Camp Fire USA
LONE STAR COUNCIL

The Lone Star

JULY 2004

THE END OF AN ERA

For the past three years, the Lone Star Council has provided Camp Fire USA programs in school communities throughout Dallas. Based out of eight DISD schools, these programs touched the lives of over **3,000** students and their families during this short time.

Yet this summer, our three-year contract with these schools comes to an end; originally designed as a renewable contract, these grants recently changed from federal funding to state grants, and the contracts will no longer be continued with Camp Fire USA. Unless the council can quickly secure replacement funds, these wonderful programs will be closed by next school year.

"We've been able to do so much," says Yolanda G. Santos, director of the programs. "These families really love Camp Fire USA, and have such a strong desire to stay involved. Volunteers will keep a few clubs running, but we really need staff support to make the programs last."

These programs provided DISD schools with a combination of after-school programs, adult classes, family programs and camping opportunities. Camp Fire USA was the **lead agency** for the "*Las Luces en la Noche*" grant at Cowart, Kahn and Winnetka Elementary Schools; these schools were feeders to the council's fourth school, Greiner Middle School. The council also ran programs in four other schools through the DISD's "*New Neighborhood*" grant.

"The great thing about these programs is that they served the **entire community**, not just the students," says Santos. Open every weekday, these programs provided youth from low-income families with the opportunity to develop important character traits and strong academic skills. Without these programs, many would have joined the **100,000+** local children who are home alone after school.

"Crime **triples** when the school bell rings," says Tim James, Executive Director of the Lone Star Council. "That's why it's so critical for Camp Fire to be in these communities."

In addition to the after-school programs, the council also provided **adult classes** on computer skills, parenting, tax preparation and ESL (English as Second Language). Many of these classes required adults to become involved in their school's PTA, as well as Camp Fire USA's Community Family Club program.

A few of the family programs will be maintained through **volunteer support** and limited funds from other sources, but the council ultimately depends on the support of the community to serve its mission of "building caring, confident youth and future leaders" in the DISD.

"Many principals and parents have voiced their support for having Camp Fire in their community," says Santos. "They understand that

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Beginning in September of 2001, this program helped the council to **double** the number of **Latinos** that it serves.

Reaching **517** people in 2001, this program grew to serve **2,299** in 2002 and **1,855** in 2003.

www.campfireusadallas.org/21st CCLC

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We build caring, confident youth and future leaders!

Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage
Permit #2447
Dallas, Texas

A United Way Agency

Camp Fire USA turns today's kids into tomorrow's leaders!

The End of An Era (continued)

these programs teach lessons that are just as valuable as what the kids learn in school."

By supporting these programs, you can ensure a bright future for Dallas and the thousands of children the council serves each year. If your family or company would like to become involved, please contact Jeremy Gregg at 214 824 1122 or at the email address below.

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Upcoming Events

July	No Board Meeting
Aug 5	Transmittals Due to Registrar
Aug 6	Quarterly Staff Meeting
	Summer Day Camp Ends
Aug 19	Board Meeting
Nov 13	AUCTION - SAVE THE DATE

For more info, email admin@campfireusadallas.org

ExxonMobil Community Summer Jobs Program

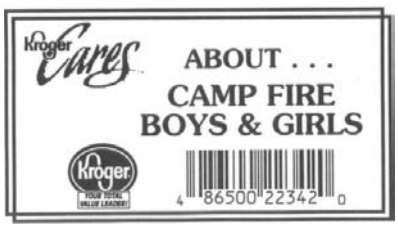
Jaynaia Williams joined Camp Fire USA Lone Star Council as part of the ExxonMobil Community Summer Jobs Program (CSJP). Jaynaia is a senior at University of Texas at Arlington with a major in interdisciplinary studies.

Jaynaia Williams

As our CSJP intern, Jaynaia played a crucial role in soliciting in-kind donations for the **Sporting Chance Auction**, to be held on November 13th. She also worked on many marketing projects that will increase awareness of Camp Fire USA in the community.

We are grateful to the ExxonMobil Foundation for allowing Camp Fire USA to be a part of the CSJP, and thank Jaynaia for her exceptional work ethic and her dedication to the mission and youth of Camp Fire USA.

The CSJP, funded by the ExxonMobil Foundation and administered by the Volunteer Center of Dallas County, provides full-time college students with eight-week paid internships at 75 Dallas-area nonprofit agencies.

Grocery Shopping Benefits Camp Fire USA

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