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McClatchey and her husband, John (far left,) pose for a shot with Braves players Greg Norton, Tim Hudson, and Karen Moyer (far right), Founder of The Moyer Foundation. In the back row are Jaena Norton and Kim Hudson.



McClatchey takes the field at Turner Field to accept a check for Camp MAGIK from the Moyer Foundation. From left to right: Tim and Kim Hudson, Jaena and Greg Norton, campers Drew and Jeremy, Rene McClatchey, Gary Pollock, ED of The Moyer Foundation and Karen Moyer, Founder of The Moyer Foundation.

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Each year in Georgia, thousands of children lose a parent. It is a reality that is, often times, a devastating one for many kids – especially those who receive no counseling or support.

In 1995, University of Georgia School of Social Work faculty member Rene Searles McClatchey decided to help those children through the form of a camp she named Camp MAGIK – Mainly About Grief In Kids.

That first camp session 14 years ago was attended by 17 children. However, word of mouth spread quickly, and the following year, McClatchey operated two camps with 30 and 40 children respectively. There have since been three camp sessions a year offered in various locations throughout Northeast Georgia, with a limit of 50 children per camp. Since its inception in 1995, Camp MAGIK has held 31 camps and served over 1,550 children and adolescents.

Now, thanks to a \$100,000 grant and partnership with The Moyer Foundation's Camp Erin initiative, Camp MAGIK will offer Camp Erin Atlanta, a fourth session of camp for grieving kids and teens. Established by Philadelphia Phillies pitcher Jamie Moyer and his wife, Karen, The Moyer Foundation's mission is to provide comfort and support to children enduring a time of profound physical, emotional or financial distress. Through partnerships with grief support agencies like Camp MAGIK, The Moyer Foundation is establishing more than 50 Camp Erins across the country, including one in every major league baseball city. Camp MAGIK was chosen for Atlanta and received \$100,000 to fund Camp Erin Atlanta over the next 10 years.

"Camp MAGIK was extremely fortunate to receive this grant," McClatchey said. "We have a waiting list for our camp sessions, and it is so hard to tell a child who needs our services that we do not have the resources to help. This grant means that we will be able to serve 50 more children a year."

Players for the Atlanta Braves heard about Camp Erin and Camp MAGIK through The Moyer Foundation. Camp Erin advocates Kim Hudson, wife of Braves pitcher Tim Hudson, and Jaena Norton, wife of first base Braves player Greg Norton, asked McClatchey if they could visit Camp Erin Atlanta in Hampton, Georgia, in April. After their visit, the Nortons and the Hudsons invited all Camp Erin Atlanta campers to a Braves game at Turner Field on June 10 for a reception before the game. During an on field pre-game presentation, Camp MAGIK was presented the check from The Moyer Foundation.

"For the Hudsons and the Nortons to invite our campers to a reunion at a Braves game was huge," McClatchey said. "The kids made deep friendships at camp and to be invited to the game meant not only that they got a chance to see their new friends again, but also that they got to meet, take photos with and get autographs from their baseball heroes. It was such a joy to see the campers have so much fun after the tragedies they have experienced. The kids will remember this day for a very, very long time."

For more information on Camp MAGIK, visit, www.campmagik.org.

The Moyer Foundation was founded by MLB All-Star pitcher, Jamie Moyer and his wife, Karen. The Foundation's mission is to provide comfort and support to children enduring a time of profound physical, emotional or financial distress. With the community's support, The Moyer Foundation has raised more than \$15 million to assist over 170 different programs and community initiatives that directly serve the needs of children in severe distress. In addition to supporting organizations through grants, The Moyer Foundation created and funds CampMariposa, for children affected by addiction, and **Camp Erin**, the largest national network of bereavement camps for children and teens. CampErin is a grief camp designed for children ages 6-17 who have experienced the death of a parent, friend or loved one. It is a weekend-long experience filled with traditional, fun, camp activities combined with grief education and emotional support -- facilitated by grief professionals and trained volunteers. There are currently 29 camps in 18 states. Through the Foundation's national "Campaign for Kids" the Moyer Foundation hopes to bring CampErin to more than 50 cities nationwide. For more information visit www.moyerfoundation.org