

SUMMER CAMP 2014

# hope

## MISSION

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BY THE NUMBERS  
MORE WAYS TO GIVE

**“Thank you.  
You have  
changed my  
life forever.”**





# Campers Thank You

"Thank you so so much you have changed my life forever. I am no longer shy, I have made more friends than ever"

"I first started to believe in God when I started going here! Please keep this going, the people are nice and the counselors are understanding."

"Thank you, I made it to the top of the climbing tower!!"

"Thank you! You made me have a great time at camp. My favourite activity was horses and petting zoo."

## SUMMER CAMP A COUNSELLOR'S STORY

I first met Ali at the Hope Mission Café while doing camp registrations. We shared a laugh when I badly mispronounced her last name—and it seemed to give us a connection. Little did I know that I would be Ali's counselor for the coming week.

The moment we got to camp, eight-year-old Ali (not her real name) and I developed a special bond. I soon noticed, however, that she had a damaging perception of herself. Ali was defensive, often disruptive, and demanding of attention.



I felt frustrated with her, yet I found that these difficult moments were opportunities to draw her aside and ask her about herself. This was not the response she was used to, and it seemed to deepen our bond and build trust.

I discovered her parents were divorced and that she lived with her mother. Ali had no real relationship with her father, and she told me that her mom said he didn't want her around. This broke my heart.

Now I understood the reason for her feeling rejected and

her troubled behaviour. As a result she had been labeled as a difficult child and was now living up to that label.

I was able to connect with Ali because I understood what it's like not to have a truly healthy connection with your father, and I know the negative feelings that can spring from this.

**It was so gratifying to know I had made an impact on little Ali's heart.**

As I got to know Ali more, I would give her extra hugs and words of affirmation to encourage her and make her feel special. I found opportunities to tell her how special and beautiful she is. When I think of it now, every moment turned out special—even the difficult ones. And I hope that the moments we shared were planted deep in her heart.

I also cherished the times I was able to pray with Ali. I prayed that God's love would always be with her.

The weekend after the kids had gone back to their homes, I inquired about things at the Hope Mission Café. I was told there was a little girl named Ali who continued to ask about me. It was so gratifying to know I had made an impact on little Ali's heart.



# CAMP DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

## THE ONGOING STORY OF GOD IN A CHILD'S LIFE

Two years ago, Emma came to camp with lice in her hair. Her brother's head had been shaved and was free of lice; however, Emma's had gone unnoticed until she was checked by the nurse at camp.

Because it's our policy not to send children home once they reach Brightwood camp, Emma spent almost all of her time—from Sunday to Wednesday morning—in the nurse's office, where a counsellor carefully picked all the nits out of her hair.

Over that time Emma and the counsellor had the chance to share stories. "We had great talks about life and about God."

Last year the counsellor came to Brightwood just to see Emma and her brother and to hang out with them for the week.

This year the counsellor came to camp just to say hi to staff. Little did she know that Emma and her brother were registered for camp and would arrive the following day. When Emma and her brother stepped off the bus, the counsellor was again waiting for them. God worked it



out for these three to share some very special moments together for the third year in a row.

Emma and her brother have no doubt that there is a God who loves them, and that someone here on earth loves them too.

To all our supporters and donors, thank you! Thank you for making stories like Emma's and her brother's possible!

God Bless

Brent Ankrom | Ranch Director

## FUNDRAISING RIDE-A-THON

Thank you to those that donated. 116 riders raised \$25,138, sponsoring 84 kids to come to camp.

## BY THE NUMBERS ACROSS ALBERTA



**843** Campers in 2014

**12,645** Meals served

**34** Horses on site

**120** Youth In Training programs

**61** Kids made commitments to Christ





## MORE WAYS TO GIVE

### Air Miles Donation Program

#### 1. Collect Air Miles for Camp using this card:

Cut this card out and use it when you make purchases wherever Air Miles are accepted.



8401 064 3358

#### 2. Purchase items using your Air Miles:

A wide variety of items are needed. You could donate a camera for camp (2000 miles), or movie passes for prizes (100 miles) Contact our office for more options.

### Tickets to Spare?

Part of our follow-up program is one on one time doing activities other than riding horses. If you ever have tickets to an CFL game, a hockey game (NHL or Jr.), waterpark, theatre or whatever, we could really use them. Donation receipts can be issued for the value of the ticket.

### Camp's Needs List

**FOR HORSES** | lead ropes, halters, riding helmets, bridles, saddles, oats, hay and straw bales, arena equipment (barrels, poles, standards, pylons), round pen panels

**GENERAL** | skid steer attachment (chains), small grain bin for oats, tires (summer and winter - inquire for sizes), aluminum canoes, air impact wrenches, brush mower, taxidermy display animals, Adventures in Odyssey CDs, Max Lucado kids story books, children's picture bibles, wood chips, fruit trees, floor hockey sticks, firewood, golf cart or quad, 7 seater van.

**PRAYER** | for our campers, families, and staff.

### JOIN OUR TEAM NEXT SUMMER

**SUMMER 2015** | Counsellors, Wranglers, Secretary, Nurse or nurse in training, Kitchen Staff, Maintenance, Program Directors, Lifeguard, Camp Grandparent(s).

For more information and for application procedures go to:

**[www.hopemission.com/summercamp](http://www.hopemission.com/summercamp)**

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