

HEART *of the* JOURNEY

— Bringing you closer to the lives you help change —

I DIDN'T UNDERSTAND

why I acted the way I did

BECAUSE OF YOU

Ryan is now at peace



WINTER 2018/2019

Because of you, Ryan had a place to find help **THE ANGER IS GONE!**



Your support provided Ryan (right) a safe place to deal with his anger issues.

OUT OF CONTROL

“Everything had to be done Ryan’s way,” his mother, Denise, remembers. “If we weren’t going to cooperate with his demands he would go upstairs, slam his bedroom door and cuss like you would not believe. We were petrified to say anything because he might come after us. You never knew what was the right thing to say.”

At school, he was acting out violently by throwing desks, pushing teachers, and hitting other kids. At home he was beating his mother.

“One December, Ryan got really violent,” his grandmother recalls. “He pushed his mother into the furniture and then went upstairs and tried to jump out a second story window. It was time for us to do something for him, or he was going to end up in jail.”

One of Ryan’s teachers was familiar with Fair Play and suggested to Denise that she check it out. “Things had gotten so bad that I called camp crying,” Denise said. “I was unsure about camp’s ability to help Ryan. I was feeling pretty hopeless. I didn’t think anyone or anything could help him.”

“ **NOW WHEN HE GETS UPSET, HE’LL TALK ABOUT IT AND WORK IT OUT.** ”

- “If we didn’t cooperate with Ryan, he would violently act out.”
- “I didn’t think anyone could help him!”

“I WAS FEELING A LOT OF ANGER”

“Ryan realized he needed help and agreed to come to camp,” Phil, his family worker, commented. “He didn’t understand why he acted out the way he did.”

“I was feeling a lot of anger,” Ryan explains. “I was angry at my dad for how he treated us and for leaving us.”

For the first year at camp it didn’t seem like he was making much progress. Home visits were difficult and he had many outbursts at camp.

“I remember how hard it was for Ryan,” Phil recalled. “He would bottle his anger up until he blew up.”

Ryan’s greatest challenge was figuring out how to relate to dad,” Phil continues. “Even during camp and home visits, his relationship with his dad would continually come up. He finally came to realize that he couldn’t change who his dad was or what he had

done, but he was responsible for his own attitude and behavior and what he was going to do about it.”

“As his time progressed at camp, we could see a change in him,” Denise

said. “He started talking about the things they were doing at camp.

He was less angry during home visits - not as many outbursts.

He would



Ryan (with backpack) loved the outdoors.

immediately respond when you asked him to do something. He started caring about other people. He became more loving - he started to hug people.”

NOT THE SAME BOY

“When he first came home, we were fearful that he would revert to his old self,” Denise said. “We were afraid that if we said the wrong thing he would act out like before. But he never did.”

Even his school principal noticed the change. “The boy that came back to school is not the same boy that went to camp,” she commented. “I don’t know that boy anymore. He’s volunteering in the mornings to pick up trash. Instead of being a taker, he’s a contributor at school.”

“ YOUR SUPPORT MAKES A DIFFERENCE FOR BOYS LIKE RYAN. ”

“Now when he gets upset, he’ll talk about it and work it out,” Denise continues. “When he is asked to do something, he quickly and willingly responds. He helps his uncle out at his garage. He has his own landscaping business. He is saving money for his own vehicle.”

“He was able to forgive his dad and let things go,” Phil observes. “He’s at peace with that situation. It doesn’t make him angry anymore.”

THANK YOU!

“I would like to thank the donors for giving these boys a chance,” Ryan’s grandmother said. “If it wasn’t for this camp, it’s hard to tell where these boys would be at today!”



Grandma, Mom (Denise) & Ryan can now communicate in a positive manner.

A boy’s anger is typically a result of a dramatic past experience. It is then often triggered by present events. For example, a group is unable to complete a fun activity because of a group problem. Where most boys will respond with minor annoyance or frustration, an angry boy will often react with rage and misbehavior.

When I was a chief, one boy in my group whose mother had died, was very angry. He was often upset about the smallest issues. He had never properly mourned her death and was unable to accept his stepmother. It was only after talking with him, over an extended period of time, that we were able to determine the source of his angry outbursts. Once he was able to properly deal with his mother’s death, the outbursts began to subside.

Most boys are unaware of the source of their rage and why they act out the way they do. Thanks to your support of camp, a chief can help his boys figure out what his anger is all about. From there, healing can begin

– Chief Todd Stauffer, Supervisor

The boys we get at camp have a long history of failures which have undermined their self-confidence and made them feel worthless. They are hostile toward adults, impulsive in their behavior, defiant of authority. They have a vague and contradictory set of values or they are outright anti-social. Some are so defeated they have withdrawn and given up trying... The boy is caught up in a cycle of frustration, anxiety, and anger due to his inability to function adequately in a situation at conflict with his developmental needs... At camp he can begin to overcome his sense of helplessness as he discovers his adaptive capacities in living with the impersonal realities of nature.

–From *Wilderness Road* by Campbell Loughmiller, *Therapeutic Camping Pioneer*

BOYS CAMP THRIFT STORE

On the front lines of helping boys and their families

The thrift stores provide a significant amount of the funds needed to operate camp. Without these stores, boys like Ryan would not receive the essential services needed to help him and his family. We are grateful for the many folks who are an integral part of making these stores successful.

DONORS: Without the generous donations of high quality items, the stores could not exist.

CUSTOMERS: We are grateful for our faithful customers who regularly shop in our stores.

STAFF: Most of our staff is made up of young men and women who have volunteered their time to help make the stores successful.

SUPPORTERS: Over the years, various people have big-heartedly volunteered their expertise and funding to help make the stores more efficient and effective.



THRIFT STORE NEEDS

The stores currently have a few needs that would help make them more efficient and recognized by the community, resulting in more funds that are needed to help boys and their families.



SIGNS - \$5000.00

Our current signage does a poor job of drawing attention to our stores. Some local folks have mentioned they were not aware of the stores, even after being in town for numerous years. The new signs will raise awareness, draw more customers, and provide funding for camp.



DISHWASHERS - \$4000.00

Dishwashers are used to clean dishes and other household items, to remove odors and make them more attractive. The washer in one store needs major repairs, and items are washed manually in the other store. The new washers would save time and improve appearance.

SHOPPING CARTS - \$2500.00

Our current shopping carts are not in good shape. New carts would provide a better shopping experience for our customers.

STAFF:

Working at the thrift stores is another significant way of serving boys and their families. It provides a unique opportunity to serve others while experiencing personal growth. You would be a part of a close knit community, and you can also connect with a vibrant youth group at the local church.

In 2019, we need 3 guys and 5 girls to fill positions throughout the year. Interested? Contact Lynn Hochstetler at (864) 882-2734 or lynn@fairplaycamp.org.



EQUIPPING BOYS - STRENGTHENING FAMILIES

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