

HEART *of the* JOURNEY

— Bringing you closer to the lives you help change —

THANK YOU!

You Changed My Life!

“Camp saved
me from a life of
bad choices...”

By Cole Stillwell



Sometimes I wonder what would have happened to me if I hadn't gone to Fair Play. While I can't say for sure, I know I would have been a lot worse off. Camp helped me grow in so many ways and I am who I am today because of it.

Before going to camp, I would get very frustrated when things did not go my way. Often I would end up having a meltdown. I would yell, scream, kick and bite. At school, they would put me in a padded room

when I would have one of my episodes. At home, my grandfather was the only one who could handle me when I acted out. But, it got to the point where even he couldn't calm me down.

Life was complete chaos. I was stuck in a pattern that I couldn't change. I felt so hopeless.

Then my mother, who was desperately trying to find help for me, learned about Fair Play Camp School.

INSIDE: Read more about how your generosity impacted Cole

YOU HELPED GIVE COLE THE TOOLS HE NEEDED FOR A BETTER LIFE

In February of 2016, I decided I needed to go to camp to get help for my problems. I got much more help than I could have ever hoped for. With the help of my group I was able to grow out of my bad attitude into a skilled, responsible, and caring young adult.

Camp is unique from other types of therapy because it relies heavily on the group setting which nurtures mutual trust and dependence. The group is just like family, they don't let you get away with anything and will stick with you and your problems, no matter what.

Instead of just dealing with the symptoms like my school had done, my group really helped me to dig deep and find the root of my problems. Only then was I able to deal with them. And, as I helped others in the group solve their problems, it helped me put my own issues in perspective. Today, I am able to handle problems in a constructive manner.

Nature gave Cole a new perspective on life.



Cole's mom thanks you for your generosity.

The outdoors played a huge part on my therapy. It gave me a sense of independence and isolation. Living in the woods helped me gain an appreciation of God's beautiful creation. Being so immersed in the woods also helped me to grow in my faith. Because of my exposure to the great outdoors, I want to be a State Park Ranger so I can help others appreciate nature.

THANK YOU FOR MAKING CAMP POSSIBLE

I will be forever grateful for camp. Even today, years after graduating, I'm using skills that I've learned. The chiefs don't get enough credit for their dedication to these young boys. Unlike other places, Fair Play won't give up on you.

Where would I be without camp? Like I said, I don't know. But most likely I would have ended up in the juvenile system. Happily, because of you, I am able to live a productive life with a bright future.

Thank you for making that happen!

"YOU CHANGED HIS LIFE" Cole's Grandfather shares.

By: Chuck McCurry

Why, you may ask, am I so enamored with Fair Play? It's very simple. They made a huge impact on my grandson, Cole. When our local school district told my daughter that they could not help my grandson who had been diagnosed with a form of autism, I was

beyond furious. We didn't know where to turn next. As it turns out, God was in control of the situation. He set in motion events that would end up being the best thing that ever happened to Cole. My daughter discovered Fair Play and, after a few inquiries and

meetings, Cole, was accepted and started there in February of 2016. When he left home he hated reading and writing. When he graduated, he had become a prolific writer and developed a habit of reading.

Shortly after graduating, Cole was offered an internship at The Lexington County Chronicle Newspaper where I also write. He did such a good job that within a short time he was tasked with posting news stories in the paper and online. Today he writes a monthly column that appears on the front page of the sports section.

On a family vacation before camp, we visited a State Park. We enjoyed it so much that Cole and I set a goal of visiting all 47 South Carolina parks. Cole's camp stay interrupted that goal, but we would visit parks during home visits. We were able to visit our final park soon after his graduation. Today, we continue to regularly visit many of the outdoor attractions throughout the state. These trips are the source of many of his newspaper articles.

WILL YOU JOIN US IN SUPPORTING FAIR PLAY?

My wife and I are so grateful that we started to support Fair Play financially last year and will continue to do so. There are so many boys out there that need a miracle in their life. We encourage you to help the school with your donations as well. Together, we can make a difference.



Cole & Chuck on one of their many adventures

“All of this has been possible because you support Fair Play Camp School. I say that without hesitation or qualification. Cole’s experiences there were life changing.”

- COLE'S GRANDFATHER

Your Support *Brings Lasting Change*

Daniel Hochstetler, *Executive Director*

Several months ago, James, a former camper, walked into the office. He is now a grown man following his dreams rather than the young boy dealing with tough life issues. This visit was an opportunity to reconnect with the many memories of a very significant part of his

life. He remembered the good food, working through hard problems, and building tents.

“Camp helped me learn to trust,” he said. “Once I learned to trust my chiefs and the group, I began to trust my family. Consequently, my behavior started to change and my family began to trust me.”

James talked about problem solving and how he continues to use these skills after camp. “I learned to identify the problem, find solutions and ultimately bring unity to the group. I used that a lot when I was in ROTC at my school. I realized that it’s not all about me, and the things that have happened to me, but that I can help others.”

Meeting campers who are using the life principles they learned while living at Camp is always a big encouragement to the current campers and staff. Thank you for helping so many boys find the courage to face life in a positive way. We couldn’t do it without you.



Your gifts gave James the skills he needed for a successful life

PLEASE HELP!

Provide a Worried Mom and Her Son the Help they Need



Let me tell you how it is: A young mother sits worriedly in her home not knowing where to turn next. It's hard enough working a job, taking care of her kids, and paying the bills. Now she is getting calls from school about her son. He might be suspended.

Her son has been acting out at home. He is very disobedient and reacts violently when he becomes upset. She is at her wit's end with how to deal with him. Now, it has just become a bigger problem.

She's tried to find help for him in the past but all the places she had contacted cost a lot more than she could ever afford. She feels trapped in a hopeless situation.

But YOU can help her son!

Just when she thought that the situation was hopeless, someone told her about Fair Play. She

learns that, because of folks like you, her financial situation does not need to be an obstacle for her son getting help. She immediately feels hopeful.

Here's How Your Support Makes a Difference

As you can see, your support is crucial. Less than 25% of the placement costs are paid by the families. You can help "fill the gap." Would you consider sending a gift in the enclosed envelope?

Families depend on the generosity of people like you who care about boys who are struggling. You have the power to change their lives!

YES! I want to help a worried mom get help for her son!

Please use my gift to "fill the gap" for families who cannot afford camp.

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

You can give online at www.fairplaycamp.org



347 Wilderness Trail,
Westminster, SC 29693
864.647.4311
camp@fairplaycamp.org

EQUIPPING BOYS - STRENGTHENING FAMILIES