

December 21, 2017

Dear Friends,

Summer horse camp is a great place for kids to come and have some fun, make new friends, create lifetime memories. For some, it's a place to get away from problems at home. These days, too many kids are getting hurt by their parent's addiction to opioids. We learned that first-hand this summer.

A Mom addicted to opioids. Her husband emotionally and physically abuses her. Children's Services is called in and three kids are sent to live with their uncle...until he abuses them. This is the story of Kayle and Kaleb and how a week at summer camp helped them find some healing and hope.

Children's Services had to split the kids up, sending the oldest boy to one foster home and the two younger children, 13-year-old twins, go to another foster home.

Their foster mom, Kay, knew about Marmon Valley Summer camps and asked her case manager, Wendy, if the county could pay for the twins to come to camp. There was no money available, so Kay and Wendy jointly filled out a scholarship application.

Due to mom's addiction, Kayle took on the responsibilities her mom couldn't: cleaning, doing laundry, cooking.

In the application, Kay and Wendy told us:

Kayle is amazingly resilient and so desperately deserving of a week away at camp where she can be a little girl and connect with other little girls.



Kayle riding at Horsin' Around Camp

Regarding Kaleb, they wrote:

Your camp could provide structure, therapy and a place for Kaleb to let his energy out...to be his loving, fun self.



Kaleb learning forging at Pure Country Camp

This was one of those rare situations where I knew a full scholarship for both kids was the right thing to do.

(more)

Marmon Valley Ministries | 7754 State Route 292 | Zanesfield, OH 43360

937 593-8000 | <mailto:camp@marmonvalleyministries.org>

www.marmonvalleyministries.org



Kayle spent her week learning to ride, swimming and just hanging out with girls her own age. Through the daily Bible study, Kay says Kayle learned God is always with her. "I think she knows now, she always has somebody (God) to lean on," Kay tells us, "She has not had anyone at home tell her that for a long time."

Kaleb loves being active and the *Pure Country Camp* for boys gave him a chance to try some new things, like forging and camping. Wendy noticed a change in him as well.

"To be able to escape to a place for a week and be given some extra tools, working and learning new, challenging things, that was really good for him," she told us a few weeks ago.

And I'm happy to report that they've been reunited with their Mom, who has been clean for several months, is holding a job...and thankful to the donors who helped bring joy to Kayle and Kaleb when she couldn't.

As you make out your Christmas gift list this year, please consider giving the gift of camp to a kid that needs some time away from home...or their family just can't afford the full cost of camp.

A full week of *Horsin' Around* camp costs **\$695**. *Pure Country Camp* is **\$635**.


Most families are able to pay at least \$125 of the cost, so the majority of scholarships cover a portion of camp fees. A donation of **\$327** covers a half week of *Original Horse Camp* for a young boy or girl.

The half-week *Atomic Horse Camp* is \$465 total, so a contribution of **\$232** scholarships two days of that camp.

Gifts of \$100, \$50, \$25 or \$10 are bundled together and make a real difference. Last summer, 107 kids got to come to camp because of the scholarship fund. My thanks to all the donors who helped those children saddle up.

May you be blessed this season and always by God's gift to us, his son, Jesus.

In Him,



Wrangler Matt Wiley
Founder, Member Board of Trustees

P.S. You can make a secure, on-line gift by clicking on the Donate Now button.

