



TEEN CARE and Pre-Teen Summer Camp. In 2010 we operated our first annual summer camp program for teenagers and preteens. Running for 10 weeks, one full day a week, this free program enriched the lives over 30 children.

- This 2010 program was attended by over 30 children ranging in age from 9 to 19.
- Twenty kids attended Teen Care almost every week throughout the summer; the others participated only part of the time.
- Only 3 kids attended Kid Care every week; others participated in some sessions.



Some kids stood out as leaders, and they will be back in the summer of 2011 leading our second annual summer camp, and teaching useful skills and social interactions to two more children.



- The majority of the kids continue visiting the refuge weekly or monthly and helping with volunteer tasks and introducing more children to healthy wholesome volunteer activities. It's a real blessing when teenagers want to spend their time constructively and positively volunteering and learning life skills, instead of hanging out at the mall, or worse.

- Grace Fisher, 14 years old, attended Teen Care this summer where she was able to hone her leadership skills. She's now a Docent and Official Tour Guide who can meet and greet the public, answer questions about the

refuge and animals, give tours and she'll be a Camp Counselor for our 2011 Summer Camp program. What a confidence builder for a teenage child!



- During summer camp the children learned: how to care for animals; the responsibility of caring for abandoned animals; fundraising - they did a bake sale as well as food drives; leadership and decision skills; dog training; how to build footpaths and bridges on nature trails in the woods; building skills helping to build a shade pavilion; interior and exterior painting; window installation and insulation; household insulation; how to install wall board; and how to choose the right kind for the right animal and build fencing. A pretty impressive list

for teens!

- Our Youth Director, Katarina Galvin, said she thought the most impressive experience was learning the necessity of facing and doing important tasks you don't really like and doing them from a standpoint of love, such as what must be done for the animals.
- Our summer programs were free and hence free child care to many needy families.



- After learning about environmental issues many of the kids urged their parents to car pool to be environmentally friendly.

- A number of the Teen Care and Kid Care participants wanted to be in the local Christmas Parade. They designed and made a float and were able to actually be in the parade!





To Whom It May Concern:

I want to say how wonderful a discovery Rikki's Refuge has been for my family. It's provided an enriching opportunity for my daughter to explore her volunteering spirit. Although I've always encouraged her to look outside of her own needs, it has NOT always been possible to find a setting and a cause that a teenager can relate to. Rikki's provides it perfectly for a number of reasons:

The people we've encountered at Rikki's seem to have a genuine passion for the love and care of their "refugees". They're always right in there with the volunteers doing the difficult and often unpleasant work that has to be done.

The energy and ideas that we see from the people that run Rikki's is unfaltering!! I don't know how they do it but it's just what I want my daughter to model.

The nature of the physical setting is gratifying to start with. And then to make it even better, the activities often take place at various remote locations and gives both of my teenagers a chance to participate in efforts that expose them to other community venues.

The overall culture of Rikki's Refuge fosters a higher moral character than general society. Sadly, most principles that Rikki's exemplifies, like compassion, integrity, hard work and self-sacrifice are fast-fading from day to day life. Thank goodness they can still be found in a few rare places....and definitely at Rikki's!

I can only hope that Rikki's Refuge will continue to exist. While I recognize that their purpose is to save an amazing array of animals from abuse and abandonment, it seems that the people who take the time to discover and interact with the organization stand to benefit just as much! I know that's sure been the case for my family.

Sincerely,
Toni White
(mother of 14 year old Grace Fisher)

