



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 2017 Progress Report

October 5, 2017

Dear Supporters,

Merry Heart Children's Camp had our third successful camp in August. Forty-eight campers were scheduled to attend camp, however 7 campers decided not to come, 3 campers had to undergo heart surgery and 1 camper became sick prior to camp. We had 37 campers attend camp this year, which was an increase of 1 camper from our 2016 camp. Of the 36 campers that attended last year, 18 returned and 4 campers were older than 14. They were happy to see fellow campers who are now their friends. The new campers quickly felt part of the group because of the special bond all these children have with each other. There were 19 girls and 18 boys from all parts of Oregon, SW Washington and Idaho. The age range for our campers was 9 to 14 years.

For the children who aged out of camp, we started a counselor in training program. We had 5 young adults, 15 to 17 years, and they were each teamed with 2 counselors for each cabin. The counselors in training helped supervise campers, participated in activities with the campers and organized a round robin of different activities for the campers.

Our volunteer staff also increased. We had 12 counselors, 5 of whom had heart conditions themselves and they were great role models for the campers. In addition to our head counselor, we added another head counselor for our counselor in training program. Our head nurse coordinated 8 other nurses. In addition to our nursing staff, the camp had 2 nurse practitioners and 2 pediatric cardiologists who provided medical supervision.

In addition to the camp director, 2 assistant camp directors were in charge of physical and craft activities as assistant directors. There were also 10 volunteers who helped with activities and logistics. Six speakers discussed different



aspects of the camper’s heart condition with the campers, 1 adult with a heart condition, 3 pediatric cardiologists, a pediatric cardiac surgeon and a representative from a biomedical company. They were all very interactive with the campers who had lots of questions for them.

We had a great viewing of the solar eclipse and provided solar eclipse activities so the campers were able to learn about the eclipse. The campers enjoyed camp activities including swimming, archery, fishing, sports and crafts, movie night, and talent show. From feedback from last summer, we had more all-camper activities and some choice of activities for campers. We invited their families to attend our award ceremony on Thursday morning where the counselors and counselors in training presented special awards to the campers. 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, everyone thought the camp was a great success. The 7 children who decided not to attend felt uncomfortable not knowing anyone at camp and being away from home. To help these children, next Spring we plan to have a get-together with potential campers and returning campers. We will continue to spread the word about our camp and strive to reach our goal of 48 campers for next year.

Your support of \$3,000.00 helped us cover the cost of room and board for campers and volunteers (\$14,850.00), arts and craft activities (\$250.69), medical supplies (\$86.99), background checks (\$133.00), t-shirts for campers and volunteers (\$1,243.05), new online registration system (\$599.00) and camp liability insurance (\$4,183.40). You are recognized as a supporter of Merry Heart Children’s Camp on our website under sponsors.

Our camp is now an annual camp for children with heart conditions. A big THANK YOU from all the campers and volunteer staff for your support. We hope that you continue to support our summer camp so that children with heart conditions can develop physically, socially and even learn more about their own heart.

Sincerely,

Mary Rice, MD
President of the Board



Dr. Rice with some of our campers.

Merry Heart Children’s Camp

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Merry Heart Children’s Camp is a non-profit public charity organization under IRS Section 501(c)(3) and Section 509(a)(2).
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