

# HEART *of the* JOURNEY

Bringing you closer to the lives you help change

“WE WERE  
*afraid*  
TO LIVE IN OUR  
OWN HOME!”

BECAUSE OF YOU,  
THE PELLEGRINOS CAN  
NOW RELAX

  
**FAIR PLAY**  
CAMP SCHOOL

SUMMER 2018



YOU HELPED CHANGE EVERYTHING FOR THE PELLEGRINOS

# RESCUED FROM *fear*

- When Miguel was angry, he would come after us with knives
- Chief Paul told us that Fair Play could help us - I didn't believe him

"Things had gotten so bad that I spent nights with Miguel in one of our rental units," David recalls. "We feared for the safety of our family!"

David and Beth Pellegrino first met Miguel and his brother at an orphanage where they were volunteering while living in Mexico. When the boys became available for adoption, they started the three-year process. By the time they moved back to the states, Miguel was over eight years old.

Miguel was way behind in his development because of malnutrition, neglect and abuse. He was small for his age so when he acted out, it was easy to contain him. But when he hit puberty, things started to get out of control.

## **"HE STARTED COMING AFTER US WITH KNIVES!"**

"When he would become angry he would threaten and chase us with knives," David remembers. "We didn't know how he was going to react in any situation. He had a very bad temper."

"I was really afraid of him," Beth adds. "I feared for the safety of our other children, myself, and for David. We couldn't do things as a family because we never knew how he was going to react. A simple trip to the grocery store could become crazy."

## **"WE DIDN'T KNOW WHERE TO TURN."**

"Since he was adopted from another country, we had no help from Department of Social Services or any other organizations," David explains. "We were on our own. We didn't know where to turn."



Miguel adjusted well to camp!

"We were pretty desperate," Beth recalls. "We were willing to try anything."

Someone told them about camp and they made the call. Chief Paul, a family worker, came to their home and, after the visit, felt that Miguel would be a good fit for camp. "Chief Paul said that they could help us with Miguel," Beth said. "But, I didn't believe him."

## **"CAMP WAS EXACTLY WHAT HE NEEDED"**

"When Miguel came to camp, he was pretty quiet and closed up. It was hard to get anything out of him," Spencer, one of his chiefs remembers. "After a year I started to see a change in him. He was making progress during home visits. He started to open up. We felt that when he graduated he was ready to take the next step in life."

For the Pellegrinos, it was a time to work on some other issues in their family. "When you have a child that requires so much effort and time, the rest of the family suffers," David explains. "We were able to relax. Things settled down around home."

**"WE FINALLY FEEL  
SAFE IN OUR HOME!"**

## “THE VIOLENCE IS GONE!”

“I was afraid that when he returned home, he would go right back to the same behavior,” Beth commented. “But as time passed, it has become obvious that he had changed. While he still struggles with building relationships with us, the violent acting out is gone. He learned how to deal with the temper side of his problem. We finally feel safe in our home.”

Miguel has stayed connected with Chief Spencer. “Whenever we can’t work through an issue with him, we tell him to call Chief Spencer. They are often able to work through the problem;” David said. For the past two summers, Miguel has spent a month with Chief Spencer’s family on the farm.

“WHEN YOU GIVE TO FAIR PLAY, IT MEANS BOYS LIKE MIGUEL CAN GET THE HELP THEY DESPERATELY NEED!”



Miguel with Chief Spencer on the farm.



Educational Trips are an Important Part of Camp

## “WE CAN NOW SEE A BRIGHT FUTURE FOR MIGUEL!”

“If it wasn’t for Fair Play, Miguel would be in the juvenile justice system;” David noted. “When boys come out of camp they are better suited for life. Now that he is able to control his temper, we can see a bright future for Miguel. Three or four years ago, we were not sure what was going to happen. Now he has the tools to live a successful life.”

Do they believe Paul now? “I’m not sure how it happened or what camp did, but he certainly learned how to deal with his aggression,” David responded. “It was as much as we could possibly hope for!”

## STAFF NEWS

### ARRIVALS

William Beachy (*Trailblazer Chief*), Laurelville, OH  
Annette Ressler (*Thrift Store*), Gap, PA

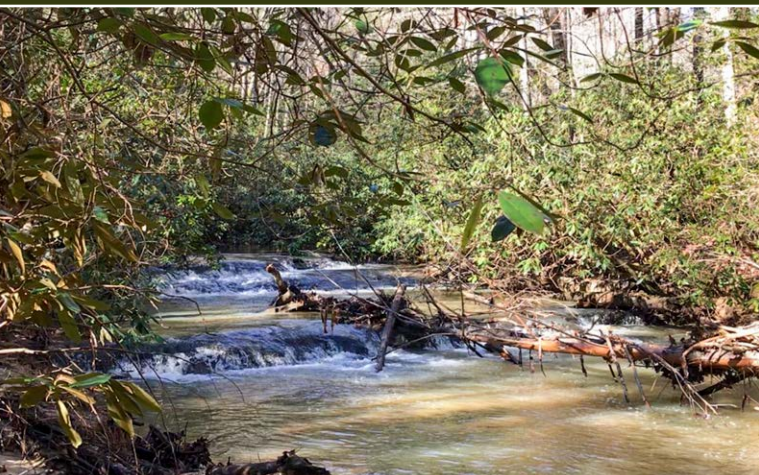
### DEPARTURES

Adrian & Sonya Knepp (*Supervisor*), Seneca, SC  
Diana Yoder (*Thrift Store*), Bronson, MI

### NEEDS

Thrift Store Guys & Girls - *Immediately*  
Chief - *March 2019*  
Cook - *February 2019*





# FINANCIAL *needs*

## NEW PROPERTY *new opportunities*

The wilderness setting is an integral part of a camper's therapy at Fair Play. The outdoors provides camp with countless opportunities to teach, explore, experience adventure, and promote a sense of well-being and tranquility. Nature also has a way of bringing us face to face with the natural consequences of our decisions. This makes a group more keenly aware of the importance of personal responsibility.

Recently, we had the opportunity to purchase an additional 184 acres adjacent to our existing property. We believe that it will allow us to provide even more services to our boys, their families, and staff.

### PLANS AND DREAMS FOR THE NEW PROPERTY

- It secures our boundaries next to the campsites.
- Provides plenty of space to build a trail system and primitive campsites.
- The terrain and creek provide great educational opportunities.
- It provides a place for camper family activities.

To see how you can help with the purchase, check "for more information" on the enclosed remittance form or go to [www.fairplaycamp.org/buy-an-acre](http://www.fairplaycamp.org/buy-an-acre).

Many of you have asked us to keep you apprised of specific financial needs here at camp.

Below are some expenses that we will be facing over the next year.



### Washing Machines

Two replacement commercial washing machines are desperately needed.

### New Mattresses for Trailblazers

### Family Worker Vehicle

The three family workers travel all over South Carolina to work with families before, during and after a boy's time at camp. In the near future, we are going to be needing to replace one of the vehicles.

### Bus Replacement and Repairs

Our two buses are an important part of transporting boys and staff timely and safely. The oldest bus needs to be replaced and the newer one recently required major engine repairs.



It's only because of your generosity  
that camp can continue to minister  
to boys and their families.  
**THANK YOU!**



### EQUIPPING BOYS - STRENGTHENING FAMILIES

347 Wilderness Trail, Westminster, SC 29693

Phone: 864.647.4311 • Fax: 864.647.4314

E-mail: [camp@fairplaycamp.org](mailto:camp@fairplaycamp.org)

[www.fairplaycamp.org](http://www.fairplaycamp.org)

To make a donation online, please visit our website and click on the "Donate Now" button.



Like Us  
on Facebook