

Summer 2010

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We are selling our office building & plan to relocate.

We are seeking new office space that fits our needs better than our current building. Stay tuned for future developments.

Camp Fire USA Mission:

*To Build Caring,
Confident Youth and
Future Leaders*

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Councilmember Davis joins us for AIK Day 2010

Absolutely Incredible Kids Day was Absolutely Incredible! Youth at the Kids Club site at Shiloh Village Apartments enjoyed a surprise visit from Dallas Councilmember Carolyn Davis on March 18, 2010 in honor of Absolutely Incredible Kids Day! Councilmember Davis took the time to read to the children and enjoyed some cake & punch with the youth. She also took the opportunity to talk to the students about staying in school and how proud she was of all their hard work!



Named as one of *D Magazine's* "50 Who Make Dallas Work", Councilmember Davis is making things work for her district by introducing Camp Fire USA Lone Star Council's Kids Club to the residents of the Shiloh Village Apartments. In operation at Shiloh Village since October of 2009, Kids Clubs provide safe, supportive out-of-school time care for at-risk children. Activities occur in a safe, structured environment where children develop friendships, personal resilience, self-respect, conflict resolution skills and a life-long love of learning. Youth also develop the skills needed to remain drug-free and gang-free.

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Accenture Job Workshop

Fifteen high-risk young adults, ages 18-21, attended a job readiness workshop hosted by Accenture, a business consulting firm on February 26, 2010. Participating youth have multiple barriers to obtaining and maintaining employment. This workshop, conducted by 12 volunteers, offered small group interaction and one-on-one mentoring with agency clients.

Accenture is a global management consulting, technology services and outsourcing company. Combining unparalleled experience, comprehensive capabilities across all industries and business functions, and extensive research on the world's most successful companies, Accenture collaborates with clients to help them become high-performance businesses and governments. Their experience and expertise proved invaluable to the clients we serve.

Camp Fire USA Lone Star Council's employment program helps these high-risk young



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Camp Fire USA Names Cathy Tisdale as National CEO

After a nationwide search, the Board of Trustees of Camp Fire USA has selected Cathy Tisdale as the next Chief Executive Officer of the national youth organization dedicated to building caring, confident youth and future leaders. Prior to joining Camp Fire USA, Ms. Tisdale held several senior leadership positions in nonprofit management with significant experience in building and leading organizations and teams to achieve mission, strategy and impact. Ms. Tisdale officially joined Camp Fire USA on June 17, 2010.



"We have great confidence in Cathy's leadership," said Glenn Cravez, chair of the Camp Fire USA board of trustees, "and we are pleased to have her take the helm as our new CEO. As Camp Fire celebrates its centennial in 2010, we are already looking ahead to the next one hundred years. Cathy brings the experience and expertise needed to successfully position our 100 year old organization in the modern, innovative light that is reflective of our 21st century programs

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Executive Notes

By Rita K. De Young

Dear Friends of Camp Fire:

Summer is such a wonderful time at Camp Fire. Children arrive with awe and shouts of glee as they begin to experience hiking, canoeing, swimming and other activities at Ellowi Summer Day Camp, our campsite in Cedar Hill. Extended summer hours at our Kids Club programs at apartment sites give children a safe space and opportunities to learn, socialize and develop throughout the summer months.

We are excited that more multi-family apartment communities are welcoming our Kids Club and Teens in Action programs. Managers recognize that keeping kids busy afterschool and in the summer not only keeps them safe, it also reduces loitering and criminal activity on their property. And it reduces turnover which is very high for low-income families. We are grateful for the partnerships we have with nearly twenty communities in Dallas, Collin and southern Denton counties.

We are also grateful for new partnerships with businesses like Accenture that conducted a workshop for our Employment clients. These 18-21 year olds have little, if any job experience. Personal interaction with corporate professionals made them feel that the community really cared about them and it motivated them to pursue their dreams of earning a living wage.

We also started a partnership with Dallas Community Lighthouse, a sister afterschool program. We are providing our Teens in Action program at three of their apartment sites. Previously, they only served youth up to 14 years. Now they can meet the needs of older teens as well.

If you or your business would like to share in the joy of transforming the lives of at-risk youth, please contact me at 214-824-1122 Ext. 101.

New Director of Development

Camp Fire welcomed Sid Buniff as our new Director of Development on May 3rd. Sid brings ten years of development experience with secondary and higher education institutions. With more than a decade of experience coaching elementary, middle and high school age youth, he brings a passion for helping the youth of our community.

Sid received a Master of Business Administration degree with concentrations in Not-For-Profit Management and Sports & Entertainment Management from the University of Dallas. He also has a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration from Northwestern State University. He resides in Carrollton with his wife Niva and their two sons, Jacob and Mason.



New National CEO

(Continued from page 1)

that serve our nation's youth." He went on to say that "Camp Fire USA has made great strides under the interim leadership of Pamela Wilcox and we want to thank her and the entire national staff for their outstanding work and for helping to chart our course. The board is confident that Cathy will now take the organization to the next level in achieving its mission to youth."

"At a time when Americans have never felt more polarized politically or challenged economically, Camp Fire USA offers youth fun and engaging ways to develop as leaders and good citizens," said Tisdale. "I am honored to be named as the CEO of an organization with a 100 year old tradition of fostering leadership and service among America's young people."

Ms. Tisdale developed a broad range of nonprofit management expertise during her 28 year career at American Red Cross, serving at both the local and national level, and most recently as a Vice President for three years at Girl Scouts USA Corporate Headquarters in New York. Cathy offers a track record of achievement at both the nonprofit affiliate and headquarters levels and has served in geographically and demographically diverse markets. Throughout her career, she has held leadership positions focused on strong partnerships with board and staff to direct strategy, increase efficiency and effectiveness, and achieve measurable increases in philanthropic support, program revenue and growth.

New Marketing Intern



Camp Fire welcomed Christine Fiedler as our summer 2010 Marketing Intern on June 7th. The internship was made possible through the ExxonMobil Community Summer Jobs Program. Christine is going to be a senior at Southern Methodist University and is majoring in Advertising. She has been involved in charity work throughout high school and college. In high school she was a part of National Charity League in Austin and was elected president her senior year. Throughout college she has worked with several nonprofit organizations, planned fundraising events, and participated in Advertising Club meetings. We are thrilled to have Christine as a part of the marketing team at Camp Fire to help promote our programs and cause.

The ExxonMobil Community Summer Jobs Program provides full-time college students with a paid internship allowing them to gain hands-on experience in a wide range of community organizations. Now in its 20th year, the Dallas Community Summer Jobs Program is one of the largest in the country. During that time, more than 1,475 college students have interned with a diverse selection of community nonprofit agencies.

Gamma Phi Beta Students Volunteer for Camp Fire

Students from the SMU Chapter of Gamma Phi Beta stepped forward to serve Camp Fire by volunteering as tutors for the Academic Enrichment program held in our Kids Clubs. Students also made Valentine's Day cards for the students. Their service adds to more than 75 hours of community service since the beginning of the year.

Although Gamma Phi Beta is primarily considered a social organization, the sorority has a long history of community service and philanthropic participation.

In 1929, camping for girls was designated the official philanthropy of Gamma Phi Beta and today the organization supports Camp Fire USA. Since 2001, more than \$400,000 has been donated to Camp Fire USA and its local councils. Local chapters of Gamma Phi Beta support other philanthropies as well.



GAMMA PHI BETA
FOUNDATION

This summer we were able to send twenty-one economically disadvantaged girls to Ellowi Summer Day Camp because of the generous support of the Dallas Alumnae Chapter and the Gamma Phi Beta Foundation.

Hillcrest Foundation Provides Funding for New Transportation

A very generous \$50,000 grant from the Hillcrest Foundation, provided funding for Camp Fire to purchase a new 14 passenger minibus that meets all Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards for school buses. This new bus allows us to retire some aging, high mileage 14 passage vans. Research studies indicate that this bus will offer a longer road life and be less expensive to maintain. This is part of our strategic plan to integrate a range of safety measures into the transportation of the children and families we serve.

Camp Fire transports hundreds of children and youth on a regular basis for field trips, college tours, community service projects and Ellowi Summer Day Camp every year. We also transport families for Community Family Club outings.



Area Youth Are Having the Time of Their Lives

Camp is an adventure of a lifetime. Children don't have to go away for weeks at a time to make memories that will last forever. Ellowi Summer Day Camp is a camp with hours that fit the needs of working parents and fun that fits the needs of bored kids. Camp Ellowi at 1227 Straus Rd in Cedar Hill, Texas is located just west of Joe Pool Lake. Our beautiful 65 acre campground is transformed into an adventure wonderland for children ages 5 thru 12 yrs old.

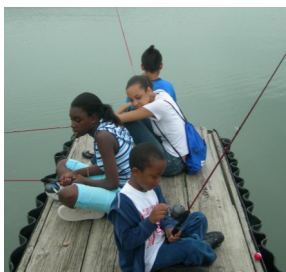
Campers experience days filled with adventure, supervised by trained, qualified and caring adult staff. Ellowi Summer Day Camp offers the flexibility parents need by allowing children to be registered only for weeks that are needed.

Ellowi Summer Day Camp activities are not only fun, they teach teamwork, conflict resolution and a variety of other life skills. Archery, canoeing, fishing, hiking, and arts & crafts are just a few of the age-appropriate activities led by caring adult staff, who specialize in building self esteem. Youth are participating in a variety of special events, as well. From cultural fairs and guest speakers to talent shows and cooking demonstrations, youth are learning life skills and are having a great time while doing it.

The 2010 "Send a Kid to Camp" fundraiser was held online for the first time and was a huge success. Support poured in online from more than 200 donors and raised more than \$12,779. Off-line we also received donations from several other donors, Camp Fire USA National Office, Gamma Phi Beta Foundation and the Dallas Alumnae Chapter of Gamma Phi Beta. All of this generosity allowed more than 107 economically disadvantaged boys and girls living in low-income apartment communities to attend Ellowi Summer Day Camp. THANK YOU FOR THE SUPPORT!



A complete day of Ellowi Summer Day Camp deserves a good nap.



Need a place for a family reunion, church cookout, or weekend retreat?

Camp Ellowi is the place for you! Located on 65 beautifully wooded acres just 20 minutes from downtown Dallas, in Cedar Hill, our camp has a large meeting hall with a fully equipped kitchen, screened cabins, a bath house, picnic tables and a swimming pool that make this the perfect place for your special gathering. For more information and pricing, please contact Sheri Hemby at 214.824.1122 ext. 103 or shemby@campfireusadallas.org.



We Appreciate Our Contributors

December 1, 2009 — July 20, 2010

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Accenture Job Workshop

(Continued from page 1)

adults gain the skills and resources they need to become caring, confident adults and future leaders. Services include training in the job search process, resume writing, interviewing, appropriate workplace behaviors and job retention skills. Each client is assisted in identifying career goals and possible barriers and then provided the tools to overcome those barriers.

Camp Fire was introduced to Accenture through the Volunteer Engagement Department at United Way of Metropolitan Dallas. Accenture, interested in mentoring with a non-profit, approached the United Way for assistance. Recognizing a natural fit, Telesa Walton, Director of Volunteer Engagement with United Way, introduced Camp Fire to Meredith Fee, Marketing & Communications with Accenture. Camp Fire looks forward to continuing this beneficial relationship with Accenture.



Absolutely Incredible Kids Day

(Continued from page 1)



Absolutely Incredible Kids Day is a national, annual letter writing campaign urging adults to write letters of love and support to the children in their lives. Camp Fire USA Lone Star Council took the opportunity to celebrate children for the entire week of March 15-19!! From day camps to parties to Community Family Clubs with parents, youth were celebrated and appreciated.

Dallas AfterSchool Network First Annual Afterschool Achievers Celebration

Two youth from Camp Fire, Joe Sanchez and Keldrick Buckley, received awards at the DASN First Annual Afterschool Achievers Celebration on May 11, 2010.

Joe (*right*) just completed 3rd grade and has been participating in Camp Fire programs for 3 years. He is on the A/B Honor Roll and has lots of creativity and energy. Joe is not only bright, he's a talented singer and performer.



Keldrick (*left*) is 15 years old and attends Justin F. Kimball High School. Having overcome challenging circumstances, Keldrick has taken the things he's learned at Camp Fire and is sharing them with others. He regularly volunteers as a mentor to the younger Kids Club participants and does public speaking on behalf of Camp Fire to share what it's done for him.

More than 500 people attended the DASN Inaugural Afterschool Achievers Celebration, at the Lakewood Theater. That night, Joe and Keldrick were joined by 38 other students to recognize their academic, athletic, artistic or leadership accomplishments.

New Program Sites

Summer began with a surge of growth for Camp Fire USA Lone Star Council! Three new Kids Club sites have opened across the Dallas area. Murdeaux Villas in South Dallas, Aventerra Apartments in North Dallas and The Waterford @ Valley Ranch in Irving began Kids Clubs programs on June 7, 2010. Teens in Action programs will also be held at Murdeaux Villas and at the Waterford @ Valley Ranch.

Camp Fire emphasizes the importance of completing high school and pursuing a college degree as a means of achieving personal aspirations and breaking the intergenerational cycle of poverty. Our programs provide youth with alternatives to violence, gangs and drugs that are such a prevalent part of these neighborhoods.

Kids Clubs provide safe, supportive after-school care for at-risk children ages 5-12 in low-income apartment communities. Activities occur in a safe, structured environment where children develop friendships, personal resilience, self-respect, intellectual curiosity, conflict resolution skills, healthy eating habits, reading and math skills and a life-long love of learning. Participants also develop the skills needed to remain drug-free and gang-free.

Our Teens in Action program is for youth ages 13-18 who live in low-income apartment communities, opportunities to improve their communities. Our service projects challenge youth to learn new skills and provide leadership in ways they never thought possible.

Partnership with Dallas Community Lighthouse

Camp Fire USA Lone Star Council and Dallas Community Lighthouse (DCL) have collaborated to bring Campfire USA's program "Teens in Action" to Kid Campus.

The collaboration began in May 2010 with Teens in Action mentors at each of the DCL Campuses to involve the students in service learning projects which will teach the teens responsibility, a sense of community and leadership skills.

Service learning helps youth develop in countless ways. Helping others allows teens to step outside of themselves and their concerns and begin to develop the empathy and understanding they will need to function in a global society. It helps them develop teamwork, problem-solving, and communication skills as they work with others to make their projects a reality. The ability to effectively manage projects will prove to be an invaluable skill as teens enter the workforce. Some of the service projects our youth are experiencing include a community crime watch initiative, fundraiser to purchase needed games and books for a local nursing home, promoting safe dating habits, conducting an analysis on park safety in their community, teaching community members how to conserve energy and recycle, adopting a flower bed project and organizing a trash pickup to beautify their apartment community, and planning field trips to area colleges.

With this new partnership with Dallas Community Lighthouse and the opening of these new program sites, Camp Fire will have the opportunity to serve 150 more at-risk youth in these low-income apartment complexes.



LONE STAR COUNCIL

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W I S H L I S T

Community support is vital to our ability to provide services. We rely heavily on the generosity of people like you. Here are some of our current needs. If you can help, please contact us at 214.824.1122.

Sid Buniff, Director of Development
sbuniff@campfireusadallas.org
Ext. 104

Sheri Hemby, Director of Program Services
shemby@campfireusadallas.org
Ext. 103

Program Needs

Arts & Crafts Supplies	Laptops or Computers with Windows XP
Board Games (educational & recreational)	Nail Gun
Books (fiction & nonfiction for youth)	Non-perishable, Healthy Snacks
Bulletin Boards	Paper Products (plates, napkins, cups)
Cleaning Supplies	Photo Paper
Erosion Prevention Services	Plastic Products (spoons, forks, knives)
Freezer	Shelving
Gas Cards	Solar Lights, Head Lamps, Flashlights
Hardware Store Gift Cards (Camp Ellowi repairs)	Televisions/DVD Players

Administrative Needs

Copy Paper	Microwave	TV/DVD Combo
Digital Camera (7.1 or higher)	Office Supply Gift Cards	
Digital Video Camera	Printing Services	

GO GREEN & HELP US SAVE!

You can help Camp Fire USA Lone Star Council reduce costs and help reduce paper consumption by informing us that you prefer to receive our newsletter via email.

To go green, please send an email to admin@campfireusadallas.org.

www.campfireusadallas.org