

HEART *of the* JOURNEY

Bringing you closer to the lives you help change

THANK YOU!

The Dove Family Had Nowhere to Turn

Until you provided
the funds needed
to send their son
Micheal to camp.



Micheal was disrupting their family life.

He was constantly running away, getting in trouble at school, and hanging out with the wrong crowd.

He didn't respect authority – especially his father. Every little thing turned into a battle. "We couldn't function as a normal family," his mother Marilyn explained. "Our other children suffered. Things such as homework and after school activities did not

receive the needed attention."

"He was taking control of the household because of his issues," his father Andy added. "His mood and attitude were draining the energy out of a happy house. We were constantly focused on his problems and, as a result, all the other children were being neglected."

Andy and Marilyn first met Micheal and his sister at

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THE DOVE FAMILY HAD NOWHERE TO TURN

her daycare center. “When DSS informed us that they needed a home, we agreed to take them and ended up adopting them,” Marilyn said. “Soon after, we learned that their mother was pregnant, and we adopted their little sister as well.”

“The problems really started when he hit puberty,” Andy said. “We were at our wit’s end. We feared the worst for Micheal.”

“I was afraid that he was going to end up in jail,” Marilyn commented.

They learned about camp from the school’s resource officer. Other professionals recommended Fair Play as well. They decided to give camp a call.

“Our biggest fear was that we could not afford it,” Marilyn remembers. “When we learned how much it costs to keep a boy at camp, we knew there was no way we could do it. We have six kids at home, and it takes everything we have to make ends meet.”



Micheal (left) is learning how to relate to others.

“I told our family worker that I was sorry if I was wasting his time,” Andy said. “There was no way that we could financially do this. We were afraid he would not be able to go.”

It was a great relief for them to learn that their financial situation would not determine whether Micheal would be able to go to camp. Your support secured his opportunity for a new life.

“ 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. ”

Micheal has been at camp for a year now. They are starting to see real change in his life.

“A few home visits ago, we had a disagreement. He immediately got angry, and shut down,” Andy recalls. “But, the next morning as we were getting ready to go to church, he hugged me and said that he was sorry for the previous night. That had never happened before. Up until then, the apologies were forced. This was the first time he did it of his own choice. It was life changing for me. I then knew that we were making headway. He is becoming a different person.”

“That attitude change came from camp,” Andy goes on. “He had too much anger towards us, because he



The Family Worker assured the Dove family that their financial situation would not determine whether their son could attend camp.

was with us instead of his parents. He doesn't understand why they left him. We didn't know how to talk about it. At camp, he has opened up."

"Camp has given us an opportunity to heal as a family," Marilyn adds. "We are now able to focus on our other kids."

"It's amazing to know that there are donors out there, who don't even know us, who will help Micheal and other boys to have the opportunity to get the help they need," Marilyn concludes. "I don't know what we would have done. We couldn't do it on our own. We needed help."

Because of you, the Dove family can dream. Their dream is to live together as a family in peace and harmony.

Thank you!



Thanks to you, Micheal is learning to change his attitude.

You Gave Me My Son Back

I felt like I had failed as a mother. You gave me a second chance with him.

"As Christopher begins his journey at home, I know he misses everyone at camp very much," his mother exclaims. "I cannot fully express the gratitude that we have, as a family, for everything you've done for our son."

"I have my son back," she continues. "He has a desire to please everyone instead of being selfish. He wants to jump in and help in everything we do at home. He does his chores without me having to ask. He keeps a positive attitude at all times, even encouraging his sister to have a good attitude as well! He does his homework on his own. The love that he gives us and the happiness that he explodes with, is so contagious that my house feels more like a home."

"I know that he has only been home for a short

time and that he will have good and bad days," she concludes. "But I know we can work through it. He already talks to us when he is angry or frustrated, and that in itself is an amazing change. I am so thankful for everything you have done for our family."

Because of you, Christopher has learned how to work through his anger and frustration without acting out. Your support changed his family forever. His family is experiencing hope for a better life.



At camp, Christopher (right) learned how to work through his problems.



Michael Card *Goes to Camp*

Daniel Hochstetler, *Executive Director*

Back in March, we were privileged to have singer/songwriter Michael Card visit camp. He was able to spend some time with each group and captivate them with his stories of adventure and travel around the world.



Michael has a way of teaching and inspiring anyone who is willing to listen to him. When he interacts with campers, he brings simple Bible truths and stories to life for them. He piques a curiosity in them that lasts beyond just the time he spends with them. Camp also seems to bring out a passion in Michael that brings him to life in a very special way. You might expect the campers to dread spending time with a Bible scholar/songwriter, but that is certainly not the case.

Michael talks about his time at camp. "If I say this is a camp where kids who have problems get together, you might respond, 'this is the last place in the world I want to go.' But the truth is, I just love being there. I don't want to leave. You can see what God is doing in the lives of the young people who have struggled. His peace is there. The boys are so respectful and fun to be around. It's one of my favorite places to visit."

Thank you, Michael, for investing in the lives of these boys.

YOU CAN HELP!

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 Micheal and Christopher 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.

You can help turn their nightmare into a new dream of a family filled with hope and purpose. Thank you for your heart of compassion for these boys and their families.

YES! I want to make it possible for families to send their son to camp!

Please use my gift to help families who cannot afford camp.

- \$50.00
- \$100.00
- \$250.00
- \$ _____

You can give online at www.fairplaycamp.org



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EQUIPPING BOYS - STRENGTHENING FAMILIES