



The Royal Page

February 2008

Royal Family Kids' Camps, Inc.

Vol. I

Kids Can't Wait! The 18th Annual Royal Family Kids' Camps Banquet

Kids can't wait for horseback riding, swimming and celebrating forgotten birthdays. Kids can't wait for the chance to laugh, feel loved and to belong. Kids can't wait for new hope and a future ... for broken hearts to be healed, for shattered lives to be rebuilt. Kids can't wait for Royal Family Kids' Camps!

This is the theme of our 18th annual banquet, *Kids Can't Wait*. Slated for February 28th at the Irvine Marriott Hotel in Irvine, California, the banquet will be a time to celebrate together the dynamic impact of Royal Family Kids' Camps:

Last year, we experienced the biggest year of outreach yet, with over 6,000 foster children in 155 camps worldwide — and moving forward, with God's help and yours, we will make an amazing difference in even more lives!

This year's featured speaker at the banquet is Pastor Doug Fields of Saddleback Church, the well-known author, youth minister and founder of Simply Youth Ministry, which has the mission of helping youth workers save time and simplify their ministry.

Doug is excited about sharing with us at this year's annual Royal Family Kids' Camps Banquet and says, "I love RFKC, I love [founders] Wayne and Diane, and I

love the thought of a bunch of people gathering together with like-minds and like-hearts towards the mission of RFKC. I'm honored to be able to participate. I can't wait!"

We can't wait, either!

When:
Thursday,
February 28, 2008
at 6:30 p.m.

Where:
The Irvine Marriott
Hotel, Irvine, CA

Advance ticket
purchase required.
For more information
call: 714-438-2494



Royal Family Kids' Camps Banquet speaker Pastor Doug Fields is a noted author and youth ministry expert.



Buffalo Bills protecting our kids!

The NFL's Buffalo Bills team reached out in compassion to their local Royal Family Kids' Camps with a richly appreciated donation of logo rain ponchos! They keep the kids dry and make a great souvenir, too! Thanks, Bills, for giving a wonderful gift to the children at the Houghton, New York camp.

A personal word from Founders Wayne and Diane Tesch



There's a Christmas carol about the hope that's born during "the bleak mid-winter." That's an appropriate thought for our winter Royal Page — because no matter how bleak the winter may be, the hope of Royal Family Kids' Camps is being born! We are recruiting churches to sponsor new camps, planning the training of new Directors this year, helping existing camps get up and running for the summer, and much more. Together, we can give great memories and love for hurting children.

Thank you, dear friend and partner, for participating with us in all this, even during the bleak mid-winter. Your faithfulness allowed us to touch the lives of 6,000 children last year, through the provision of 155 camps — and 978,000 volunteer hours. A conservative estimate of what those hours would be worth in the workday world is over \$19,000,000*!

But to the children, for the memories they made, it was priceless!

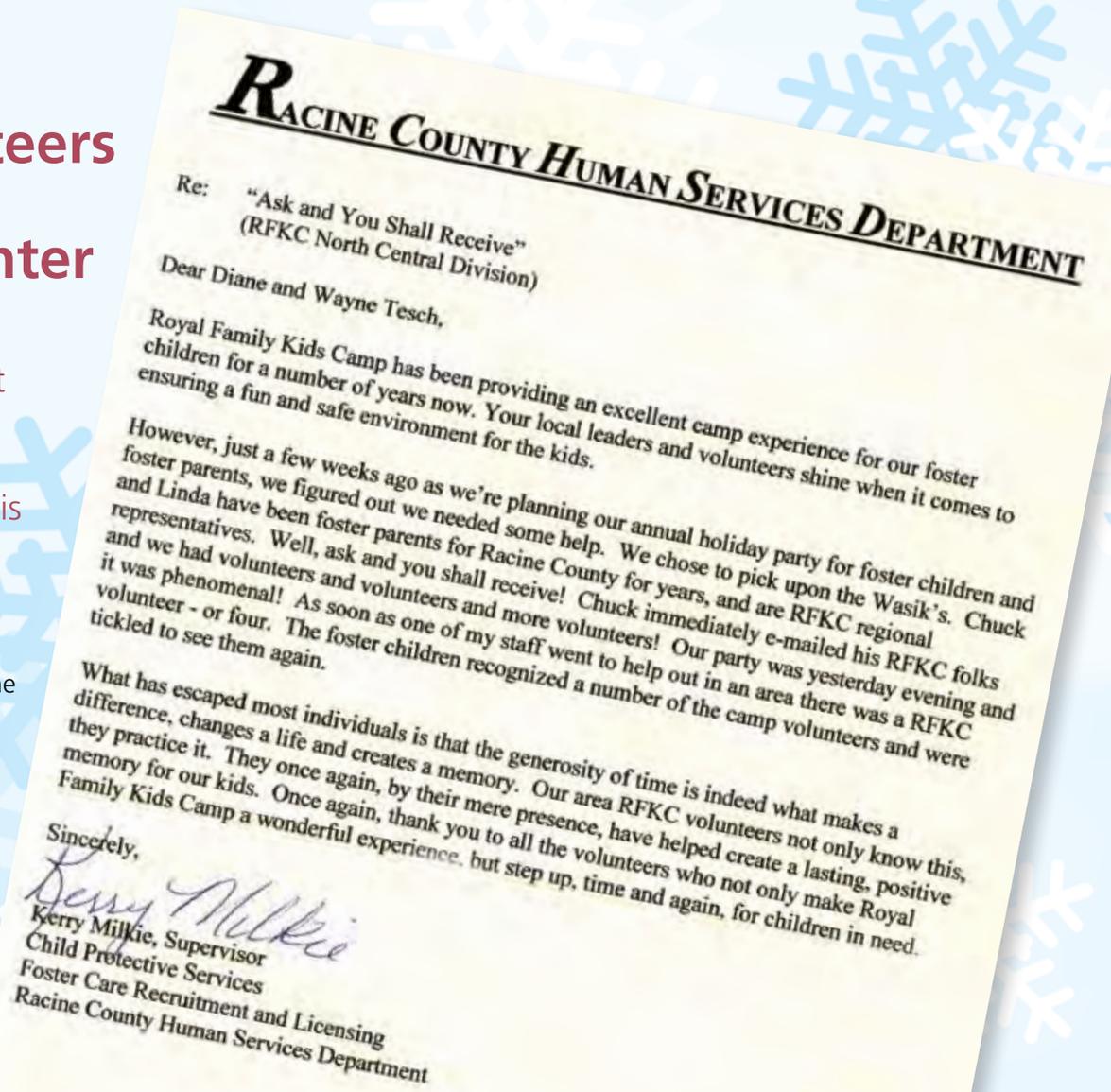
Thank you for making it happen last summer. Thank you for helping it happen again this summer. Your friendship is a blessing.

(*This value is used by the U.S Government for quantifying the worth of volunteers' time to an organization and determining grant calculations. It's computed by multiplying 6,800 volunteers in 2007 by 150 hours on average per volunteer by \$18.77 per hour. Information taken from The Independent Sector Survey.)

RFKC Volunteers make the season brighter

People giving of their time can make a great difference in the lives of others. Our RFKC volunteers truly live this out all year round.

We received the following letter from Child Protective Services in Racine, WI after the RFKC volunteers in that city helped out in organizing a party for foster children ... just another example of the kinds of people who are involved with Royal Family Kids' Camps. They make us proud!



April's story: from camper to volunteer and beyond!

April says her world turned upside-down when she was taken from her home and placed in foster care. Then she was moved from placement to placement, constantly feeling that she was lost, alone, and simply did not belong ...



She finally felt as if she had found a home when she was placed with Rodger and Wilma. They loved and supported her, and for the first time, April felt truly happy. Then — it happened: They were sending her away! Rodger and Wilma thought she would enjoy Royal Family Kids' Camps, but yet to April, it felt like her best foster family just wanted to get rid of her.

All the way to camp, she was sullen and withdrawn. Why had they pushed her away like this? What had she done wrong?

What a wonderful realization she had when she arrived at camp! This was not some kind of punishment ... it was going to be fun!

"I knew I was part of their family as soon as my leader welcomed me with open arms," April says. "That day I did become a part of the RFKC family. I participated in more activities that week than any child could dream up. Between that year in 1999 and my graduation year, I met so many new faces and was always open to seeing the old ones. I grew so much each summer at camp."

Recently, April wrote her life's story down on a scholarship application received from the advisory committee for the RFKC she attended at Houghton, New York.

April wrote how she had been removed from her home, due in part to her father's drinking which resulted in an abusive environment. But she also went on to say:

"Royal Family laid the foundation for an optimistic attitude on life. After RFKC, I felt I could take on any obstacle and there was always a great big family to back me up. It gave me the encouragement and self-confidence I needed to say, *I am better than my parents and deserve much more than the life they can give me.*"

Last year, April returned to camp as a volunteer, and she was awarded the \$500 college scholarship for which she applied from the Houghton, New York Royal Family Kids' Camps advisory committee. This scholarship was matched by Houghton College, where April now attends.



April attended camp from 1999-2002 (photo at left), and returned in 2007 as a volunteer (above right), when she painted the campers' faces at the birthday carnival.

"April is very cheerful and outgoing and she is intelligent and self-confident and has good artistic ability," says her former Camp Director, John Van Wicklin. "Given the mobility and disruptions in her home life as a child, including some time in foster care before being adopted by her grandmother... I think her positive outlook on life and determination to forge ahead are admirable."

April is one of our success stories, and we cherish her.

Royal Family Kids' Camps Director brings smiles to Africa's children

Norman, Oklahoma Camp Director Rick Roberts found that kids are kids, wherever you go, when he gave Frisbees with the Royal Family Kids' Camps logo to some poor children in the African nation of Ivory Coast.

Rick and two other Royal Family volunteers were part of a medical and missions team to Ivory Coast, and Rick's commitment was to make children smile. The Frisbees did



the trick! "They had never seen anything like this before and you can see from the smiles the fun we are having," Rick says.

The villages they visited were experiencing an epidemic of meningitis, and many families asked Rick and the team to take their children back to the USA, where they might have a better future. "Our trip was planned ... to vaccinate the natives and do minor wound care, share the word of God through translators and do our best to put a smile on the faces of these people in this time of devastation."

Thanks, Rick, for accomplishing your goal of putting smiles on the faces of kids in Africa and every summer at Royal Family Kids' Camps, too.

Making kids smile ... one Frisbee at a time!

Miss Connecticut connects with Royal Family

2007 Miss Connecticut, Dana Elaine Daunis, surprised children last summer at our local Royal Family Kids' Camps in Fairfield, Connecticut by joining them for Everybody's Birthday Party!

The beauty queen posed for photos, allowing each child to be photographed in her crown (it is Royal Family!) and then stayed to swim and go tubing when some of the girls invited her. Dana's contest platform is child-abuse prevention and recovery, and she was impressed by what she saw at camp. "I was touched by how excited the campers were," says Dana. "I didn't want to leave them when the time came. I hope to return to camp next year, possibly as a Counselor."



Why I Like Royal Family Kids' Camps ...

Because it was so fun and we got to do all these things, painting our birdhouses and making books and swimming and all the activities and playing, I never have gotten so many gifts except at Christmas which I have to earn it by doing good things for Santa whose keeping track of it in his book. I like playing with my brothers. I really like my counselor Mike and I enjoyed eating with the big girls.
- Bryan

What I like about camp is because you get to eat breakfast. The reason what I like about camp is when you get to go to sleep at a certain time. You get to do activities like dress up, and a dollhouse and you get to make one of those things with holes and they stick. 'Cause you get to go see your new room when you get to camp. What I like about camp you get to cheer for the boys. And one more because we get to brush our teeth when it's bedtime.
- Keisha

Dear God,
I want to go home with my grandma and know you will do it on your time. Lord, I thank you for the chance to come here and I hope that I will come and live with you some day. And I thank him for my meals. Thanks you for the pool this week.
- Serena

Your Generosity working for you...

On behalf of the children of Royal Family Kids' Camps, we thank you for your continued generosity and compassion. What a difference you are making in the lives of the children!

We treasure your support! And for that very reason, we want to share with you the many ways that you may benefit from your giving:

- Memorials
- Charitable Trust
- Estate Planning
- Donated vehicles
- A Gift of Life Insurance

For more information, please contact Glenn M. Howard at: 714-438-2494 or GlennH@rfkc.org. We are happy to help you find an option that suits your giving needs.

Thank you for providing smiles and hope for abused, abandoned, and neglected children!



CHECK US OUT ONLINE!!

Please visit us at www.rfkc.org to:

- Read moving personal testimonies
- Find Royal Family Kids' Camps near you
- And so much more!



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To protect camper confidentiality, models are used in some photographs.