

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 past couple of years. 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.

The Camping Program Committee was discussing outreach at our last meeting and we realized the Patapsco Meeting has a worship group under their care that is in a prison in Maryland. I started thinking that it would be really neat if we could extend our prison ministries in the Yearly Meeting to include the children of prisoners. I would like us to reach out to some of the families of prisoners that we minister to by sending the prisoners' camp age kids to our camps. In order to do this, we would need funds.

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 \$950 to send a child to camp for two weeks. 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. I plan on doing this one.