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**From the Director:**

Dear Friends of Camp Noah,

I was recently a guest panelist at the National Academies of Science – Disaster Resiliency Project in Cedar Rapids – presenting about the work done by Camp Noah and many of you in Iowa the summer of 2009. It reminded me of how important this work is – and how much it is needed! They spoke highly of our program and told of how it changed lives, not just of the children we served but how it gave hope to communities, volunteers and parents as well.

As spring comes into full bloom, we are preparing for significant flooding in much of the upper Midwest. There have already been several deadly tornadoes in the south and flooding across the northeast. It is heartbreaking. Unfortunately, we know how disaster can change a child's life.

Did you know that the US has a policy to protect pets during and after a disaster – but not one single program in place to respond to and protect the special needs of children? The National Commission on Children in Disaster has called the treatment of children post-disaster, “benign neglect”. A 2009 report from the Coalition on Children and Disasters stated: *Summer can be a particularly dangerous time for children. Hunger, child abuse, juvenile crime all spike during the summer. In communities affected by disaster, summer dramatically amplifies these effects. The government should support coordinated services for children, particularly in the first summer following a disaster. The Commission should work to develop a strategic plan focusing on the delivery of psychological programs that help children cope, that build on their natural resiliency, and that strengthen their support networks*

That's exactly what WE do! Camp Noah began in 1997. LSSMN recognized the unique needs of children more than a decade ago. Camp Noah could be – should be – in every community affected by disaster. That would be a dream come true!

Please support our work in any way you can this year. So many children – so few resources!

God Bless,
Nancy Beers

CAMP NOAH 2011

We anticipate a busy 2011 Camp Noah season, especially in response to spring flooding within the Midwest. We are looking for help! Please consider how you can volunteer your time or give of your financial or material resources to help support children impacted by disaster. For more information about how to help or if you know of a community that could use a Camp Noah experience for their children – check out this latest issue of Noah's News or contact Kara VerHage at 612.879.5312 or kara.verhage@lssmn.org

“NOAH’S WISE WORDS” — A Camp Noah Story

**Names and locations have been changed to protect privacy.*

Although Camp Noah has served kids across the country who have been impacted by many types of disasters – natural and manmade – children affected by tornadoes often have an intense fear of severe weather. For some children, just a cloudy or windy day can cause anxiety.

Camp Noah has a daily theme that is summarized by “Noah’s Wise Words” —a brief saying that campers and volunteers recite together several times each day. Noah’s Wise Words are intended to help build children’s self-confidence and reduce weather-related anxiety through the repetition of a positive statement such as “When things get tough, I learn a lot about who I am and what I’ve got” (Noah’s Wise Words on the fourth day of camp).



On a stormy fall day at a school in the Midwest, a second grade teacher called the local Camp Noah site coordinator, Sarah, when a student insisted that she needed to ask Sarah a question. When the student picked up the phone, she timidly asked Sarah if she would say Noah’s Wise Words. After Sarah had repeated the sayings from all five days, the student thanked her and told her that she felt much better before returning to her classroom.

A few days later, Sarah got a call from the teacher who was astounded at how Sarah’s repetition of Noah’s Wise Words had completely transformed that student from fearful to calm, from being preoccupied with the weather to being fully engaged in classroom activities. Since nearly all of the teacher’s students had been affected by the tornado, she requested a copy of Noah’s Wise Words to put in her classroom for the benefit of all students.

Volunteer Spotlight

We listened to our volunteers, and we have some great news!

Guess what! Yes, it’s true!

If you are a 2011 Camp Noah volunteer – you can rest assured that Camp Noah National will be sending every supply you will need to the camp location.

Can you believe it?

Every craft item, every book, the recreation supplies, preparedness packs, etc., Every thing is being sent on ahead!

All you have to do is train, pack your suitcase, put on your smile and get some pre-camp rest!



How You Can Help!

Camp Noah needs you!

In order for us to implement Camp Noah and help children recover from the devastating effects of disaster, we need the financial, material and volunteer support of people like you. For the 2011 camp season we are looking for individuals and congregations to help in the following ways:

National Volunteer Teams

Pull together 20 volunteers (minimum age 16 years old) to train and lead a Camp Noah. This season we will be serving primarily in the Midwest due to disasters in the fall of 2010 and upcoming spring flooding.

Financial Support

It costs approximately \$300 to send a child to Camp Noah and every penny counts as we provide kids the opportunity to experience a week of camp.

Donate Kids Kits

Every camp needs 50 Kids Kits (the supplies each children needs for camp activities). Kits include the following items: box of crayons, pack of washable markers, watercolor paint set, pencil, glue stick, and scissors.

Donate Quilts

Every child attending camp receives their own quilt – they are utilized for camp story time and the children are thrilled to be able to take them home at the end of the week. Quilt specifications: handmade, twin-size, with child-appropriate fabrics.

Please contact Kara for more information about how you can support this life-changing program.

A Challenge from the Director!

We are working to raise **\$150,000** to host **10 camps** across the upper Midwest this summer for children who will have lost their homes and schools, parks and playmates this summer. The plan is to partner with a **Christian college** to train, equip and empower **20 spirit-led young people** to staff these 10 camps. Can you help us meet that goal – and reach 500 kids and change the lives of those



Contact Us

Nancy Beers

Director of Disaster Services

Contact Nancy if you are interested in hosting a camp or need more information about the program.

ph: 507-990-5307

email: nancy.beers@lssmn.org

Kara VerHage

National Volunteer Program Manager + Faith Community Liaison

Contact Kara if you are interested in putting together a national volunteer team, or contributing to Camp Noah

ph: 651-587-0969

email: kara.verhage@lssmn.org

Website

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