

Whispering Winds Family Camp:

An Enriching Experience

by Melody Whiteman

Never before had I had the absolute pleasure of lulling a wailing baby to sleep in my arms, while singing and dancing to “Somewhere over the Rainbow” under the shade of a giant oak tree until I went to Family Camp. This past June, I went to Whispering Winds in Julian for a long weekend to volunteer as a Child Care Assistant at Family Camp. This was my second time being a CCA, and I have had a marvelous experience both times. Each CCA is assigned a child, ages infant-to-7, to take care of and spend time with the family during the weekend. This time, I was assigned a seven-month-old baby. However, this wasn't just any baby. Upon first meeting Baby Danny and his parents on Friday evening, his dad told me that Danny was “a little fussy”; in other words, Danny cried—a lot. Danny was likely to be thrown into fits of crying when anyone he didn't know super well, including his aunts and grandparents, held him or even approached him. So this proved to be a little intimidating for me, since I have little to no experience with babies (let it be known that I had requested to take care of a baby ahead of time).

Needless to say, I was a little nervous for Saturday morning, when I would have Danny all to myself for three hours (under the supervision of the adults stationed in the nursery). That morning, when all the CCA's gathered for a meeting before breakfast, I prayed for God's grace to help me connect with Danny. After breakfast, the moment of truth arrived. I went up to the nursery at 9:00 to see that Danny was screaming in the arms of one of the adults on duty. I took Danny into my arms and began the struggle of getting him to quiet down. I walked him outside because he liked the fresh air, and I sang to him every nursery rhyme I could recall. Nothing was working—I had been walking in circles for close to an hour singing ceaselessly to classics such as “The Wheels on the Bus” and “He's got the Whole World in His Hands.” Experimenting with a new song, I began singing “Somewhere over the Rainbow” while trying my hand at waltzing, and, miraculously, he stopped crying and fell asleep in my arms. I was simultaneously astonished, relieved, and proud of my accom-



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plishment. His mom later told me that the only people who have been successful at getting him to fall asleep were herself and Danny's grandma. This was the most

rewarding experience I have had as a CCA. The Lord was definitely testing me through Danny. God taught me to persevere in the face of a challenge, but more importantly, He taught me to love those who challenge me.

Above all else, attending Family Camp is an enriching experience. It is a retreat from everyday life into a

place where God, Love, and Family take precedence over everything, as they rightfully should. In Luke 18: 16, Jesus says, “Let the children come to me and do not prevent them; for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these.” At Family Camp, God's presence is visible in the face of every child and in the love dwelling within each family. I feel so blessed to have had the opportunity once again to go up the mountain and spend time doing Christ's work.

Editor's Note: Whispering Winds organizes their Family Camps each Summer. High School youth help as Child Care Assistants (CCAs) at these weekend retreats. Many youth from around our Diocese participate in this terrific Service Opportunity. In 2015, as Summer approaches, the **Orientation Meeting** for youth and parents to find out about the roles of CCAs will be May 4th @ 7pm at OMC.

Holy Week begins with Palm
Sunday, April 13th - The Passion
of our Lord Jesus Christ

OMC Youth Ministry's Up - Words

Triduum — April 17th
Holy Thursday >>>
Easter April 20th

Our Mother of Confidence Youth Ministry Family

April 2014

Family Camp Child Care Assistant

“... the most fun and rewarding way ...”

by Barrett Settelmayer

My name is Barrett Settelmayer and I am a junior at UC high. I have been a CCA at Whispering Winds Family Camp for 3 years and each year has been a blast and a blessing. Being a CCA at Whispering Winds is by far the best thing to do at camp. You get to be a part of the team that helps run the entire camp and you get to meet a bunch of really awesome people doing so. Being a CCA requires a lot of fun work because you have to help out with various activities around the camp including setting up meals, running the zipline, making snow cones, and primarily helping take care of a little kid who becomes one of your best friends. The work as a CCA is tiring but it is also very fun and rewarding.

By far the best part about being a CCA is the people you meet on the mountain. Not only are they some of the most amazing people on Earth, but they are also people with whom I have made lifelong friendships. Everyone just gets along and it is one of the most amazing environments to be in as a teenager or young adult. At camp you don't have to worry about what people think about you so everyone just has a good time. I don't think I have ever met someone who didn't have fun while being a CCA. Being a CCA is the most fun and rewarding way to enjoy Whispering Winds.

P.S. You can get over 30 service hours!

CCA Orientation Meeting

Sun. April 27th, 6:30 pm

@ Our Mother of Confidence (Serra Hall)

Mon. May 12th, 7pm @
Santa Sophia (Resource Center)

Wed. May 21st, 7pm @
Ascension Parish (Pavilion)
Youth & Parent(s) attend 1.

Adopt-A-Senior Easter Baskets

for a very needed “*Happy Easter*”

Spring into action and hop on over to OMC on Monday April 14th, 4-6pm. We will be making Easter Baskets to give to our parish seniors in the Adopt-A-Senior program.

There will be eggs to paint, cards to create, baskets to fill, and did I mention pizza? Dinner is on us as a “thank you” for your service and donation of your love and time.

But best of all — What you do makes such a difference in these sweet seniors' lives. Many of our Adopt-A-Senior friends have a much better Easter (and youth helped for “Christmas stockings” too) because of the baskets OMC's YOUth help to send to them.

So, bring your friends and tell everyone you know; make a difference in a senior's life on April 14th.

Can't wait to see you there!

— *Emily Carignan* and the Adopt-A-Senior Program

Faith Club @ Standley

by Casey Sandoval

Hi, my name is **Casey Sandoval** and I'm going to be answering some questions about Faith Club that have been given to me.

1) What was your experience with Faith Club? My experience with Faith Club is wonderful. Every single Thursday I get to learn more information about our Lord Jesus Christ and I get to do so many fun activities with my friends.

2) To recommend/encourage others to participate, what would you tell them? Well, this would be easy because Faith Club is amazing, you get to learn so much about our Lord and we get to do games and even better, you get to have your friends with you.

I LOVE IT SO MUCH!

Editor's Note: The Faith Club at Standley meets on Thursdays during both lunch times. During 1st Lunch, we are in Room 608, and in Room 512 during 2nd Lunch. We bring pizza and drinks. Even if you bring your own lunch, we welcome you to join us. Two other youth ministers (from La Jolla Community Church and Torrey Pines Christian Church, and I) help with this Faith Club.

Confirmation updates

Retreat for 2nd Year Candidates is April 11th-13th. The theme is “Your Love Never Fails”.

Candidates' & Sponsors & Parents meeting for 1st & 2nd Year Candidates is Sunday May 4th @ 4-5 pm.

Confirmation Rehearsal at OMC (for 2nd Year Candidates & your Sponsors) — Thursday May 15th, @ 6:00 pm.

Confirmation Mass at OMC (for 2nd Year Candidates) — Sunday May 18th, @ 5:30 pm. Candidates and Sponsors, check in at 4pm in Serra Hall.

Please keep all of our youth and their families, as well as our Team in your prayers.