

ISSUE 20 September 1, 2020

THE BELL

The Official Newsletter of Camp Sertoma of South Carolina



www.campsertomasc.com



Sonny G.T. Powers 1933-2020

September 1, 2020

Dear Friends,

We have lost a great Sertoman. As you will see on the next two pages, anyone who knew Sonny Powers saw a true Sertoman. He was iconic. He had a story for every occasion (sometimes more than one story....and often the same story for multiple occasions!). I don't believe he ever once had a thought that something couldn't be done. Build a camp? No problem. 76 Ways we can do it. Half a million dollar endowment? No one leaves until it's done. A Swimming pool? Water slide? Let's make a splash. Gateway project? Let's make it the biggest and best gateway to any camp in the South.

He was knit together with optimism, hope, and a can-do-must-do spirit. When combined with his heart for our campers (which was the size of Lake Hartwell), the end result was a tremendous amount of blessing for thousands of campers and inspirational leadership of Sertomans in South Carolina for over five decades.

He was passionate. He was dedicated. He loved Camp Sertoma. And he made others love camp. I HUGE love camp...and Sonny made me love it even more. And he loved Sertoma. He loved serving with other Sertomans. He loved hearing their story. He loved connecting, working together, figuring out ways to make his club and his camp the very best they could be.

Sonny understood that great things happen when people work together to accomplish something for others. And while I treasure my memories of Sonny, I can tell you for certain that he's wanting us to put all of our sentiment into action and make Camp Sertoma 2021 the very best summer we've ever seen and to make our clubs stronger than they've ever been. Together, we will emerge from this pandemic better and stronger. It cannot and will not win against a group of motivated Sertomans. Sonny never doubted that for an instant.

So let's get to work! Go Tigers! Go Sertoma! And GO CAMP SERTOMA!

Dale



The Board of Trustees
Camp Sertoma of South Carolina, Inc.
Presents This Symbol Of Our Sincere Appreciation To

Gilbert T. (Sonny) Powers, Jr.

August 21, 2015

In Recognition Of

- His forty years of service to The Board of Trustees.
 - His thirty six years of service as Co-Chairman of the Board.
 - His significant involvement in "Project 76" through which Camp Sertoma of S.C. was founded.
 - His many contributions to "Project Splash" for funding and building the swimming pool.
 - His leadership of "Launch a Shooting Star" creating the Camp Sertoma Endowment Fund.
 - His dedication to enhancements of the camp grounds through "Project Gateway".
 - His leadership of "Sprint for Splash" which funded construction of the Water Slide.
- As Well As
- His dedication to the administrative soundness of the Board of Trustees.
 - His total dedication to the mission of Camp Sertoma of S.C.
 - His unflagging optimism and faith in the future of our camp.

And his perpetual belief in the principles of SERVICE TO MAnkind



- "We have lost a great friend."
- "I would imagine he and Marshall are up there planning the charter banquet for their new Sertoma club. It will be a good one."
- "He was a friend, a mentor and epitomized SERVICE TO MAnkind."
- "His voice, his opinion, his insight into the birth, growth, and maturity of Camp Sertoma was enormous."
- "I was in the room in Augusta when Sonny stood at the podium and refused to close the meeting until the goal was reached for the endowment."
- ""Much of Camp Sertoma today is a credit to the drive and determination of this giant."
- "Sonny was a wonderful man who enriched the Camp Sertoma experience for all."
- "He was, without question, the most optimistic and hopeful person I have ever known."
- "I LOVE YOU." (Signed to Sonny by a camper he was taking home.)

- "My heart is broken. I have never met someone so committed to something as much as Sonny was committed to Camp Sertoma."
- "He worked so hard for camp!"
- "Sonny was such a dear, special person and will be greatly missed."
- "Sonny will forever be in our Sertoma hearts. The things he has done to help the children of South Carolina have been nothing short of incredible. He has left an indelible mark."
- "Definitely belongs on the Mt. Rushmore of Camp Sertoma, S.C."
- "My thoughts are with all the South Carolina Sertoma's. A good man and a great loss for all the wonderful work done by the camp."





Well, Camp Sertoma Family, this is one of the very rare times when I hate to have to write a message to you. It is an incredibly sad time in the life of Camp Sertoma of S.C. and in the lives of many Sertomans. This morning we lost one of the best Sertomans we have been blessed to know, Gilbert T. (Sonny) Powers, Jr. For more than fifty years he was a member of North Lake Sertoma and a friend of mine before and during the entire time we were brother Sertomans. Sonny's SERVICE TO MANKIND was tremendous during those years and his contributions to the creation, continuation and flourishing of Camp Sertoma of South Carolina were immense. Sonny was a victim of this dreadful Covid virus and it is such a tragic loss. But, let me tell you something I learned to an unquestionable degree over the last fifty-plus years; Sonny Powers was, without question, the most optimistic and hopeful person I have ever known. He would understand our sadness and our mourning, he was a compassionate and caring guy. But, he would only allow himself - or us - just so much time to mourn before he would start fussing at us about getting back to the work of SERVICE TO MANKIND. I hope you will join me in honoring his memory by re-committing ourselves to doing all we can to make our Sertoma Clubs, our communities, our state, our nation and, most importantly for him, our magnificent camp, better tomorrow than they are today. That is the kind of life he lived and what he achieved over his long and fruitful lifetime. Goodbye my dear friend, we will all miss you but we know you and the other Sertomans you now join in that beautiful place will be busily providing Service To Saints! I hope they elect you State Director in your new jurisdiction! -Rick Vandiver



Camp Sertoma was the most funest place iu been to and I said was bcause this is my last year I loved playing thunder ball with everyone and going hicking and camping most of all I loved the pool partys we had With ~~every~~ everyone I miss my friends and counselors they was the best and I love everyone of yill I hope the new campers have fun at camp Sertoma I hope you all stay safe and I love u all.
By: Rilee A

SOUTH CAROLINA SERTOMA CLUBS BY COUNTY AND AREA

This map shows the Sertoma clubs in each S.C. County. The chart at the bottom left shows the "Camp Sertoma Area."

[Download PDF >](#)



CAMP SERTOMA OF S.C.

The Statewide Project of South Carolina Sertoma Clubs

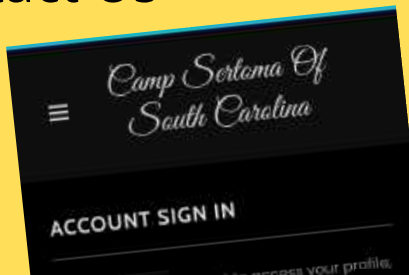
Welcome To The Camp Representative Page

In this section we will have information directly related to the responsibilities of Sertoma Club Camp Sertoma Representatives. We will also try to have some helpful information about the camp, the application process, some of the staff you will be working with and much more.

our awesome website...

www.campsertomasc.com

- Photo Gallery
- Videos from Camp
- Coming Events
- Map of Clubs in SC
- Contact Us
- Meet the Board
- Activity Pages
- Latest News
- Members Corner
- Camper Eligibility
- The Bell
- Club Events
- Fundraisers
- What to Bring
- When's Camp?



This is a short visit to Camp Sertoma of S.C. We Hope you will enjoy seeing what we consider one of the most beautiful places on the planet.

COMING EVENTS



Sporting Events and Fundraisers

Sertomans raise money for charitable activities in a wide variety of ways. We want to support them with their info here.



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Don't miss it!!!



✓ Camp Sertoma of SC State-wide meeting
Regional Convention, September 12, ZOOM, 1:00

✓ Camp Sertoma Golf Tournament
October 19, Woodside Plantation, Aiken, SC

✓ Camp Sertoma of SC Board of Directors
Meeting. December 12, Columbia, SC

What can you do now to make sure Camp Sertoma 2021 (and beyond) is the best it can be? I'm glad you asked....

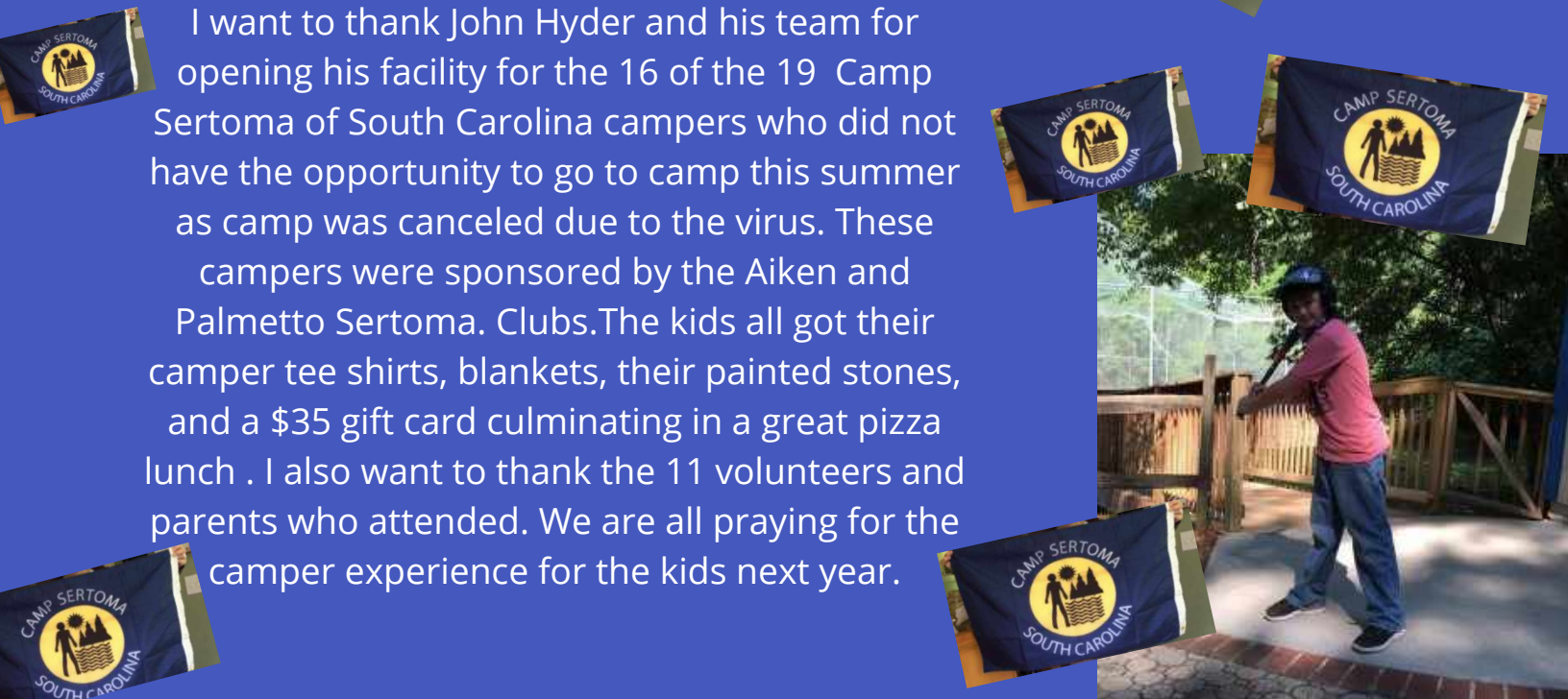
- Connect with your club, seek out new members (even now) (we can't have Camp Sertoma without thriving Sertoma clubs)
- Consider increasing your campers sent by 1-2 for next year (we have lost 1-2 clubs per year in South Carolina for several years...that decreases the number of campers sponsored)
- Connect with campers from this year and keep their contact information for next year (most have already registered)
- Turn in your 2021 reservation form as early as October 1.
- Read and distribute THE BELL to your club (for helpful updates and reminders of why we work so hard)
- Make sure you get your new officers' information to Rick Vandiver (esteemed co-chairman) every year
- Have more than one person in your club involved in camp
- ENJOY your club, ENJOY your campers, get your whole family involved in Sertoma and ENJOY serving together





... a great morning of miniature golf and batting cages at THE SOUTH on WHISKEY EVENT CENTER

I want to thank John Hyder and his team for opening his facility for the 16 of the 19 Camp Sertoma of South Carolina campers who did not have the opportunity to go to camp this summer as camp was canceled due to the virus. These campers were sponsored by the Aiken and Palmetto Sertoma. Clubs. The kids all got their camper tee shirts, blankets, their painted stones, and a \$35 gift card culminating in a great pizza lunch . I also want to thank the 11 volunteers and parents who attended. We are all praying for the camper experience for the kids next year.





For a review of our National
Convention, go to
www.sertoma.org

There you'll find links to a
relief grant, training videos,
updates and important
information that affects the
clubs of South Carolina.