





Highland County CAO and OCIC Provide Experiences for Resident Youth

The Ohio Capital Impact Corporation (OCIC), a subsidiary of Ohio Capital Corporation for Housing (OCCH), was pleased to award Highland County Community Action Organization (HCCAO) grants totaling \$46,500 through its Carol Mount Peterson Resident Development Fund (RDF) to support their Camp Life program.

Camp Life is a program offered by HCCAO to residents of their communities of Sycamore Glen, Highland Heights and Cedar Wood Apartments in Highland County that provides financial assistance to resident youth allowing them to participate in extracurricular activities that would otherwise be out of reach. The program also provides after school tutoring to students as well as monthly educational workshops for adults.

Thanks to this program, the youth have been able to



participate in activities such as organized sports, 8th Grade Field Trips to Washington D.C., musical instrument lessons and band. Adults have been able to improve themselves through activities such as financial workshops and trainings through the OSU Extension Office.

The financial assistance provided through Camp Life impacts the lives of the entire family. The resident youth and adults are provided with impactful experiences and the families are able to direct their limited income to providing essential items such as housing and food.

Through Camp Life, HCCAO is meeting and exceeding the vision of the RDF as they are making a difference in their community and positively impacting the lives of future generations.

Below you will find excerpts of testimonials from the parents of some of the youth directly effected by Camp Life.

<u>Sherry</u>

Below are pictures of the two coaches that taught British Soccer Camp in 2013 in Greenfield. The girls absolutely enjoyed the camp! They both learned a lot of soccer skills and technique. My daughters also went on a mission trip to Nashville, Tennessee. They both loved being a part of something so great. They played with younger children at a YMCA in Nashville, served meals, cleaned and did other numerous working activities. They were also able to go downtown one evening and take in some sight seeing. In addition to these, Camp Life has given my daughters the opportunity to participate in art



camps, class field trips to Washington D.C. and extracurricular activities at school.

<u>Amanda</u>

I have used Camp Life for financial literacy class, Jett's (son) select soccer for fall of 2014, a year of piano lessons for Evelyn (daughter), Jett to go to camp and to assist with the cost of his TAG (Talented and Gifted) trip. Taking the financial literacy class gave me a \$100.00 credit toward my rent which I chose not to utilize until Christmas. Doing that freed up \$100.00 more dollars that I could spend on my kids for Christmas to make their first one after their dad and I split-up a good one.

I also used Camp Life to help pay for *lett's soccer. lett plays soccer for a team in* Dayton which is over an hour drive from home. Quite simply, soccer is a very important part of Jett's life as a stress reliever during the divorce as well as a great physical outlet for him. He has something called sensory processing disorder. He is a "sensory seeker" which means he plays harder, faster and longer than most kids, his body craves it! I would not have been able to afford his fall season on my own. Jett is also in the TAG program at school. Each year they take an informative field trip which he was unable to attend last year. Thanks to Camp Life, Jett will be going on the TAG trip this year.

My daughter Evelyn takes piano lessons, she has been taking lessons for three years and according to her teacher she is quite a natural. It is amazing to hear her play a song through that she has only been working on for a day! Camp Life paid for one years' worth of piano lessons for Evelyn. This frees me up to be able to afford her soccer and girl scouts.

Camp Life has made a huge impact on the lives of my children and has recently taken a lot of stress off of me as a newly single mom of four.