Dr. Laura Lieberman originated Camp Abilities in New York in 1996 to give visually impaired children an opportunity to participate in various adaptive sports. Students who attended the camp played games and gained self-advocacy skills. Since 1996 nearly thirty Camp Abilities have emerged around the globe.

Katie Strack Proctor founded Camp Abilities North Georgia (CANGA) in 2018, and she continues to spearhead it. A graduate of Cherokee High School, Georgia College and State University, and Florida State University, Katie holds a masters degree in visual disabilities and is the lead vision teacher for the Cherokee County School District.

While spending time with visually impaired children, Katie realized a vital part of her own youth, summer camp, was not available to the sight impaired. “Summer camp was a place where magical things happened,” she recalls of her own camping experiences as a child. It became her mission to provide a similar experience to visually impaired children.

At Camp Abilities kids get to know their peers, have fun, and be independent.

“When I am at CANGA I have trouble sleeping because I’m so excited to see the kids learning so many new things. It’s the best high.”

–Katie Strack Proctor

CANGA is a three-day camp providing one-on-one coaching so children can focus on things they can do to enjoy and excel in sports and recreation. Participants learn sport-adaptation skills and ways to self-advocate so they can join school sport teams. Best of all, CANGA is offered to twenty local youngsters at a time at no charge. CANGA is staffed entirely by volunteers and funded by donations from the Canton and Ball Ground Lions Club, the Foreseeable Futures Foundation, Cherokee County businesses, and fundraising events such as Dining in the Dark.

In 2014 Katie started The Blind Believers, an extracurricular club for the socialization of blind or visually impaired Cherokee County students. Their motto is “I can do anything you can do, just in a different way,” That motto carries through to CANGA.