

HEART *of the* JOURNEY

— Bringing you closer to the lives you help change —



THANK YOU!
YOUR DONATIONS
IMPACT MORE PEOPLE
THAN YOU MAY THINK.

Jacob with his parents and chiefs at his recent graduation

Not only did Jacob make positive changes at Fair Play Camp School, his family experienced healing as well. In addition, his chiefs are learning life and leadership skills that they will use for the rest of their lives.

Thanks to you, boys are being equipped, families are being strengthened, and leaders are being developed.



In this newsletter, you will read about how you helped:

- Jonathan, who was a camper 30 years ago and is now living a productive and fulfilling life.
- Restore peace to the Casey family.
- Michael and how being a chief impacts how he relates to his family and employees today.

EQUIPPING BOYS

Life Was Not Fair for Jonathan

But, you changed everything for him!

Life was not kind to Jonathan. He was born while his mother was in prison. He was then adopted by a family whose mother felt like she had been forced to adopt him.



Because of you, camp prepared Jonathan to be a father.

“I was treated differently than my two siblings who were her biological children,” Jonathan remembers. “When we went to McDonalds I would get a small drink and a cheeseburger. They would get happy meals. I was also punished much more severely than they were.”

“I didn’t know where I belonged,” he said. “I didn’t feel like I was a part of my adoptive family, and I had no connections to my biological parents.”

He began to act out in negative ways. Counseling and other treatments had little impact on him. When his adoptive parents divorced, he ended up coming to camp.

“Camp takes you away from everyone else’s influence,” Jonathan explains. “To me, camp was not about changing boys so much as guiding and directing them to make the decision to change.”

Jonathan didn’t really understand how camp had impacted him when he graduated. “I truly grasped what camp was all about while sitting in a jail cell in Kentucky,” he recalls. “I saw a lot of people waiting for long prison sentences. It was a wakeup call. That was the day I became serious.”

Since then Jonathan has worked hard to get his life on track. Recently, he and his wife Ericka adopted a little girl, Emily. Emily’s birth mom felt that since both he and Ericka had been adopted, they would be uniquely qualified to deal with any problems that may arise.

“Ericka had been adopted by a close and loving family, so she understood the support of a good adoption,” Jonathan explains. “I experienced a difficult adoption so I understood the importance of making my wife and daughter my first priority.”

“Camp taught me how to trust,” he goes on. “Even though I had experienced abuse in the past, I was comfortable with Chief Paul. We stay connected to this day. Camp gave me a love of the outdoors. I can’t wait to share that with Emily. And when it’s time to discuss adoption with her, I feel prepared to share with her how much she is loved and cared for.”

Because of you, Jonathan is using his camp experience to make a difference in Emily’s life. Thank you!

STRENGTHENING FAMILIES

We Were in Survival Mode! ***Your support impacted the entire family.***

“We were in survival mode for years.” Bryan Casey said. “We never knew how Britton would react in any situation. We were always on edge.”

From a very young age, Britton was defiant and destructive. “Our other children suffered because of that,” Dineen Casey explained. “All of our attention

was focused on him.”

“We disciplined every way imaginable,” Brian goes on. “We took him to numerous psychiatrists and counselors. He was on all kinds of medications. Three times he was placed in a psychiatric facility. Most programs would not accept him because his behavior was too severe.”

They finally heard about Fair Play. “I remember sitting on the front porch talking to the family worker,” Bryan said. “With great hesitation, I told Kent about

what was going on. When he told me ‘that is just the kind of boy we like to help,’ I almost fell out of my chair.”

“When we dropped Britton off at camp, it was such a relief,” they recall. “Finally, there was peace in our home. It gave us an opportunity to reconnect with our girls and strengthen our relationship with each other.

“After Britton graduated, we weren’t confident that all the changes he had made were going to stick,” Dineen remembers. “We would wake up every morning wondering what the day would be like.”

But everyday Britton would get up, make his bed, and do what he needed to do. He willingly went to school, which he had fought before camp. Now, two and a half years later, he has significantly matured. Now, he is a typical teenager.”



Your support changed everything for the Casey family

“Daily something comes up that three years ago would have turned into an explosive situation,” Dineen said. “But at the end of the day we are able to come together and peacefully solve any problems that come up. Camp gave him the tools, and he uses them,”

“I don’t think donors realize how much impact they are making on a boy’s life” they observed. “When people donate, it impacts an entire family’s life. Camp totally saved his life and our family as well.”

Your generous and continued support ensures that families, like the Caseys, experience healing and hope. Thank you for being there for them!

DEVELOPING LEADERS

Camp Made Me Who I Am Today

You helped show Michael how to be a leader.

“Being a chief changed the direction of my life,” Michael Hunsberger declares. “There is no doubt about it.”

“Before becoming a chief at camp, I was the type of person that would run over you to get things done,” he explained. “I was going to be in front leading, and either you jump in line or get out of the way. Also, I did not like to come under people’s authority.”

“Camp taught me to slow down, ask questions, and really listen to people,” he continued. “I learned how to communicate. When you are living with boys 24 hours a day, you are forced to talk things out when problems arise.”

My supervisor would pursue me when he saw me struggling and call me out on my attitude. Like the boys, it was about changing my attitude, not just changing my performance. I had to learn to work on myself if I was to expect change in my group.”

When asked how camp impacts him today, he responded, “As a husband, the communication skills that I learned help us work through any problems that

might come up. As a father, I ask my children lots of questions to help them see for themselves what is right and wrong. In business, I am more of a teacher instead of just being the boss.”

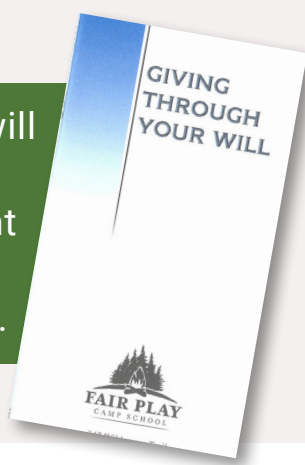
“Being a chief will be the hardest thing you will ever do,” Michael concludes. “But, if you put your whole heart into it and give it everything you have, you will not regret it. It will prepare you for life. Where else can you gain two years of parenting experience before you even become a father?”



Michael learned how to lead at camp.

Because of your support, young men are learning how to become leaders in their homes, churches, and communities. You are helping to change the world. Thank you!

A gift in your will could be the most important charitable gift you ever make.



Leaving a gift in your will to Fair Play Camp School is a once-in-a-lifetime chance to see that boys with emotional and behavior problems and their families have somewhere to turn for help, even after you're gone.

Our new booklet about leaving a gift in your will is available now. For your free copy, check the box on the enclosed card and return in the envelope, call 864-647-4311 or email stevemartin@fairplaycamp.org.

Please Help Desperate mothers like Kanisha need your help for their sons

Jontavious is a brand new Pioneer. Here are some excerpts from texts his mother Kanisha sent Chief Paul, her family worker, at 3:00 am on the morning of their preplacement visit. Listen to the desperation for her son.

"We are going to make it on time but please be patient with me today. I haven't been asleep since 2:00am when I received a text saying our ride had been cancelled. I've been up for five hours searching for another ride."

"This has been by far the most emotionally frustrating and stressful journey I have ever encountered. I am beyond EXHAUSTED! But I truly care about my son's future and his mental health. That is why I'm working hard to get through this process. I am a single mother of three doing everything alone. I manage every month with nothing left over. I can't tell you how much I can pay towards camp because I don't even have two pennies to rub together right now."

"I would just like to thank you for helping our troubled sons when they need it most and for providing a peace of mind to parents like myself who greatly

need the help, but just doesn't trust enough to ask. Without having your program to look forward to, we would have been lost."

Families depend on the generosity of people like you who care about boys with emotional and behavior difficulties. You have the power to change their lives!



You can provide hope for mothers like Kanisha

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
- \$100
- \$250
- \$ _____
- Please send me the Leaving a Gift in Your Will Booklet

You can give online at www.fairplaycamp.org



FAIR PLAY

CAMP SCHOOL
347 Wilderness Trail
Westminster, SC 29693
www.fairplaycamp.org

864.647.4311 | camp@fairplaycamp.org

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