



HEART *of the* JOURNEY

Bringing you closer to the lives you help change



THANK YOU!

INSIDE

Mom and Son
Can Now
Communicate
Page 2

Home Visits &
Graduation
Page 3

How You can
Help More
Families
Page 4

I was at my wits' end!

How you helped a mom who didn't know where to turn

School started at 7:30. The calls from the principal's office would sometimes begin as early as 7:50.

"Lorenzo is acting out again. What are we going to do?" they would ask.

"Everyday, I would watch the clock," Shanika remembers. "If we could just make it another hour, without a call, it was such a blessing. I would often receive several calls each day. He was disrespectful to his teachers and other authority figures. He

would destroy the classroom. He would mistreat the other children. Every year he was going to the hearing board. Every year, from kindergarten to third grade, he was expelled."

"When he was around me or his stepfather, he would behave," Shanika continues. "But everywhere else he was a terror. When playing with other children, he would cause an incident and then blame it on someone else or call it an accident. He was very vindictive. He didn't like being corrected. He would

Continued on page 2

Continued from page 1

never accept responsibility for his actions.”

“I was at my wits’ end,” she explains. “When fourth grade began, something had to happen. I didn’t know what to do. He wasn’t going to make it at school. I had no where to turn. I couldn’t do it anymore. But I was not giving up on him. I began to search for resources or a place that could help him.”

Finally they were referred to Fair Play Camp School. Even after learning about camp, she wasn’t sure. She didn’t know anything about them, and they were over three hours away. But after visiting with Kent Beiler, a family worker, she felt like camp was the place for Lorenzo.

“The day we dropped off Lorenzo at camp was terrible,” Shanika said. “I trusted that he was going to be in good hands, but I cried the whole way home.”

During home visits, they started to see a change in Lorenzo. “The first thing I noticed was that he started opening up more,” she explained. “He was more willing to talk about problems and how he was feeling. The structure of camp forces you to deal with your problems and come up with a solution - no matter how long it takes.”

Life was different for Lorenzo after returning home. “The first couple months were amazing,” Shanika recalls. “It was like he was a whole different person.”

“Once he returned to school, some of the old problems cropped up. But he handles things differently



Lorenzo fondly remembers the trips, food and other activities at camp

now. He no longer destroys the classroom or physically harms other children. He has a mouth on him and sometimes doesn't know when to speak up or be quiet. That has caused him some problems. But thankfully, we aren't dealing with the big issues like before. “

“It’s hard to imagine what life would be like if Lorenzo hadn’t gone to camp.”

“Sometimes I would like to see him calm down sooner from situations, but he’s doing better,” Shanika said. “Since camp, he can express how he is feeling. Sometimes it will take a moment, but he will admit when he is wrong. Now I can talk with him, when there is a problem, and come up with a solution.”

“It’s hard to imagine what life would be like if Lorenzo hadn’t gone to camp,” Shanika concludes. “Our family regularly has game nights since he has come home. We did not do that before. Playing games was one of his favorite things at camp, and he wanted to continue that tradition at home.”

The power of your gift is incredible! You helped bring this family from chaos and struggle... and then to hope for a better future. *Thank you!*



Because of you, Lorenzo is learning how to live peaceably and joyfully with others



Each Visit Gets a Little Better

Your generosity sprang into action when this family needed you the most!

“This last home visit was different, Monica said, “because of the coronavirus, the previous home visit had been canceled, so it had been thirteen weeks since we had seen Jed. For Jed, it was a different world. He had to learn about wearing masks and social distancing.

It’s been a pleasure to watch Jed mature during the home visits over the past year. For example, instead of picking on and teasing his younger brother like he had previously, this time Jed was guiding him. When I had asked his brother to do something that he didn’t want to do, Jed suggested that he obey Momma and then they would go do their activity.

Before camp, Jed had problems articulating his feelings when he was upset or sad. As a result, he would act out in anger. He would be mean, aggressive, and very threatening. He was constantly being suspended at school. One time I feared for my safety and called the police.

About six months ago during a home visit, he responded very

poorly when I accused him of lying. I wasn’t sure what was going to happen, but he went for a walk. When he returned, he apologized and gave me a big hug. He would have never done that before.

He has a long way to go, but he is making progress. Before camp, I wasn’t sure what to do with him. I was afraid he would end up in the juvenile system. Now I have high hopes that he can become an active member in society.

When I started looking for a place that could help Jed, I quickly saw that there was no way that I could afford most of the programs. When I finally learned about Fair Play and talked with Paul Graber, he quickly assured me that helping Jed should be my priority – not my worrying about finances.”

“I am so grateful for the generous and loving people who financially support Fair Play. Without you, Jed would not be becoming the young man that he is today.”

Thank you!

It’s Been a Long Day from Where We Began

By Isaiah Webb, recently graduated Explorer

When I first came to camp I said to myself, I’m going to get out of here by my first session. It turns out that I was wrong.



I thought camp would be easy and fun, but it was hard, especially when I made it hard. I learned a lot about being friends with my group and chiefs. I had to try my best to learn how to trust.

The best parts about camp are being friends, helping each other out, games, swimming, paperwork, and most of all, peanut butter bars.

I have learned a lot at camp. I learned how to trust, forgive, and help others. Those things are important because, before camp, when I did not trust somebody I tried to get them out of my life by fighting them with my words and hands. I also would try to get back at them when I did not like what they did to me.

I’ve changed a lot of things in my life. The biggest things are not fighting when I’m mad, being respectful to my authorities, solving problems, and most of all, listening even when I don’t want to. Thank you so much for all the staff that helped me at camp.

A gift in your will could be the most important charitable gift you ever make.



Leaving a gift in your will to Fair Play Camp School is a once-in-a-lifetime chance to see that boys with emotional and behavior problems and their families have somewhere to turn for help, even after you're gone. Our new booklet about leaving a gift in your will is available now. For your free copy, check the box on the enclosed card and return in the envelope, call 864-647-4311, or email stevemartin@fairplaycamp.org.

Without your gifts, Lorenzo and Jed would not have been able to attend camp.

Here's how you can help other desperate moms like Shanika and Monica

"When I enrolled Lorenzo at Fair Play, we were struggling financially," Shanika explains. "There is no way that we could have paid the full amount. I paid what I could, but I knew it costed a lot more. I'm so grateful for the people who generously give to Fair Play to make up the difference. He didn't lack anything. He has everything he needed."

Being able to afford camp is not something that parents should be worrying about. They should be focused on getting their son help and restoring their family.

Less than 25% of the placement costs are paid by the families. Without your donations, boys like Lorenzo would not be able to get the help they so desperately need.

There are many more families with troubled sons who cannot pay for the help that is needed. But you can help secure a family's opportunity to get assistance for their son.



Families depend on the generosity of people like you who care about boys with emotional and behavior difficulties. You have the power to change their lives!

YES! I want to help send boys like Lorenzo and Jed to camp!

Please use my gift to help families so that they can focus on their son's healing.

- ☐ \$50
- ☐ \$100
- ☐ \$200
- ☐ \$_____
- ☐ Please send me the *Leaving a Gift in Your Will* booklet.

Remember, you can give safely online at www.fairplaycamp.org



347 Wilderness Trail
Westminster, SC 29693
864-647-4311
camp@fairplaycamp.org
www.fairplaycamp.org

EQUIPPING BOYS | STRENGTHENING FAMILIES | DEVELOPING LEADERS