

Campers Need Our Help!

Many Monthly Meetings and Individuals sponsor children to go to camp each summer. It is a great opportunity to help a child who would never otherwise be able to go to camp. If you have finished sending your kids to camp or finished going to camp yourself, then you know what a valuable experience our camp program provides. Perhaps you would like to help a child or children go to camp. You can give a life changing gift to someone who can really use it and at the same time give back to the Camping Program.

We have a program partnership with My Sisters' Circle in Baltimore that identifies at risk girls as they enter the fifth grade through the eighth grade in an effort to keep the girls in school. The girls have tutors, mentors, activities all year, and they send the girls to camp each summer with the help of camps like ours. Four or five girls from My Sisters' Circle have gone to Opequon for the several years now. The Miles White Fund and donations from people at Baltimore Homewood and Baltimore Stony Run Meetings have helped make that partnership possible. However, we could use more help making sure these girls can continue going to camp each summer.

We are developing a program to increase the diversity at our camps by identifying kids of color at a Community Center in Philadelphia where we have an alum who volunteers. This is a great program, great outreach for our camps, and great for finding opportunities for kids who can use them.

I am asking you, yes you, reading this right now, to send a donation for camp tuition so we can sponsor kids who really need a chance to go to camp. We already have kids identified who we sponsor every year, but there are plenty more who never get the opportunity. It costs \$600 a week to send a child to camp. I know some of you are thinking that this sounds like a great idea, but you think you just don't have the money. I have some suggestions for you: You could do a work grant at camp to help pay for a camper in need. One week working in the kitchen, infirmary, or as maintenance staff pays for a child to go to camp for one week! You can come see what the camping program is all about and live in Quaker Community for a week in a beautiful camp setting. You can do a fundraiser at your meeting, possibly the proceeds from a simple lunch or a spaghetti dinner. You can build community and raise money all at the same time! You can ask your family members to help sponsor a camper instead of buying Christmas gifts. We all have too much stuff anyway and this will help get us in touch with the true spirit of Christmas.