



Fall 2010

The Royal Page

Royal Family Kids' Camps, Inc.

Vol. 16

A personal word from Founders Wayne and Diane Tesch What's your favorite camp memory?



Swimming. Activity Centers. Friendships. Camp fires. Everybody's Birthday Party. For 7,000 boys and girls who have been abused, abandoned and neglected, it might be hard to choose.

But one thing they could probably all agree on: Royal Family Kids' Camps 2010 was a life-changing experience!

Our warmest thanks and deepest appreciation to everyone who gave their time, talent, and treasure to make Royal Family Kids' Camps such an amazing experience for children in tremendous need.

This year, we're pleased to report that we had 150 camps in 34 states and approximately 22 international camps as well! Our wonderful volunteers numbered approximately 8,000.

God bless you for planting seeds of hope in these young children —hope that there's a better future ahead, hope that there are people who care ... and most importantly, hope in knowing that God loves them. What a lasting difference you've made!

A boy's dream ... Mini Baseball Camp during Royal Family Kids' Camps in Pinson, AL.



Sailing is a breeze at the Ocala, FL camp.



Some photos have been altered to protect campers' identity.

Expanding Our Borders ... For the sake of the children

Celebrate with us! Our first annual South African **“Royal Family Leadership Conference”** was successfully held at Jackson’s Ridge Children’s Ministry Training Center in Rustenberg, South Africa.

Under the direction of Charmaine Hendricks, our South African Camp Coordinator, 26 Directors and leaders of our Royal Family Kids’ Camps came from all over South Africa and surrounding areas to spend the day planning and learning together!

Eight Royal Family Kids’ Camps were planned across South Africa this year, and with God’s help and your tremendous support — **10 camps will operate in 2011.**

Thank you for being faithful and for allowing us to expand our



borders, for the sake of children *everywhere*, who deserve a better tomorrow.

A Smile Broke Through ...

He was a tiny seven-year-old with a giant personality. He stepped off the bus and captured the hearts of our entire Royal Family Kids’ Camps’ team.

He walked with a swagger and talked with an attitude — by the second day of camp he was performing his Sammy Sosa greeting, his “gangsta” dancing and providing high entertainment for every camper and Counselor he came in contact with.

But this little boy never smiled. Behind his “tough boy” façade, there was a lot of pain and hurt.

One evening, Christian athlete and motivational speaker Keith Davis visited camp ... an amazing role model for our kids! He had an abusive childhood but overcame his past — even graduating from high school with the highest GPA of any other USC athlete.

At the end of his performance, he chose our little “gangsta” camper to join him on stage! He let him wear his ROSE BOWL JERSEY and his ROSE BOWL Ring. The looks on this little camper’s face

were priceless. **A smile broke through.**

As the week progressed, the little boy’s Counselor had the opportunity to talk heart-to-heart with him. Although entertaining and cute, the young boy’s tough attitude was a red flag to the Counselor who had grown up in the same community.

The Counselor asked the little boy what he wanted to be when he grew up. Without hesitation the boy said “A Gangster!” The Counselor was able to lovingly explain to the camper what a gangster was and how this little boy had such talent and potential to be anything he wanted to be, but not someone who would hurt others and cause pain.

The little boy said he’d think about it. By the end of camp, he told his Counselor he had decided to be a policeman instead!

Thanks to our dedicated Counselors and volunteers who show love and attention to impressionable young people and help to give these deserving children the hope for a better future.

A Royal Star

They are more than just abused, abandoned and neglected children. Each camper comes to us with special talents, abilities and potential that just needs to be encouraged and affirmed.

Like Jeremy* — the 11-year-old young boy came from a group home where he was regularly bullied by the other children.

He was shy. Quiet. Uncertain.

But after a few days at camp, as we lifted and loved him with no strings attached, the “real” Jeremy began to blossom! He was a natural entertainer who loved music and rap. He wrote and performed the following rap for the camper talent show:

R-F-K-C EASY TO RAP, NO DAP

Gonna have me some fun
And play in the sun.
I got my own bunk bed
And I am getting fed.
Stayin’ cool in the pool.
Don’t drool in school.
Lucky for me I am at camp,
Chillin’ like a champ.
I like goin’ on hikes
And ridin’ bikes.
So happy to be here
With everybody near.
Don’t miss out,
This is what camp is all about!

Why I Like RFKC...

I like Royal Family Kids’ Camps because they treat you like royalty here and I love it!

— Jasmine

Much to Jeremy’s delight, we took a leftover vinyl record decoration from a 1950’s sock hop party and framed it, together with the printed lyrics to his rap.

The Camp Directors made a special “Platinum Record” presentation to our Royal star in recognition of his special music talent.

Thank you for helping us to build positive memories that last a lifetime.

**Name has been changed to protect the child’s identity.*



Jeremy smiles proudly after receiving his “Platinum Record” at Camp.

Changing Lives ... YEAR ROUND!

A 60% jump ... that's what we've just witnessed!

This year, Royal Friends' Clubs matched 170 campers to Mentors in clubs located in eight states plus Australia! **With seven more new clubs actively planning to launch this fall, Royal Friends is really taking off!**

Even more exciting, volunteers are reporting the amazing difference that a year of attention from a Mentor can make in the life of an abused or neglected child.

The Michigan Club Director noted, "Everyone at camp was talking about the difference in the mentored kids; they were more confident, more comfortable and they 'took ownership' in new ways!"

One camper was so shy during his first year of camp that he literally hid under tables to avoid adults. Last year, however, he and his Royal Friends' Club Mentor went to the community pool together every week. And by this summer, "Shy Sam*" had become confident "Swimmer Sam" who won the top swimming level award!

Then there's Keisha* — a largely ignored little girl in a struggling single mother home. In fact, Keisha's three teenage siblings already have children of their own. Keisha has the ability to just "disappear" in a crowd.



But this year, Keisha has developed a beautiful relationship with her Mentor, Susan. "Susan has been the perfect match for Keisha," the Club Director said. "She has spoken into her life that there is another way of living ... she does not have to have children at a young age or go to jail." At the closing ceremony for Royal Friends' Clubs, there was a slide show of the year's photos. Keisha's mother remarked in surprise that she had never seen her child smile as much as she did in those pictures! This summer, Keisha went to Royal Family Kids' Camps a carefree and outgoing little girl — no longer the child who "seemed to disappear."

God bless you for supporting this wonderful outreach through your faithful giving and prayer. You are helping to change young lives, all the year through!

**Name has been changed to protect the child's identity.*

October: United Way Giving Month

Here's another outstanding way you can follow your heart and help young children who have been abused, abandoned and neglected: through United Way Giving Month this October!

Simply check with your employer to see if they are

participating. Then direct your employee contribution to Royal Family Kids' Camps when you fill out your enrollment form for United Way giving — just use RFKC Inc. and our IRS 501-C3 number: 33-0380021.

You'll receive your tax-

deductible receipt from United Way, and of course a percentage of your donation will go toward United Way itself and its other charitable works.

We appreciate your support of Royal Family Kids' Camps through United Way!

The Gift of a Grandpa

You can probably just close your eyes and imagine your own grandpa ... your favorite memory, something he taught you, the unconditional love he showed you.

But for our young campers, "family" is a foreign concept. And "Grandpa?" Someone they've probably heard of, but never met.

So when four little six-year-old boys came bounding over to the yo-yo center, they discovered far more than just how to throw a trick or two ... they discovered the gift of a grandpa!

If you had been privileged to peek in on the scene, you would have been mesmerized: Four

energetic little boys. Yo-yo's flying everywhere. And "Grandpa Lynn" patiently working with each little guy to try and capture their attention.

It didn't take long for Grandpa Lynn to realize that he needed a "Plan B" to engage these little boys. Without missing a beat, he began to use his Donald Duck voice ...

Four little boys, incapable of being still for more than 15 seconds, sat in awed silence as

Grandpa Lynn threw trick after trick. They had him use his voice over and over and they watched, fascinated — giggling and smiling.

This is what Royal Family Kids' Camps is all about! It's a week of joy, of childhood fun, of positive memories and loving adults ... all made possible by friends like you. Thank you for giving these four little boys the chance to experience the gift of grandpa — thank you for giving 7,000 young campers like them a summer to remember!



A Wedding + A Reunion

Not just any date will work when it comes to setting a wedding date! Shane Stegan, and his new bride Jillian Anthony, both of them Houghton College graduates, specifically chose their June wedding date to ensure that they could both be back in time to be Counselors at the Royal Family Kids' Camps in Houghton, New York. The couple also made the choice to put little notes at each place setting at their reception: "In lieu of wedding favors, an equivalent amount will be donated to Royal Family Kids' Camps."

But not only did Shane celebrate his wedding ... once he came to camp, there was a reunion as well. Shane was paired up to be a Buddy Counselor with Dr. Doug Mahle, who was actually the doctor who delivered Shane at birth 25 years ago!

What a blessing that Shane and Doug were able to meet again through working together at Royal Family Kids' Camps 25 years later. What are the odds of that!

Something Beautiful

Something beautiful and useful out of something useless and ordinary? At Royal Family Kids' Camps, we see the miracle happen a lot!

Kids come to us broken and bruised. Most of the adults in their lives have already given up on them. Beautiful? These children feel discarded. Useful? They no longer dream of a better future.

But one week at camp ... one tremendous week of being loved and esteemed, listened to and cared for ... and all of that changes.

Like our camper in the picture below. He's had a tough



childhood. Experienced too much rejection. Severe behavior problems are just one of the many scars he bears.

Last year was his first year at camp. He wasn't sure he'd like it. In fact, he made us promise he could go home if he wanted to.

This year, his application was the first one we received!

At the talent show this summer, he sang our camp song, "Never Let Go" with his Counselor ... there wasn't a dry eye in the room.

This little guy is one example of many — lives you help change, futures you make brighter. Together, we're helping to make their young lives beautiful!

This young camper and his dedicated Counselor worked together to build their "masterpiece" bench ... patiently constructed out of pieces of scrap wood! As you can see, we'll go to any length to help our campers dream big and experience success — even when others say it's impossible.

Why I Like RFKC...

Because I love it and it is really fun to see all my friends. I just wish it was a month, not a week. I feel really happy for all the people here.

— Nicole

Dear God,
I need a forever
family, family,
family, a family
with a mom,
dad, and a few
brothers that care
about me.

Love,
Dalton

**Name has been changed to protect the child's identity.*

Check out our website!

Please visit us at www.rfkc.org to:

- Read moving personal testimonies
- Find Royal Family Kids' Camps near you
- And so much more!



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