

Successful Campership Funding: A parent's perspective

By: Jo Ann & Peter

We are the parents of two wonderful children who have learning differences. When we discovered Camp Nuhop we were thrilled. It meant that our children could go to a camp where they would be understood and could enjoy the great times that only camp can provide. However, like a lot of parents, our budget did not stretch far enough to cover the cost of two kids at camp. The first year our kids went to Camp Nuhop we were blessed with partial camperships. When we saw the smiles on our kids' faces when we picked them up we knew that they had to return the next summer.

Our finances had gotten even tighter, so we decided to see if we could get our own "campership" program started. We felt that our kids benefitted so much from Camp Nuhop that whatever it took to get them there was worth it. Taking our cue from the sample letter sent in Nuhop's registration packet, we put together our own letter, personalizing it somewhat. We put together a list of possible donors. We included business owners we know, church organizations, local civic organizations like Kiwanis and Rotary, our kids; PTO, neighborhood businesses we patronize, the corporation my husband worked for, and friends. I was skeptical that this would work, but my husband persisted. His thinking was that the worst thing that could happen is that nothing would happen. We sent out 25-30 letters, just hoping that one fourth of the request would give us \$5 or \$10. As it turned out, we received enough money for both of our kids to receive enough money to attend camp for two weeks in 2004 and one week and the Fall weekend of 2005! We launched our 2006 campaign in October of 2005 and received enough for the kids' camp this summer.

If you are interested in trying this for yourself, we have a few suggestions. First, address each letter to the business, organization or person. Don't send out a "to whom it may concern" salutation. If you don't know who handles the charitable donation for the company, call the company and ask for a name. Make your letter personal by telling a little about your child. Be sure to include information about Camp Nuhop. We always include a brochure with each letter (Terri can send those to you.) Make sure you state that this is a tax-deductible donation. Last but not least, ask that the checks be made out to Nuhop and that the donations be sent directly to the camp office. We included an easy form which donors could put their name on and include with their check.

Clubs and Organizations for Possible Nuhop Camperships

You can obtain a complete list of clubs and organizations, with presidents' names and addresses, from your city or county Chamber of Commerce. This list is a guide as to what may be available in your area. We are not asking that you contact every club on this list.

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| ADHD Groups | *Kiwanis Club |
| American Legion | Learning Disabilities Association |
| American Legion Auxiliary | *Lions Club |
| Catholic Daughters | Local Church Groups |
| Central Labor Council | Masonic Lodge |
| *Child's Conservation League (mothers club) | Ministerial Associations |
| *Council of Garden Clubs | Moose Lodge |
| County Children Services | Optimist Club |
| Delta Kappa Gamma | Rotary Club |
| Eagles Club | Shrine Club |
| Eagles Auxiliary | Sororities |
| Easter Seals | United Church Women |
| Elks Club | VFW |
| Emblem Club | VFW Auxiliary |
| Fireman's Association | Welcome Wagon |
| Family Resource Services | *Women's Club |
| Jaycees | Exchange Club |

***Denotes more than one in each community.**

_____ Club
_____ President

Dear _____,

My child is classified as having a learning disability, attention deficit disorder or behavior disorder. He/She has an average or above IQ, but for some reason cannot succeed like other children his/her age. There are few programs which accept and cater to children like mine by providing a positive experience to help him/her become all that they can be. This summer my child has an opportunity to attend one such program, Camp Nuhop.

Founded over 40 years ago with the idea that all children thrive when successful, Camp Nuhop centers all activities around developing a positive self-concept. Other camps are not able to offer the small camper-staff ratio that is needed to provide the environment to help him/her deal with his/her disability. Even though I would like my child to attend a regular camp, I know that this is impossible, as he/she would not find the success that he/she will at Camp Nuhop. He/she does not need to meet failure like he/she does so often during the school year. Because of the small camper-staff ratio, I cannot afford to send my child. The cost to go to camp is \$170 per day, and it is my hope that I could interest your club in seeing that (your child's name) could have this experience.

Would you consider paying the fee or part of the fee so that my child may go to camp? Camp Nuhop is a non-profit organization and your campership donation would be tax deductible. Please call me at _____ if I can answer any of your questions. I have enclosed a pamphlet about Camp Nuhop for your information. I hope you will consider my request, as my child needs the opportunity to be like other kids and have this experience. Please feel free to call Terri Ru Lon, Office Manager, at 419-938-7151 if you have questions about the program. If you would like to help my child attend, you may send a check to Camp Nuhop, 1077 Township Rd 2916, Perrysville, OH 44864. *Your check should have my child's name on it and the money will be put towards my child attending camp this summer.* To help my plan for my child's attendance to Camp Nuhop, I would appreciate you returning the attached form to me by _____. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Name of Organization: _____ We will support your child by giving

Contact Person: _____ \$ _____.

Address: _____ We would like more information

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ Call me

Phone: _____/_____-_____ Have the Summer Director call me

Camper's Name: _____ We cannot help out at this time