



"New Horizons Camp" is a testament to what can happen when everyone opens up, works together and remembers what camp is all about: having fun, making friends and enjoying God's creation."
— Julia Connelly

A mutual ministry of:

Diocese of Southwest Florida

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Prayer for Young Persons

God our Father, you see your children growing up in an unsteady and confusing world: Show them that your ways give more life than the ways of the world, and that following you is better than chasing after selfish goals. Help them to take failure, not as a measure of their worth, but as a chance for a new start. Give them strength to hold their faith in you, and to keep alive their joy in your creation; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen*

- *The Book of Common Prayer*

How can you help?

Donate Scholarships: The cost for a child, staffer or counselor at a week-long New Horizons Camp is \$360.00.

Donate Supplies: Donations of beach towels, closed-toed water shoes, travel size toiletries, packages of new socks and underwear, and art and crafts supplies would be greatly appreciated.

Camp Staff Volunteers: Experienced volunteers who wish to work the camp will be provided with free room and board. If you are interested in applying, please contact the diocesan office as indicated below. Please note that background checks will be carried out on all volunteers.

Contact:

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New Horizons Camp 2

Sunday, July 20-
Friday, July 25, 2008
DaySpring Conference Center



Breaking the Cycle

Children with parents in prison are the smallest victims of crime. The chances are high that they, too, will go to prison.

A week of camp in an environment of love, learning and fun broadens their horizons and helps break the cycle destroying families.

In a loving, grace-filled environment, they experience and learn the benefits of group support, cooperation and self discovery. They learn that God loves them unconditionally.

Then he took a little child and put it among them; and taking it into his arms, he said to them, "Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me." — Mk.9:36-38

The camp's purpose is . . .

. . . to provide, free of charge, a week of Christian camping for at risk children of prisoners. The aim is to broaden their horizons by having them experience a fun-filled week in the surroundings of a loving, grace-filled environment.

The camp's philosophy is . . .

. . . to demonstrate unconditional love to campers who may never before have been offered or accepted that gift from their family, teachers or peers. For many of them, there has never been a gift given without something expected in return.

The camp's week is . . .

. . . like most camps with daytime and evening activities, music, arts and crafts, quiet time and worship. There always is fun with focus on teamwork, group support and cooperation.

The camp's result is....

. . . not necessarily to make a difference in the lives of these children, but to plant some seeds during the time we have with them. Veteran staffers report success stories of children 8-12 who have returned every year, then became counselors and ultimately succeeded in school and community.

How many children are we talking about?

An estimated 1.5 million children and possibly as many as 2.8 million have a parent or parents, who are in the corrections system.

These are 'invisible children'

"Children of incarcerated parents are not documented; they are invisible, and no government entity is responsible for them. Most states have no procedure to identify and coordinate what happens to them when their parent is arrested."



Statistics show that an estimated 70% of the children of current prisoners will someday be incarcerated. (See www.childrensjusticealliance.org/)

Children of parents in prison are themselves in prisons without walls. Parental incarceration — and the crimes and arrests that precede it — cause chaos in the lives of these children, including traumatic separation and erratic shifts from one caregiver to another. Most children with incarcerated parents live in poverty before, during and after their parent's incarceration.

Incarcerated women are often the sole caregivers of their children. Since 1985, the number of women in prison has tripled — they are the fastest growing segment of the prison population. And prisoners are the fastest-growing segment of the nation's population.



We can help change lives

Dioceses, churches and committees can talk to their bishops and start a camp for children of prisoners in their local institutions. Talk about it and care about it. It will happen.

These children learn that God loves us and God loves them no matter what.