



Canoe Believe?



We can!



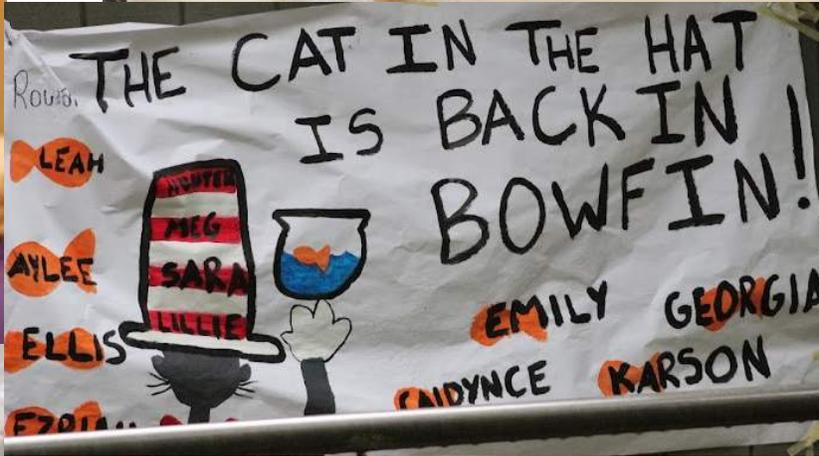
This is what we trained for...





Session 1: 32 campers from Clemson, North Augusta and Heritage Sertoma enjoyed a storybook start to our summer. Smiles, songs, laughs and cheers once again filled our forest. Splashes and super slippery slides adorned our pool and waterslide. All of the work from our clean-up crew paid off, as our camp was BEAUTIFUL and ready to become home to another week of campers.





Session 2 brought 32 campers from Columbia, Richland, North Lake, Wade Hampton, Cayce West, Lexington, Greenville Executive, and Clemson Sertoma. All of the fun from session 1 made the sun want to show up and shine on all of the activities for session 2







Clemson Sertoma's GIVE DAY: \$500 Personal Check. \$100 Personal Check. \$100 Personal Check. \$100 Personal Check. \$50 Wal Mart. Gift Card. \$50 Visa Gift Card. \$50 Lowes Gift Card. \$50 Wal Mart Gift Card, , Brand New Chain Saw (\$400+ value), Electric Drill, 2-5 Gallon Water Containers, Yard Rake, Assorted Batteries, Bag of Crepe Paper, Various Color Streamers , Several Bottles, Body Wash, 2 Bottles Disinfectant Spray, Assorted Bottles Suntan Lotion, Assorted Bottles/Shampoo, Assorted Bottles/Hand Sanitizer , Dish Detergent, 4 Small Sponges (crafts), 1 Inflatable Beach Ball, Assorted Boxes Zip Lock Bags/Quart/Gallon, Rolls/Paper Towels, Boxed Crayons, 48 Gallon Ice Chest, 2 Pair of Flip-Flops, Boys and Girls Underwear, Laundry Basket, 4 Large Playground Balls, 4 Water Hoses, 2 Containers of Bug Spray, Lots of Toilet Paper, Disposable Plates, Napkins, Cups, Several Smaller and Giant Tarps, 3 Frisbees, 4 Life Jackets, 3 Sleeping Bags, 100 ft Extension Cord, Hammer



Anderson Sertoma added on their GIVE DAY: 10 sleeping bags, and lots of fun/funky toys/costumes!

Opening Day, June 18, 2023:
Aiken Sertoma Club and
Clemson Sertoma Club became
the first two Sertoma clubs to
have their own rock in our
camper rock garden.



WHEN OUR CLUB'S CAMP SERTOMA REPRESENTATIVE HAD TO STEP DOWN THIS YEAR, I HELPED WITH GETTING OUR CAMPERS LINED UP AND READY TO GO. WE HAD SOME CHALLENGES ALONG THE WAY BUT WE GOT EVERYTHING SET UP FOR 2023.

IT CAUSED ME TO THINK BACK OVER THE YEARS AND REMEMBER THE MANY, MANY CHILDREN AND FAMILIES WE HAVE HAD THE CHANCE TO GET TO KNOW AND WHO SHARED THE "CAMP SERTOMA EXPERIENCE" WITH US. SEVERAL YEARS AGO, A WONDERFUL YOUNG MOTHER - WHO HAD BEEN PETRIFIED ABOUT SENDING HER DEAF CHILD TO CAMP - AGREED TO SPEAK TO OUR SERTOMA CLUB ABOUT THE EXPERIENCE. SHE WAS A VERY BRIGHT, ARTICULATE AND DEDICATED PARENT AND HER STORY WAS AMAZING. SHE SAID, "BEFORE MY CHILD WENT TO CAMP SERTOMA, I THOUGHT I KNEW EVERYTHING ABOUT HER. WHEN SHE RETURNED HOME, I REALIZED THAT I HAD NOT EVEN BEGUN TO KNOW THE DEPTH AND STRENGTH OF THE CHILD I HAD RAISED. THE THINGS SHE ACCOMPLISHED, THE THINGS SHE LEARNED, THE SKILLS SHE GAINED WERE BEYOND ANYTHING I COULD HAVE HOPED FOR. SHE CAME HOME TO ME AS A STRONG, CAPABLE, INDEPENDENT YOUNG LADY AND I TREASURE THE EXPERIENCE - FOR BOTH OF US." I DON'T THINK THERE WERE MANY COMPLETELY DRY EYES IN THE ROOM THAT EVENING. CAMP SERTOMA HAS ACHIEVED THIS MIRACLE TIME AFTER TIME AND, IN MY PRAYERS EACH NIGHT, I GIVE THANKS FOR THAT TINY PIECE OF HEAVEN ON THE SHORES OF LAKE HARTWELL.

RICK VANDIVER
NORHT LAKE
WADE HAMPTON



LOOKING BACK.....JUST 10 DAYS AGO

A RECENT CAMP EVENT CAUSED ME TO SHIFT AWAY FROM MY PLANNED ARTICLE THIS MONTH. IT REMINDS US OF WHY WE DO WHAT WE DO, EVERY YEAR, TO FIND THOSE WHO NEED CAMP SERTOMA.

TWO DAYS BEFORE ONE OF MY CAMPERS, A 13-YEAR-OLD REPEAT TEEN, WAS SCHEDULED TO ATTEND THE FIRST SESSION, HER MOTHER CONTACTED ME. SHE SAID SOMETHING LIKE, "MR. WHITE, JANE (NOT REAL NAME) IS NOT GOING TO BE ABLE TO GO TO CAMP. SHE DOESN'T HAVE ENOUGH CLOTHES." WELL, WHAT DOES SHE NEED, I ASKED? AFTER GETTING THE SPECIFIC NEEDS AND SIZES AND CONTACTING MY CLUB PRESIDENT, MY WIFE, JUDY, AND I SET ABOUT FINDING WHAT SHE NEEDED. JUDY HAD SOME CLOTHES OF THE RIGHT SIZE, I FOUND OTHERS IN THE CAMP CLOTHES CLOSET, AND MADE A QUICK TRIP TO WAL-MART. THE PROBLEM WAS SOLVED, CLOTHES DELIVERED TO HER ON ARRIVAL DAY, AND SHE HAD A WONDERFUL LAST CAMP SERTOMA AS SHE AGED OUT FOR BEING ABLE TO RETURN.

THIS WAS NOT UNCOMMON FOR MANY OF YOU IN SERTOMA. WE DO WHAT WE NEED TO DO TO SERVE EVERY DESERVING CHILD WE FIND AND AFFORD IN OUR COMMUNITY WHO NEEDS CAMP SERTOMA. SOMETIMES, IT'S CLOTHES. SOMETIMES, IT'S PAYING FOR A PHYSICAL. SOMETIMES...WELL, WHATEVER IT TAKES.

A WEEK LATER, THE DAY BEFORE JANE'S DEPARTURE, THE MOTHER CALLED ME AGAIN. "HI. MR. WHITE, THIS IS (JANE'S MOM). I'M CALLING BECAUSE I DON'T KNOW IF I HAVE ENOUGH GAS TO COME AND GET JANE TOMORROW AND GET BACK HOME. I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO. DO YOU HAVE ANY SUGGESTIONS?" MY IMMEDIATE THOUGHT WAS TO PURCHASE A GIFT CARD (OUR CLUB DOES SUCH), DELIVER IT TO HER, PROBLEM SOLVED. HOWEVER, I CALLED HER, HAD A DISCUSSION, AND ASKED HER TO CALL ME BACK AND I WOULD NOT ANSWER. I ASKED HER TO LEAVE A VOICE MAIL, GIVING ME PERMISSION TO TAKE HER DAUGHTER HOME THE NEXT DAY.





I STILL PURCHASED A GIFT CARD, THINKING I MIGHT DONATE IT AFTER SEEING JANE'S LIVING ENVIRONMENT. I WANTED TO BE SURE OF NEED. JANE AND I TALKED ALL THE WAY TO LIBERTY, ABOUT 17 MILES AWAY, AT LEAST WHEN SHE WAS NOT CRYING ABOUT LEAVING CAMP AND HER SPECIAL CABIN COUNSELOR FRIEND.

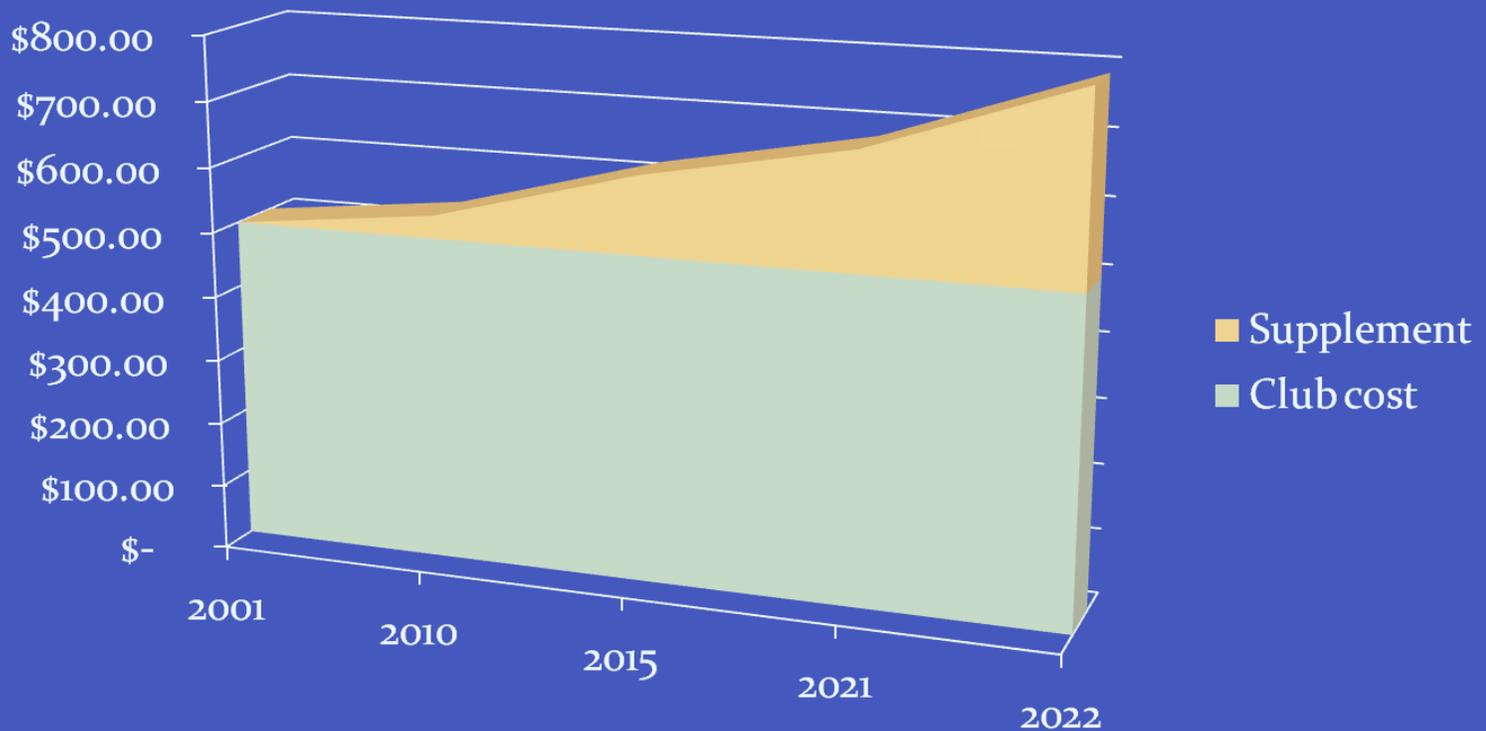
HER LIVING ENVIRONMENT WAS A JOLT OF REALISM. A RAMSHACKLED MOBILE HOME, 3 SINGLE ADULTS AND JANE LIVING THERE ALONG WITH 7 DOGS AND 2 RABBITS, THE INTERIOR BARELY LIVABLE. THE ONLY MAN THERE THANKED ME AND THEN BOLDLY ASKED IF I KNEW SOMEONE WHO COULD FIX HIS ROTTED KITCHEN FLOOR. I'M STILL THINKING ABOUT THAT QUESTION. JANE AND I SAID GOODBYE. I LEFT THE GIFT CARD, HOPEFULLY FOR HER USE, BUT WHO KNOWS?

I FELT BOTH SUPER SAD FOR HER AND THANKFUL AT THE SAME TIME, KNOWING THAT SHE HAD EXPERIENCED 2 WONDERFUL SUMMERS AT CAMP SERTOMA AND WAS ALREADY THINKING ABOUT FUTURE EMPLOYMENT THERE. WHERE IS HER LIFE HEADED? DID CAMP MAKE A DIFFERENCE? WHAT DID CAMP GIVE HER THAT SHE WOULDN'T EXPERIENCE IN HER HOME SITUATION? HER HOME LIFE AND HER CAMP LIFE WERE AT OPPOSITE ENDS OF A COMFORT, CARING, AND HEALTHY SPECTRUM. YOU GET THE PICTURE, RIGHT?

ANY SERTOMAN ANYWHERE WOULD HAVE RESPONDED TO THE MOTHER AND CHILD'S NEEDS AS I DID. IT'S SERVICE TO MANKIND. SOMETIMES, HOWEVER, IT CAN SHAKE ONE TO THE CORE WHEN WE HEAR AND SEE WHAT MANY OF OUR DESERVING CHILDREN EXPERIENCE EVERY DAY. AS I STARTED THIS STORY, I CLOSE IT THE SAME WAY. AS SERTOMANS, "THIS IS WHY WE DO WHAT WE DO."

CHARLIE WHITE
CUOL DIRECTOR, RETIRED
CAMPER RECRUITER
CLEMSON SERTOMA CLUB

Camp Sertoma Working For You!



In 2001, the cost to send a camper to Camp Sertoma for one week was \$500. Despite the cost increasing to \$825 over 21 years, the cost per camper FOR YOUR CLUB has remained \$500. The \$325 difference is paid for by our Camp Sertoma Golf Tournament and our Camp Sertoma endowment.



SEND IN YOUR
CAMP STORIES
OR PUBLICIZE
YOUR CLUB'S
ACTIVITY HERE!

