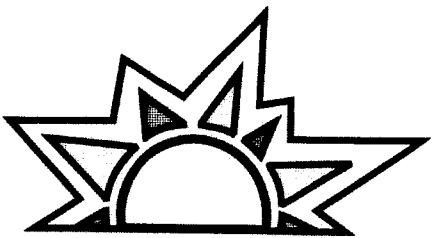




2010



Camp New Day

Ways you can help with this ministry

Staffing for camp

Dean or Co-Dean
Cabin Counselors
Worship Leader
Craft leader
Camp Nurse

Funding

Camper scholarships
Noisy change offering
Camp Supplies
Money gifts for programming
Money gifts towards Bibles

CND Steering Committee

Camper transportation
Recruit Campers
Make quilts
Treasurer
Publicity

Camp New Day - Lane Six of the Advance - Conference Projects Fund # 7482

Camp New Day is a ministry of the Prison and Restorative Justice Committee of the West Michigan Conference and a ministry of the Board of Church and Society of the Detroit Conference and a Jubilee Project.

Funding - churches and individuals partner with us to provide: camper scholarships, Bibles, T-shirts, counselor training programming, crafts, etc. We rely totally on donations to fund our camp. Funds needed each year approximately: \$31,000.

Transportation - Churches from the local communities where our campers live - partner with us to provide transportation. Most of our campers would not be able to attend camp without scholarships and help with transportation to and from camp.

Steering committee: If you or anyone from your congregation would like to partner with us to plan and vision for the future of Camp New Day contact:

Nancy Bitterling, Steering Comm. Chairperson at 989-466-2979 njbit1@yahoo.com

or - Camp Dean, Beverly Williams, 616-863-6218 will.fam@concast.net

Larry Fitch 616-296-0844 lmfitch@charter.net

John Skinner 989-773-4340 johnskinner43@hotmail.com

United Methodist Reporter
Camp New Day Advocate

Camp New Day is a mission growing out of the West Michigan Committee for Prison Ministry and Restorative Justice Concerns. We also receive support from the United Methodist Detroit Conference. The program provides a week long residential Christian camp experience for children who have parents in prison. During the week the campers learn about God's love and guidance for their lives. They also have a chance to just "be kids" and take a break from what can be a chaotic life at home. Part of this ministry is also giving the adults back home a needed respite. The camp is held at Albright Park Camp, formerly known as Camp Albright in Reed City July 18th through the 23rd.

I have been involved with Camp New Day for the last 7 years. One of the things I have discovered is that the children really do grow and develop over the course of the week and continue this growth each time they come back to camp. Camp offers amazing opportunities for life changing discussions about forgiveness, endurance and how to get along with others. Every year there are so many great stories from camp about children and counselors taking risks in trust and caring for others. Last summer, Sue (not her real name) attended Camp New Day for the first time. She lives with her mother, who works two jobs and an aunt who is 4 years older than she is. She packed for camp by herself and did not pack enough clothes. Her counselor shared with me after camp that Sue had a history of undermining every program she tried. Camp New Day was no different as she tried many ways to get herself sent home. She claimed she did not want to be at camp, she picked fights with her cabin mate and when that did not work she complained she was too ill to participate. Through the loving guidance of our staff we learned she did not have enough clothes and provided her with several more outfits and conflict management skills. She rejoined the camp and confessed she had a really great time participating in the many events at camp. Her counselor commented how genuine her smile was in the pictures she saw from camp. The counselor was so pleased that Camp New Day had been able to help Sue work through her issues and realize she did not have to fight about everything.

Camp New Day is not like any other camp in the Conference. We have our own registrar who patiently sends out sometimes several registration forms, phones to remind them to return the forms and makes every effort to get the camper registered. There is also an army of volunteers who provide rides to and from camp, raise funds, make quilts/blankets, provide clothing and sleeping bags and administer the program. Our campers just don't have the resources the families have that go to the other camps. This is why we need a camp just for them. The campers tell us that CND is the only time in their lives when they are with others who are going through what they are going through.

Like every other program in Michigan we are feeling the effects of the poor economy. We had received funding from Prison Fellowship, Scope program and the two conferences. Both Prison Fellowship and Scope have told us this year they are not able to help with Camp New Day. All of our campers are there on scholarship. We have done our part by consolidating the camps into one week for cost savings. Here is a great opportunity for us to have an impact on the future of our families, churches, and communities.

We welcome anyone to be a part of this amazing ministry. We are available to provide a program to any group about the Camp New Day ministry. Just let us know when and where to show up. You can help by being a volunteer, counseling during the week and/or by providing a financial gift to sponsor a camper. Please make gifts payable to the West Michigan Conference Treasurer, PO Box 6247, Grand Rapids, MI, 49516-6247. Camp New Day is part of the 6 lanes of giving (#7452) for the West Michigan Conference and we are in the Jubilee book for the Detroit Conference. If you would like to volunteer in any capacity please contact Nancy Bitterling, CND Steering Committee Chair at 989-466-2979 or Beverly Williams, CND Dean at 616-970-0612 or willfam@comcast.net.