

TRANSFORMATION: ONE FAMILY'S JOURNEY

When Scott and Sharon Hawkins traveled to the Ukraine in October 2001, they were planning to adopt a little baby girl. Upon their arrival, they learned that the girl had already been placed and they then felt God leading them to adopt Bradley, a 15 month old baby that had been abandoned by his mother at the orphanage.

After their older son Taylor was born, they were unable to have more children. They were excited about adopting a younger brother for Taylor and providing a better life for Bradley. They soon found out that they were not prepared for what was coming next.

Chaos and Upheaval

At age 3, Bradley was diagnosed with reactive attachment disorder (RAD), a condition in which a child doesn't establish healthy attachments with parents or caregivers. RAD may develop if the child's basic needs for comfort, affection and nurturing aren't met.

Children with RAD thrive on chaos and upheaval. "Our family life was out of control," Sharon recalls. "We couldn't go out to eat,



The Hawkins Family - Bradley, Sharon, Scott & Taylor

attend special church functions or do something as simple as visiting our friends. We couldn't even go on vacation. Bradley would act out at these events and make it uncomfortable for everyone. Even at home, he would try to control and manipulate through

misbehavior and turmoil. The more that we would show him affection, the more he would push us away. He was tearing our family apart!"

"Unless you live with a child with RAD, you have no idea what it's like," Scott relates. "Even our closest friends and family members would comment on our supposed

lack of parenting skills. People can be very judgmental. We felt very alone!"

Their situation felt hopeless. They tried numerous therapies and various methods to get help. Nothing seemed to work. They didn't know what else to do.

"Our family was out of control!"

– Bradley's Mother



TRANSFORMATION: ONE FAMILY'S JOURNEY - CONTINUED

A Glean of Hope

Then one day, help came in an unexpected way. At work, Scott was sharing their struggles with a coworker who suggested giving Fair Play Camp School a call. What did they have to lose? They got in contact with a family worker, Phil Hollinger.

"We didn't know what to expect," they recall. "Bradley was capable of being on his best behavior to control a situation. Taylor was afraid that he would be able to deceive Phil into thinking that everything was okay. We quickly saw that Phil could see through the smokescreen and understood what Bradley was trying to do."

The Hawkins decided to give camp a try and Bradley agreed to go. In the fall of 2013, he joined the Pioneers. Soon after arriving, the group left for a five day hiking trip. "That was the hardest thing I ever did physically," Bradley recalls. "It showed me how out of shape I was."

Bradley would experience many more difficult lessons in camp. "I thought it would be easier than it was," he recalls. He began to learn how to be open and honest, trust other people and accept responsibility for his actions. It was a difficult struggle at times and he reacted badly in many situations. For Bradley, hard physical work was very therapeutic.

From Bully to Servant

Phil recalls that when Bradley arrived at camp he was very talkative and overbearing. "He was constantly talking about himself and had the answers for everyone else's problem," Phil remembers. "He would dominate conversations – especially during problem solving discussions and pow-wow in the evenings. He was unwilling to listen or accept advice from others."

"Towards the end of his time at camp, we began to see a major shift in his attitude," Phil continues. "He began to listen. He started to put others first and give back to the group. When a new boy would join the group, Bradley would take him under his wing, showing him how things were done and help him become adjusted to camp. He became okay with himself - no longer feeling the need to be the center of attention. We watched him transform from being a bully to a becoming a servant."

"You always know that camp has your back," comments Scott. "You always know that they are only looking out for the best for your child. You can be open and honest with the staff because you know they understand your situation. They made us feel safe. Camp was a lifesaver for our family."

Tools for Life

After graduating, Bradley has been a different person. He is doing well in school, making friends and even joined the Boy Scouts

But it hasn't been perfect. As we were preparing to conduct the interview for this article, Scott almost canceled it due to some problems they were having with Bradley. The difference now is that they have the tools to work through problems.

Like at camp, the family has a pow-wow every evening where they discuss the day – what went well and what could have went better. They also discuss what will be happening the next day. "Camp is still an accountability partner for Bradley,"

Scott explains. "We ask, what would the chief say? How would your group respond to this behavior? We are constantly using the principles that we learned from camp to solve problems."

For older brother Taylor, it's like having a new brother. "Now when he makes a bad decision, he

"We are constantly using the principles we learned from camp."

– Bradley's Father

stops to think about it," he observes. "We are able to have deep conversations as brothers about meaningful things. God definitely used Fair Play to change Bradley!"

"We are still on a journey. Every day we are committed to continued growth," Scott comments. "Camp was a God-send. We have no idea where we would be without it. There is not a better place in the world where we could have sent Bradley for help! There is not a better support system for families."

Thank You for Helping the Hawkins Family

"I want to say thank you to all of Fair Play's supporters for making it possible for our family to get help," Sharon adds. "It's been life changing

for our family as well as many others. You are sowing into these young men and changing generations. You are having an impact on how they will parent, be a husband and influence the kingdom of heaven. This experience will give these boys tools to work with for the rest of their life."

TRAIL NOTES

Daniel Hochstetler, *Executive Director*

Journey and Perspective

Two words that I have used a lot this past year are journey and perspective. Life is often described as a journey. It is amazing how a path can look and feel just right when you stand at the beginning of it.

The end of the path is often difficult to define. The destination of one path is merely the beginning of a new one. If we give up on one trek, we are forced to begin the next one. The conquest of one leads to the battle of another.

What changes the journey is perspective. It is those who are willing to walk alongside us that make it possible for us to be successful. We all need people who are willing to give us advice, encouragement, correction, and friendship.

It would be impossible to individually thank everyone that has either journeyed with us or given perspective to our paths in the past year at Camp. So many of you have faithfully followed God in building His Kingdom. I pray God will be honored and glorified by the story of our lives. Let's continue to trust His sovereign leadership and joyfully embrace whatever journey lies ahead of us.





Apple Day at Camp



Lets get going it's cold out. We got up at 5:50 and got up trail to get apples going into the copper pot. As a group we did around 5 bushels of apples. After that we went to eat a delicious breakfast in a warm Chuckwagon. Then we went down trail to do campsite chores. Next we came up trail and we cranked cider for next session. You could see apples flying into the grinder, while people in the group turned it. The Frontiersmen came to take a turn with the cider press so we went to write articles. When we were done we helped Chief Jamie get our food ready for the Dutch oven cookout this afternoon. I think we will have some amazing food for supper. Well, I hope you don't get sick of apples today.

-Chris, Pioneers

Today was a wonderful, splendid day that was full of exciting thrills and adventures. We got to see how to make apple butter and apple cider.

The steps to making apple cider are simple. First, put some apples into the cider maker and turn the wheel with the handle on it. After about 30 minutes of cranking, you press the rest of the juice out. After that, take a cup, fill it up with some fresh apple cider and enjoy every single bit of it.

To make apple butter, you must get a big pot. Then you fill it up with all sorts of spices, apples, apple sauce, and love. After cooking it for an estimated guess of 7 to 8 hours, put it in some jars and enjoy. The most important thing is to keep stirring it. Hope you enjoyed my article, happy cooking!

-Chris, Frontiersmen



This past August marks 30 years since Paul Graber first arrived at Fair Play to be a chief. A few months previously he had attended a weekend recruitment event and “left a little bit of his self at camp” when he returned home. It wasn’t long until he found himself in the thick of things.

“Most chiefs will tell you that there is one boy that makes you a chief,” Paul explains. “For me, that boy was Kelly.” When he arrived at camp, Kelly was 15 years old and had already been placed in 33 different institutions. They had all discharged him because he was unmanageable. He arrived at camp looking to see how quickly he could be thrown out of there as well.

Kelly was a handful, to say the least. He would cuss at Paul, tell him that he wished he were dead, and would violently challenge him. But Paul never gave up on him, and Kelly slowly started to turn around. “He told me one day that he wished I was his dad,” Paul remembers. “I couldn’t be but it was an honor that he felt that way. He was just a little boy reaching out for a daddy.”

**“No one else ever cared
for me like you did!”**

- Kelly

After camp, Kelly was placed in a few more programs. “The difference at camp was that no matter how bad I was, every night the chiefs told me they loved me. They would remind me that tomorrow was a fresh start. No one else ever cared for me like that!”

After completing his term as chief, Paul became a supervisor and soon after that he married Carolyn. Other than the three years they were gone to attend college, Fair Play has been an integral part of their

marriage. “In the beginning there were times when camp required a lot of Paul’s time,” Carolyn remembers, “but I realized early that Camp was Paul’s heart and that was where he was the happiest!” Over the years they have learned how to juggle camp and family and feel that camp has been a profound and life changing experience for them and their family.

For their six children, camp was a reminder of how blessed they were. As a family they prayed for boys who were struggling. While they didn’t have many of the material things that their friends and relatives enjoyed, they never felt like they missed out on life. They enjoy the outdoors – the highlight being a seven day family canoe trip on the Suwannee River just before their first child got married. Although they have spent their married life in ministry, Paul says that “God has blessed us financially beyond our expectations. We do not feel that camp has been a sacrifice.”

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FAITHFUL IN THE JOURNEY - CONTINUED

For the past 8 years, Paul has been filling the role of a family worker. This role includes lining up boys to come to camp, communicating with the families while they are at camp and then following up with the boys after they graduate. "Families are in crisis today," Paul states. "The biggest issue facing families is the lack of moral compass in our culture today. There is no sense of right or wrong. Single mothers, especially, find it very difficult to raise their sons in this environment while at the same time struggling to make ends meet. It's such a privilege for me to be able to offer hope to the families who are in despair for their sons. For many, they have no other place to turn."

"I would like to give a huge thank you to all of you who have faithfully supported camp financially through the years. It's only because of your gifts that boys and their families can experience hope for the future." Paul comments. "Your prayers are essential as the boys and



Paul & Carolyn Graber Family

staff face spiritual battles on a daily basis. Together, with God's help, we are making a difference."

YOUR PARTNERSHIP HELPS CHANGE FAMILIES!

PLEASE CONSIDER GIVING FINANCIALLY

Your gifts are essential for us to be able to love and care for boys who have been given up on by many. We rely on God's provision through you and many others. Your gifts bring hope to desperate families in need of a miracle.

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WE NEED YOUR PRAYERS

Sign up for our monthly email prayer calendar to find out how you can pray for us! Contact Sara at (864) 647-4311 to sign up.

STAFF NEWS

NEW ARRIVALS

- Sharon Troyer (Ligonier, IN) joined the thrift store team in October.
- Ryan Thomas (Dayton, VA) moved south in December to help at the thrift stores.
- Jadon Mast (Mt. Pleasant Mills, PA) joined the Pioneer group as chief in December.
- Geralyn Shaum (Power, MT) moved to Camp to help cook meals in Chuckwagon.

DEPARTURES

- Issac Wood completed his year of service at the thrift stores and moved back to OH.

- Kim Pollard moved back to IN after serving 15 months at the thrift stores.
- Lewis Fisher returned to NY after serving 2 years at the thrift stores.
- Sheralyn Lehigh returned to VA after serving delicious meals in Chuckwagon.
- Jamie Burkholder returned to IN after serving as a Pioneer chief.

STAFF NEEDS FOR 2016

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



EQUIPPING BOYS FOR LIFE

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www.fairplaycamp.org



ATTEND OUR BANQUET

Where: The Chuckwagon at Fair Play Boys Camp

When: March 18, 2016 at 6PM

There will be a camp tour, great food, family testimonies and music provided by Dixie Storm.

Contact us for more information.





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