

E.L.I.T.E. Teens: Excellent Leaders in Training Everyday

Our new teen leadership program name exemplifies only one of the exciting improvements to our leadership training program! Now known as the ELITE Teens (Excellent Leaders in Training Everyday), we strive to teach these burgeoning adults to be leaders everyday and in any environment.

Our group meets for an event once a month throughout the school year. Each event has three parts; a learning workshop, a volunteer work component, and a social activity such as attendance to a basketball game, visiting the Shedd Aquarium, or learning to ice skate.

Our volunteer work includes such service as helping the Williams Bay Recreation Department to run their

annual *Spooky Walk*, assisting a local food pantry and organizing clothes at *Mary's Room* in Delavan, WI.

The teens enjoyed working the *Spooky Walk* to such a degree that they wish to work this event again next year!!

Our learning workshops focus on how "Manners Matter". Some topics include *First Impressions*, *Communications* and *Diversity Appreciation*.

The ELITE Teens work hard to commit themselves to remembering what they are taught, to the point that these teens remind us if we forget to take off our hats at the dinner table! Our topics are chosen to help make good first (and lasting) impressions when applying to

"these teens remind us if we forget to take off our hats at the dinner table!"

colleges, attending a job interview, or simply when about town.

Many of the planned activities are suggested by the teens themselves. It is rewarding to see our teens taking a genuine interest in their program and presenting themselves as the young leaders that they are.

This year's ELITE program shows such great success and promise we plan to continue along the same path for the future while adding new elements each year.

Once we have the funding for a year round staff member dedicated to our ELITE Teen program we plan to increase our time spent with the teens as well as increase our leadership training to not only improve self leadership but to affect leadership

Thanks to Stephen Monticello :

The ELITE teens send a special THANK YOU to the Stephen Monticello family (Owners of the *Haberdapper* store in Lake Geneva) for their generous cash donation supporting our teen leadership program. This gift made many new and exciting events possible, thereby fostering our teens' leadership skills. We

invite you to join Stephen and his family in their support of Holiday Home Camp programs.



Schwemm Memorial

Passing through the Holiday Home Camp Nan Prickett-Schwemm gates one is impressed by the Nan and Jack Schwemm trees planted in the landscape. Traveling a short distance further one passes the beautiful Schwemm cabin in the Girls' Village.

Since being a counselor in 1953 Nan forever spoke fondly of "her girls". Jack joined the Board of Directors in May 2003 and became the Chairperson for the Founder's Society.

Sadly, Nan passed away in September 2011 followed by Jack in October 2011. Nan and Jack were wonderful individuals who were extremely generous to Holiday Home Camp and cared deeply about the children who attended camp.

Their generosity extended beyond their days by leaving a very generous bequest to Holiday Home Camp which we will receive in April.. "

"Never believe that a few caring people can't change the world, for indeed, that's all who ever have." Margaret Mead

Nan and Jack Schwemm cared. Thank you Schwemm Family!

Easy Ways to Get Involved

- Start using **GoodSearch.com**: a website which makes raising money for our kids incredibly easy! This Yahoo!-powered search engine donates about a penny every time you use it to search or shop online. Just take two minutes to register at **GoodSearch.com**
- Consult your financial advisor about planned giving that can significantly increase gifts while retaining income and/or saving taxes.
- Join the Schwemm family (see

article nearby) and others by remembering Holiday Home Camp in your will and estate planning.

- Attend our Gala Benefit Dinner on June 16, 2012
- Encourage your friends to support us.
- Volunteer.

We are so fortunate and grateful to all our supporters. You make the difference! THANK YOU!!

SPRING

2012







HOLIDAY HOME CAMP

The Waterfront

From The New Board President: Molly Keller

Greetings from the Lake Geneva Fresh Air Association! Many Holiday Home Camp supporters often forget that the camp and its mission were founded and are governed by this umbrella organization.

As we gear up to kick off a year long celebration of the 125th Anniversary of Holiday Home Camp at our June 16th gala, fresh air will continue to be our focus for making a difference in the lives of the disadvantaged youth who set foot on our grounds.

Since the beginning in 1887, the founders of the Lake Geneva Fresh Air Association had a vision of sharing the clean air and invigorating outdoor experience of Geneva Lake that they enjoyed with less fortunate children from the city.

They believed that a fresh air experience could improve lives – a belief that still holds

true today. In the late 1800s underprivileged children from Chicago battled health and social issues caused by the pollution and rapid urban growth of the industrial revolution.

Today's disadvantaged youth are faced with the onslaught of technology and the media, the increased presence and pressure from gangs, street violence, drugs and limited access to physical activity or wholesome, nutritious food.

As it has for 124 years, Holiday Home Camp breaks the pattern of those tough urban routines and using fresh air and the outdoors as a foundation, provides invigorating programming that imparts the core values of "Respect, Responsibility and Relationships" (our Three Rs) along with essential life skills.

Just a few days at Holiday Home Camp can provide that

"Ah Ha!" moment that will grab a child's attention and set them on a new path toward success.

We all know how much of a difference a breath of fresh air makes in helping us re-charge the batteries of our own very fortunate lives, so I hope you will continue to support the children of Holiday Home Camp as we carry forth our 125 year old tradition.

Help spread the word and consider joining our volunteer team that is working to expand our reach.

Together we can inspire the lives of thousands of children - one deep breath of fresh air at a time!



Molly Keller

Camper Profile: Nnaji—A BIG Leader in Every Way



Well over six feet and athletically built, Nnaji towers over most of his fellow campers (and most of our staff!). But his intimidating size belies a gentle, calm and hard working spirit.

Nnaji and his family live in a Chicago neighborhood known for gang violence, drop-outs and drug use. But he and his siblings resist those challenges and dare to aspire to a better life. He plans to enroll in Northern Illinois University in business or pre-med, after being introduced to the college through Holiday Home Camp's ELITE outreach program.

Nnaji maintains a 3.8 GPA at an academically rigorous private high school (to which his mother made sure he received a scholarship) while actively participating in sports and extra curricular activities.

Nnaji has been at camp for several summers, graduating

into our "ELITE" teen leadership program. Always eager to help whenever he can, Nnaji can be found each summer helping our counselors, putting his arm around a homesick younger camper or belting out one of our goofy campfire songs with his signature (and infectious!) grin.

We are thrilled Nnaji will return as a teen leader again this summer. As he turns 18, he plans to re-join us as an adult volunteer and, ultimately, a paid staff member.

"Holiday Home Camp has had such a big impact on my life. I just want to be able to give back to the other kids coming up behind me."

Nnaji's mom is justifiably proud of his accomplishments. We are too!



Soaring with OWLS: An Interview with "Big Dog"



Gary "Big Dog" Cwidak, shares big moments with small groups of HHC campers. Big Dog, Director of Outdoor Wisconsin Leadership School (OWLS), reveals that he evolved into the profession and position he now holds.

Starting with managing a climbing/backpacking and ski shop in 1978, then completing a bachelor's degree in psychology and pursuing a ski instructor career for the winters, Big Dog landed in a summer camp early in his career to round out his work year. Big Dog was soon asked to run the camp's ropes course integrating his teambuilding skills, psychology and challenge course experience.

In 1989 Big Dog began his work with OWLS at George Williams College and in 2007 completed his Master's Degree in Counseling. Big Dog currently serves on the Board of the Associa-

tion for Challenge Course Technology (ACCT). Combining his vast skills and knowledge with his love for the

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outdoors and working with people Big Dog finds himself in the ideal job.

Big Dog has observed increased camaraderie amongst campers after a half day experience with OWLS.

Holiday Home Campers spend half of their first full day of camp with OWLS. Then the daily HHOOTS (Holiday Home OWLS Organized Teambuilding Session) program which was developed specifically for Holiday Home campers "offers problem solving challenges requiring groups to use the synergy of everyone's resources and talents (in the group) in order to accomplish small goals which lead to bigger goals and bigger life goals."

OWLS also offers year round experiences for private groups primarily 8th grade through college including some adult groups. Each group experience is custom designed according to the request and needs of the group. "Every program has a different focus because every group is different." Some focus includes leadership, peer mediation or communication while others may have need for team building and trust. OWLS staff are highly trained. Beyond their 120 hours of extensive and intensive training in the last two years over a dozen of the OWLS facilitators became certified with ACCT.

If you have or know of a group interested in OWLS please call the camp office and ask for Big Dog: 262-245-5161

Airing our Dirty Laundry...No More!



Thanks to the generosity of Ted Gearhart and Leslie Aronovitz Holiday Home Camp receives a newly renovated laundry room!

Due to age and extensive use, the old laundry room suffered from ailing machines and the lack of storage and work space. The back door of the laundry room was kept open all summer for the dryers to vent and storage was difficult to maintain in the winter. Proper storage is essential to keep mice from nesting in our linens.

In January, the old building was stripped to its roof and wood frame

bones. The floor was removed a new floor was poured to level the settling building.



New insulated walls are now installed, complete with new windows. Brand new industrial machines will soon replace the old ailing ones; and new shelving space provides easy and secure storage. A mop sink now stands conveniently located by the door and

a drain in the floor provides for easy cleaning and management of water overflow.

Holiday Home Camp provides all linens for cabin beds and sleeping bags for campouts to campers while they are here. We often find the need to wash soiled camper clothes as well. Turning over 100 beds with clean bedding each session is now a task that will be completed with style and ease!



Thanks Ted and Leslie!

Upcoming Gala: A Breath of Fresh Air Holiday Home Camp: Celebrating 125 Years



HOLIDAY HOME CAMP

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The 125th Anniversary celebration of the Lake Geneva Fresh Air Association and Holiday Home Camp will officially kick off on Saturday, **June 16th** with the annual benefit gala to be held at the Lake Geneva Country Club.

This year's theme, "A Step Back In Time - Celebrating 125 Years of Fresh Air" will honor the traditions and successes of Holiday Home Camp that began all the way back in 1887 during the Victorian Era.

This

year's event is being chaired by Mrs. Kelly Clow, who along with the dedicated Gala Committee, is excited to put on a memorable event. "We are so excited about our theme, our live auction packages (which include a Nantucket golf weekend and a weeklong Palm Desert get-away) and the fun entertainment we have planned! The committee is so creative - this will be a benefit to remember!"

David Rothstein's well known band will be up from Chicago to get everyone dancing well into the night, and there will be other

vintage surprises to keep the guests entertained. China West will once again feature an interactive raffle for one of their unique, custom creations.

Guests are encouraged to "dress the part" in Victorian Era formal wear or black tie. Tickets for the event will be \$175 each and will be available for online purchase or by mail. Invitations will be mailed in early May.

Be sure to reserve your tables quickly as space is limited and this event will

A New Roof Over Our Heads!!

Engerman Construction answered the call once again - providing a new roof over our Central Supply and garage. This building houses our summer supplies, OWLS equipment, a workshop, as well as tools and stored furniture. The leaky roof threatened our supplies and projects each year & required clean up each spring. The new roof saves us a great deal of time while keeping our supplies safe and dry. Thanks John Engerman and Engerman Construction!!!

"My Fair Lady" Hats and Handbags Luncheon



In Honor of the 125th Year of Holiday Home Camp, and in the spirit of continuing to celebrate with "a step back in time", this year's luncheon theme will be:

"My Fair Lady"

The theme and décor is designed to invoke all the charm and sophistication of Lake Geneva in the late 1800's as our camp founders knew it. Guests are encouraged to wear hats and gloves and the crisp, white theme of the day will bring freshness to this late summer gathering.

The event is being held on **August 17th** at Lake Geneva Country Club. New attractions this year will be a combination of raffled new designer bags and an

auction of old designer bags, a prize for the "best hat", and a larger shopping boutique featuring hats, scarves, jewelry, wraps, lingerie, and, of course, handbags!

Seating will again be limited this year, so please call your reservation in as soon as possible to Amanda at Holiday Home Camp: 262-245-5161.

It's going to be an extra special event this year - "Just you wait!"



Needs List

- **Camperships: \$1200 sends a camper to camp for a week!**
- **Golf Cart**
- **Portable Sound System**
- **BobCat Machine**
- **Aluminum Siding for rear exterior of Founders Hall**
- **15 Passenger Vehicle**
- **Stafferships:** We find our staff both abroad as well as domestically at colleges in many states such as Illinois, Wisconsin, Arizona and California. Most counselors attend college in the majors of education, social work, juvenile justice and psychology. **Sponsor one of these amazing young people who make Holiday Home Camp possible for \$2500!**