

There's a lot of thanks going around for sending kids to summer camps

By Karin Fuller
karinfuller@cnpapers.com

Earlier this week, the Gazette ran a Readers' Forum letter where the writer thanked the Gazette and me for our efforts to send kids to camp. The recognition was appreciated, and it made me pause to consider what fuels my determination that children have the opportunity to attend summer camp.

My inspiration was simple — Carbide Camp. So special was my time as a child at that great camp along the banks of Blue Creek that I want as many kids as possible to have a chance at similar summers. It's my way of paying homage to the Carlisle Girls and Camelot Boys.

For the past 13 years, since the Gazette's Camp Fund first began, one of the perks of my job has been getting to read thank-you letters sent by campers who received scholarships to attend the camps in our program.

"There are no words that can do

Gazette Charities



Send-A-Child-To-Camp Fund

Donation form is on Page 3C

this camp justice! Thank you so much for the best week ever."

"Camp showed me how life is supposed to be. They made me feel like family from the second I stepped out of the van."

"If I hadn't come to camp, I would still be alone in my own little world.

Thank you."

I'd like to add my own thanks to the many donors who have helped fund our program over the years. And now, we're at it again, with more scholarship requests than ever before. We have a long way to go to reach our goal, and I'd like to issue a challenge to the former Carbide Campers out there — and all those who had a special time at summer camp. Let me know what camp meant to you, and if you need more room than the subject line on your check allows, any paper will do.

Donations (payable to the Gazette Charities Camp Fund) can be sent to Gazette Charities Send-A-Child-To-Camp Fund, 1001 Virginia St. E., Charleston, WV 25301.

The Charleston Gazette, Friday, May 1, 2009

3C

Gazette Charities

Gazette Charities is raising money for its Send-A-Child-To-Camp Fund. The fund helps pay for underprivileged children to attend a summer camp. More than 21 camps, offering experiences from swimming and canoeing to music and drama, are taking part in the fund.

Send-A-Child



To-Camp Fund

My check is payable to Gazette Charities in the amount of \$ _____

Check one: You may publish my name and contribution amount Do not publish my name

I would like my gift to be in memory of or in honor of

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____ Phone _____

Mail to:

Gazette Charities
Send-A-Child-To-Camp-Fund
1001 Virginia Street East
Charleston, WV 25301