



EQUIPPING BOYS FOR LIFE

Wilderness SUNRISE

Spring 2016

LIFE HAS COME AROUND FULL CIRCLE

Kyle doesn't remember a whole lot about his childhood, but according to his parents, he was a very troubled boy. Kyle grew up in a solid Christian home with parents who were committed to each other and their family. They were never able to determine the reason for his misbehavior.

"Kyle had no perception of right or wrong," his father recalls. "He was very angry and disturbed. He would lash out at us, his teachers, and other children. After second grade, the Christian school he was attending requested that he not return. In public school, he severely threatened another child and was sent to a mental hospital for evaluation. They recommended long term treatment."

Kyle's parents were not comfortable with that institution's program so they began to look for other options. Fair Play was highly recommended to them. After visiting camp, they decided that it was the place for Kyle. "The staff was so gentle, meek and understanding," his father commented. "It was most certainly an answer to our prayers."

"Dropping our 8 year old son off at camp was the most difficult thing we ever did," his father remembers. "But we were at our wits end. In another way it was a relief. We finally had hope that Kyle could be helped. It was difficult to admit that we were not able to do it ourselves. We needed help and Fair Play provided exactly what we needed."

"I was very selfish and out of control," Kyle recalls. "Camp provided structure that I needed. We planned everything together – our meals, activities and trips. I remember hours upon hours of being in a circle solving problems. Camp also helped me to see that my actions affected everyone – it's just not all about me!"

After his graduation, Kyle was a radically different boy. There were a few ups and down, but they were able to work through the issues.

"After graduating camp I really craved order and discipline in my life," Kyle states. "I began to respond to my parents instead of constantly resisting them."

He went on to attend Bob Jones Academy through High School. "I really thrived on the structure in that environment. It was almost a second camp experience," he comments. He then went on to college to pursue a music career where he met his wife. Today he teaches music at a Christian school in Charleston, SC.

"The main concept that has stuck with me from camp is how my life impacts others," Kyle concludes. "Life has come around full circle. I was the one in need of life lessons and now I am able to be the one teaching them."



Kyle with his wife and daughter



Kyle with his daughter

PARENT GROUP MEETINGS

HELPING FAMILIES COPE

Every six weeks, the families of boys at camp gather together in a hotel meeting room to encourage and reassure each other that they are not on this journey alone. For many families, having their boy at camp can be a frightening and lonely journey. Many of their friends and family do not understand the struggle they are going through. Parent group meetings can provide them the understanding and community they need for support while their son is at camp.

Meetings often start with a short presentation followed by a group discussion. But the best connecting happens after the meeting when families share more intently with each other. "Parent group meetings are a great time for the parents to speak into each other's lives," family worker Paul Graber comments. "The 20 words that a parent may say are often worth more than the lecture that we have planned. The meetings foster comradery as the parents exchange phone numbers and email addresses so they can support each other. Just like a group of campers, we expect the ones that are farther along in the journey to come alongside the new families."



"Parent group meetings are a great time for parents to see pictures and get updates on what the groups are doing and planning," family worker Kent Beiler explains. He agrees with Paul that "it is also a time of encouragement and support for parents and families. Parents can ask questions and interact together – talk about the hard things, laugh together about lighter things, and support each other in that way."

The goal of camp in facilitating these meetings is to empower families to grow to their potential in raising their children. Because of your prayers and financial support, this is another way that boys and their families are being equipped for life beyond camp. Thank you for partnering with us!

IT'S TIME FOR SOME NEW BUSES



For over 15 years, these buses have transported boys all over the eastern seaboard. Whether it's dropping boys off at the start of a hiking or canoe trip, tracing the slavery freedom route or taking campers home for home visits, they have done their job. Now they are getting older, repair costs are starting to mount up, and they have been breaking down at the most inopportune times.

The Board of Directors have decided that it's time to update our buses. At an approximate cost of \$46,000 each, it's a strain on the general budget. To help out with this project, enclose a donation in the attached envelope and check the box to use your donation for the new bus purchase.

Thank you for helping to make transportation safe and reliable for the campers!



SERVING OTHERS BRINGS CHANGE

JOSH & ANDREA YODER, PROGRAM DIRECTOR

When Josh Yoder arrived at Fair Play in 1999 to be a chief, he thought he came to help troubled boys change their lives. That certainly was his purpose for being at camp. But what surprised him was how much change he needed himself.

Many of the boys he was working with were very angry. This anger was often rooted in past experiences of hurt and rejection. For some, they held their anger inside. For others, like Brandon, they wore their feelings on their sleeve.

“I began to see that Brandon mirrored my own feelings,” Josh recalls. “It became obvious that if I was going to help these boys, I was going to have to experience healing myself.”

During the next two years, Josh began to experience healing from serving the boys and the staff at Fair Play investing in his life. When he went back home, he was a changed man. “Without my experience as chief at Fair Play,” Josh comments, “I would not be the man I am today! I learned that if we are not willing to change ourselves, we will not be able to help others.”

When Josh returned home, he started teaching school, married Andrea and settled down in southern Indiana. Andrea knew that they would probably be back. “Camp was in his heart. It is a part of who he is.”

In 2007 Josh and his family returned to Fair Play to fill the role as a Family Worker. Following that he became a Supervisor and then three years later became the Program Director

which is what he is doing today. Josh’s responsibilities include building a team between the boys, chiefs, supervisors and family workers to facilitate healing and growth in the boy’s time at camp.

When asked if Josh working for a ministry is a sacrifice Andrea responded, “Yes, but God has been faithful and has generously met our needs. There is a special fulfillment from working full time in the service of others. It has been a great experience for our family.”

“I want to thank our supporters for listening to the prompting of Christ and giving to the needs here at camp,” Josh concludes. “Recently a boy told his group, ‘I need help.’ His peers stood beside him as they dealt with his problem. Your generosity helps make these experiences possible. Together we are making a difference. Thank you for partnering with us!”



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347 Wilderness Trail, Westminster, SC 29693

Phone: 864.647.4311 • Fax: 864.647.4314

E-mail: camp@fairplaycamp.org

www.fairplaycamp.org



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STAFF NEWS

NEW ARRIVALS

- Lance Miller (Goshen, IN) joined the Explorer group as Chief in April.
- Edith Yoder (Nappanee, IN) moved south in April to help at the thrift stores.

DEPARTURES

- Joe Schwartz will return to OH after serving as an Explorer chief.

STAFF NEEDS

- Thrift Store: Guys and Girls
- Cook - Fall
- Two Chiefs - Fall
- Data Entry - Short Term

TRAIL NOTES

Daniel Hochstetler, *Executive Director*



I find myself wondering how we moved so quickly from the beginning of a new year to spring flowers and sunny days. Most of us have probably forgotten the resolutions we set and have settled into our normal routines. I was reminded of God's faithfulness by a journal entry of mine from January:

The most comforting thought about 2016 is the fact that God is already there. He will not be surprised by anything that happens in the next year. Nothing, good or bad, will catch Him off guard. He is prepared to walk with us and to give us direction. He is even prepared to redeem the mistakes we will make.

Truly God has already proven himself faithful this year. I love the fact that we can have peace doing what we have been called to do by the One who already loves us. At the end of the day, God loves us just the same. My prayer is that we can be faithful in showing this

peace and joy to those we rub shoulders with.

Continue to pray for boys and their families as they take steps toward healing past hurts and rebuilding relationships. Pray also for the families waiting for an opening for their son to be able to join Camp. This waiting can be a desperate time for them.

I was encouraged recently by a pastor who committed to leading his church to pray every week for our staff. It would be impossible to do camp without you! May you experience God's peace as you serve Him.

Take time to smell some spring flowers!
Chief Daniel

Return Service Requested

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