belong to a community that gets it, because we live it too.

Finding The DFC felt like finding a lifeline when we were drowning in the overwhelm of a new diagnosis. It became the place where we found people who truly understood what we were experiencing — as a child with T1D, us as parents and caregivers, and even our daughter as a T1D sibling.

— Kathryn Guy, DFC Parent



Camp to Community Wilmington McCall White, RN CDCES welcomes attendees from Nunnelee Clinic.

Flagship Program

CAMP MORRIS: WHERE CONFIDENCE GROWS

Camp Morris is more than a summer camp. It's the place where a kid with type 1 diabetes stops being "the one with diabetes" and starts being just... a kid.

For one week, every camper is surrounded by peers who check their blood sugar before the ropes course, who know what a low feels like mid-kickball, who don't stare when you pull out your pump at lunch. For many, it's the first time in their lives they've met another person with T1D.

That kind of belonging doesn't just feel good — it rewires how a child sees their diagnosis.

GROWING UP AT CAMP

DREAMERS

3rd to 5th grade
— Embrace the simple joys of camp while discovering positive mental attitude (PMA) with their new T1D friends.

TRAILBLAZERS

6th to 8th grade
— Take more ownership of their diabetes management alongside peers who get it

PATHFINDERS

9th and 10th grade — Build teamwork while fostering life-long connections through shared experiences

BRAVEHEARTS

11th grade — Push beyond comfort zones and step into leadership

LEADERS-IN-TRAINING

12th grade. Come full circle, becoming the future camp leaders who change the next generation.

A Moment That Captures It

When Mark arrived at Camp Morris, newly diagnosed and uncertain, his mom Laryssa wasn't sure either of them were ready. Leaving him there was the hardest part. But Mark needed a place where he felt understood, supported, and not alone — and that's exactly what he found.

Over the course of the week, Mark made friends who get it — kids who understand the highs, the lows, and everything in between. He built a community he can carry with him for life, a support system that doesn't fade once the week is over.

He hasn't stopped talking about it since.



Mark and his friends

The kids leave camp with confidence and a community of support long after camp ends.

— Laryssa, Mark's Mom

THE COUNSELORS WHO GET IT

There's a reason 93% of Camp Morris counseling staff live with type 1 diabetes themselves. When a camper is scared to change their site, their counselor doesn't just explain how – they do it with them. When a camper feels embarrassed about sitting out to take care of their blood sugar, their counselor sits with them and shares their experience on the T1D roller coaster.

50% of the medical staff at Camp Morris have a direct T1D connection – not just clinical expertise, but personal understanding.



COUNSELOR SPOTLIGHT: ABBY & ASHTON

Both grew up attending diabetes camp, but their paths never quite crossed – Abby was always just a year ahead of Ashton. It wasn't until their first summer as co-counselors at Camp Morris that they finally met. From that moment on, they became inseparable.

They talk every day. They've traveled together. They're rarely seen without each other. Camp Morris isn't just a place for kids – it's a community where adults form deep, lasting connections with people who truly understand life with T1D.

Now, as best friends with a shared mission, Abby and Ashton are giving back – raising funds and spreading hope for families impacted by type 1. Just like The DFC taught them, friendship and community can change everything.

– Abby & Ashton, Camp Morris Counselors

COST WILL NEVER BE A BARRIER

In 2025, The DFC awarded 44 scholarships and 133 campers received subsidized tuition — because this community believes every child deserves to experience the magic of camp. The true cost of sending a child to Camp Morris is approximately \$1,500 per camper. The camp fee is \$1,000 — already subsidized. But for many families navigating the financial weight of T1D, even that is out of reach.

98%

FELT MORE POSITIVE ABOUT THEIR DIAGNOSIS

178
CAMPERS

50
FIRST-TIMERS

44
SCHOLARSHIPS

133
SUBSIDIZED

95%
EXCITED TO RETURN

95%
CAREGIVER SAW
INCREASE IN PMA

100%
STAFF EMPOWERED

Camp shows families what is possible.

PROGRAMS

FALL RETREATS: RECHARGING FAMILIES

A T1D diagnosis doesn't just affect the person wearing the pump. It reshapes the entire family. Parents carry invisible weight. Siblings adjust. Teens push back against the one thing they can't escape.

The DFC Fall Retreats create space for families to exhale. Teens connect with peers who understand the unique frustrations of managing T1D during high school. Parents sit in circles with other parents who don't need the backstory. For a weekend, no one has to explain themselves or the beeps.

Type 1 diabetes takes families on a journey no one asks for. For the Gonet family, it started with their son's diagnosis and the sadness that followed. Then he discovered Camp Morris — and found his community. He went from feeling hopeless to embracing a positive mental attitude. The emotional growth after his first week of camp was just the tip of the iceberg.

But the DFC didn't stop with their son. The Fall Retreat gave the whole family access to knowledge, technology, and something harder to find — other families walking the same path. Mothers, fathers, and siblings finally had space to connect with people who didn't need the backstory.

*It felt as if our family collectively
exhaled a deep breath we didn't even
realize we had been holding.
— The Gonet Family, DFC Campers*



Family retreat attendees take a minute to relax together and enjoy the lake.

100%

FELT RECHARGED & SUPPORTED

33

TEENS SERVED

34

FAMILY MEMBERS

16

SCHOLARSHIPS

90%

MORE CONFIDENT

100%

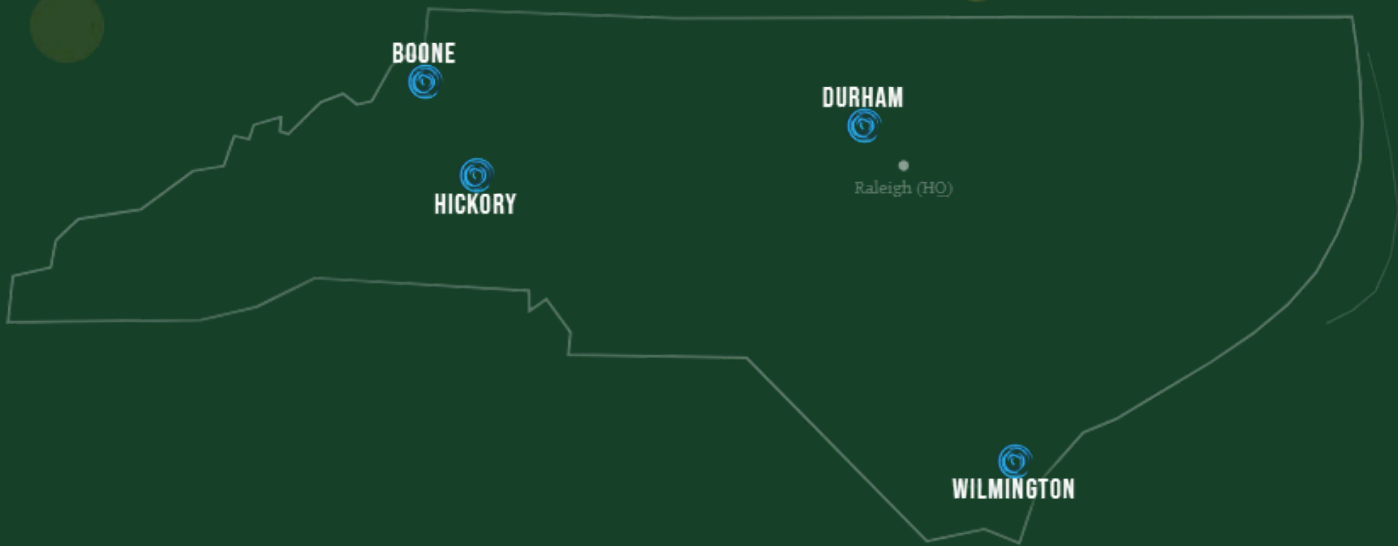
CAREGIVERS LEARNED TOOLS

Retreats restore strength and renew hope.

Programs

CAMP TO COMMUNITIES: CONNECTION ACROSS NORTH CAROLINA

The DFC shows up where families are. In 2025, that meant Hickory, Boone, Durham (Duke Diabetes Day), and Wilmington, partnering with the YMCA across North Carolina to bring one-day events, caregiver education sessions, and resource-sharing to every family impacted by T1D.



As parents we loved being able to vent about difficult things but also seeing what we can celebrate. We also appreciated the reminder of how we should turn things into a more positive situation. It was nice to be able to listen and pay attention and know that our children were in good hands for the day. Our kids had a wonderful time and loved being around other children with T1D.

— C2C Parent Participant



“I enjoyed listening to other parents' perspectives and thoughts about type 1 diabetes. It was reassuring to know that we are not alone in this journey and other people go through the same experiences.” – C2C Parent Participant

450+

FAMILIES SERVED ACROSS NORTH CAROLINA

12

EDUCATION SESSIONS

1,000+

RESOURCES SHARED

100%

MADE A CONNECTION

100%

FELT EMPOWERED

“

Community is a lifeline.
