



Mission

Our mission is to provide a safe, nurturing and fun outdoor experience for children and teens with heart conditions so that they can experience courage, independence and friendship without fear of being judged by others.

Objectives

To provide a summer camp environment where children are encouraged to make new friends, share experiences, and participate in sports and activities to the best of their abilities.

To provide a safe and medically supervised camp program for children with heart conditions from Oregon and Southwest Washington.

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Merry Heart Children's Camp 2016 Progress Report

December 21, 2016

Dear Supporters,

Merry Heart Children's Camp had our second successful camp in August. Thirty-six campers attended camp, which was an increase of 11 campers from our 2015 camp. Of the 25 campers who attended last year, 21 returned and were happy to see fellow campers they had kept in contact with all year. The new campers quickly felt part of the group because of the special bond all these children have with each other. There were 18 girls and 18 boys from all parts of Oregon, SW Washington and Idaho. The age range for our campers was 9 to 16 years. All the campers plan to return next year and the few that will be older than 14 are disappointed they cannot return.

Our volunteer staff also increased. We had 12 counselors, 6 of whom had heart conditions themselves and they were great role models for the campers. We also had a head counselor this year that helped coordinate activities, helped with camper issues and relieved other counselors. We had a head nurse this year that coordinated 7 other nurses. This greatly improved the nursing efficiency at camp. In addition to our nursing staff, the camp had three nurse practitioners and one physician's assistant who provided medical supervision.

In addition to the camp director, we added an assistant camp director in charge of physical activities. To help our craft activities an assistant director was added which allowed us to spend more time helping the campers especially in music and making Tie-Dye t-shirts. There were also 10 day volunteers helping with activities and logistics.

Five speakers discussed different aspects of the camper's heart conditions with the campers, 2 adults with heart conditions, 2 pediatric cardiologists, and a surgical physician's assistant. They were all very interactive with the campers who had lots of questions for them.



We had a planned talent show this year with all the campers participating with their cabin members. It was a lot of fun. We also had our award ceremony Thursday morning before the campers left for home. We invited their families to attend and all but 2 families were there. This meant a lot to the campers and their families. This also gave the families time to talk with the volunteer staff, meet other families and see the camp.

From comments by campers and staff at camp, surveys from campers and their families and our post camp review in September, everyone thought the camp was a great success. However some changes for next year were suggested. This includes having more activities in which all the campers participate and less dividing into groups. We are also going to have time periods with 2-3 activities from which the campers can choose what they want to do. Camp Howard has also added a Zip Line and a Big Swing for campers 13 years and older. We will continue to spread the word about camp and strive to reach our goal of 48 campers for next year.

Your support of \$5,000.00 helped us cover the cost of room and board for campers and volunteers (\$13,558.00), arts and craft activities (\$317.30), medical supplies (\$417.83), background checks (\$887.00), t-shirts for campers and volunteers (\$1,025.56), and camp liability insurance (\$4,550.40). You are recognized as a supporter of Merry Heart Children's Camp on our website under sponsors.

We are now on our way to making this an annual camp for children with heart conditions. A big THANK YOU from all the campers and volunteer staff for your support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mary Rice".

Mary Rice, MD
President of the Board

Merry Heart Children's Camp
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Merry Heart Children's Camp is a non-profit organization recognized under IRS Section 501(c)(3) Public Charity.
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