



### Dan Chopin

Comedian Dan Chopin is joining Stand Up for Kids once again. This year, not only will Dan be the opening comedy act, he will also be our Emcee for the evening. Dan delivers a fast-paced mix of spot-on stand-up routines, clever one-liners and original comedy songs that are as timely and relevant as they are pointless and silly. Dan will make you laugh with his infectious sense of humor and his hysterical rants about the world around us. Dan has over twenty years of experience performing at comedy clubs, colleges, and corporate events and has appeared on dozens of national and regional television shows as well as hundreds of morning-radio programs and talk shows.

Dan grew up in a crowded house in St. Louis where he learned early how to speak up and get attention. In the mid 80s, while studying acting and advertising at the University of Missouri, Dan put on an improv group with some friends, did the freeze-tag-give-us-an-occupation things for a couple of years and then started performing stand-up at open mic nights and clubs around the Midwest. In 1987, Dan moved to LA and landed a regular spot at the world-famous improvisation Comedy Club in Hollywood. His exposure there led to bookings on the national-club circuit and appearances on MTV, HBO, Showtime, A&E and PBS. Dan is an accomplished stand-up comedian, comedy writer, actor, and musician. Dan still lives in St. Louis with his wife and kids. Lemay Child and Family Center is proud to have Dan returning to Stand Up for Kids.



### Mark Sweeney

Mark Sweeney is a 20-year comedy veteran and a former Marine. He's been seen on Comedy Central, Short Attention Span Theater, Days of Our Lives, Boston Public and Third Rock from the Sun. He's worked his magic for audiences from Duluth to Belize to Kandahar. As the author of *The Court Jester*, Mark, with humor and clarity, details the rise from a young class clown to a grown man flourishing in the lower middle class.

Surviving high school in the seventies, and being one of six kids was no easy task, but it was accomplished, barely, and provides a humorous look at life. Further adding uncertainty to his already complex life, Mark decided to join the Marines. He didn't turn comedy into a vocation until after his stint in the Marines and four years in college. While working at a bar in downtown St. Louis, his boss, a former comedy club manager, suggested Sweeney try stand-up. Within a year he was doing it full-time. He wound up in Los Angeles, where his career took off. Mark continues to stay active with the Armed Forces through multiple visits to Iraq and Afghanistan to raise troop morale. Lemay Child and Family Center is excited to have Mark joining us for the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Stand Up for Kids.