



CAMP NOAH

Building Resiliency. Restoring Hope. Changing Lives.

October 2014

Celebrating Campers!

It's all about the kids! Yes, we (definitely) need a trained volunteer team, a facility, funding, food, and lots of other important pieces to make a Camp Noah event happen—but those things aren't enough without the key element of every camp: CAMPERS!

The campers make the process of organizing and hosting a Camp Noah totally worth the craziness. Their smiles, laughter, tears, honesty, and wisdom are gifts to one another and to the adults who are privileged to spend time with them.

Among so many incredible moments at camp, here are a few that stand out this year:

- When talking about what hopes they had for the future, a camper said, “I have no hope.” The other campers rallied around him, encouraging and supporting him. Finally he admitted that secretly he wants to grow up and become a doctor so he can help people.
- A camper had severe, limited verbal autism and was terrified on Monday morning when he got to camp. The environment, although warm and friendly, was new to him. After about an hour or so, he adjusted and seemed to enjoy the remainder of the day. On Monday evening, the Site Coordinator received this text from the camper's mother: “Thank you so much for loving [our son] and making him feel special in a good way, instead of special because of his disabilities. [He] asked to pray over dinner tonight. This was a first. His prayer went like this: “Dear God, thank you for my family. Thank you for Camp Noah. Thank you God for all the fun I had today. Please don't let Camp Noah ever, ever end. Please make the night go fast so I can go back tomorrow!”
- On Day 2, after a camper had shared his storm story, another camper in the Small Group told him he was really brave for sharing his story, and thanked him.
- One camper came into the Healing Room, plopped herself down in a comfy chair, and informed the Mental Health Professional that she just needed some “peace and quiet.”

Best of all, 99% of campers said they had fun at Camp Noah this year!

www.campnoah.org

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