



Compass



SETTING DIRECTIONS IN YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

FALL/WINTER 2011

Encana Donates \$75,000 to Campaign for El Tesoro

When capital campaign renovations are completed, El Tesoro's dining hall will feature natural gas-powered commercial kitchen equipment, thanks to the generosity of Encana Oil & Gas (USA) Inc. "Using energy efficient natural gas appliances at Camp El Tesoro aligns with Encana's mission to invest in the future of our children by conserving our country's natural resources," said Dorothy Wing, Capital Campaign Manager. "This will also mean significant cost savings on utilities, freeing funds to help more children attend camp through scholarships," she added. A total of \$4,586,086 has been raised to date toward the \$10.3 million campaign goal.



El Tesoro de la Vida to Serve as Model for Japanese Camps



From left: Tamiko Kimoto, Tatsuya Kanayama, Kazuki Yamane

Representatives from the National Camping Association of Japan spent July 30-August 6 at El Tesoro de la Vida, observing and learning how to host a grief camp. The Japanese officials plan to replicate the program for survivors of the Touhoku Region Pacific Coast



earthquake and tsunami that left 22,000 dead, and hundreds of children without parents. "It's a privilege to share our years of experience, knowing it will help a generation of children learn to cope with the grief and recovery of death and loss," said Ann Sheets, Sr. Vice President, who served as liaison for the group. The Japanese grief camp is projected to open in March 2012, which marks the one year anniversary of the tragedy.



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A Note from Zem

It's been a summer to remember! Campers had a lot of fun and plenty of 100° days. Hundreds of children were able to explore, laugh and grow at our day and overnight camping programs. Your attendance at the 2011 El Tesoro de la Vida dinner and Absolutely Incredible Kid luncheon helped make this possible for many of these youth. We hope you'll support this year's An Artists' Christmas, and enable even more children to participate in Camp Fire programs.



Mark Your Calendar for Second Saturdays at El Tesoro

November 12-13

Dad & Me Camping Weekend

Dads, grandfathers, stepfathers, older brothers and uncles are invited to bring the special kids in their lives to El Tesoro for a fun-packed weekend. Enjoy canoeing, archery, hiking, fossil exploration, tree hikes, creek-walking, crafts and more. Cabins and meals are provided so all you have to do is have fun!



December 10

Breakfast with Santa

Enjoy breakfast with St. Nick when he makes a special stop at El Tesoro. Save the date to make this event a new family tradition. Join Santa and all his helpers at Camp El Tesoro for a free photo, hayrides with caroling and holiday crafts.



Visit CampElTesoro.org or call 817-831-2111, ext. 158 for more information

CAMP FIRE USA'S 27th ANNUAL AN ARTISTS' CHRISTMAS "ONCE IN A LIFETIME"

BENEFITTING NORTH TEXAS YOUTH & FAMILIES

Honor Chairs Linda and Drew Springer and General Chairs Carrie and Allan Meyer invite you to join them for the 27th Annual An Artists' Christmas gala and art auction on 11-11-11 at the Omni Fort Worth Hotel in downtown Fort Worth. Reservations and tables are now available for this "Once in a Lifetime" event.

Proceeds from An Artists' Christmas support Camp Fire programs such as El Tesoro de la Vida grief camp and the Step Up truancy prevention program.

Pictured are just a few samples of the amazing array of unique art which will be offered at this year's event.



Pam Summers



Nancy Brown



Carolyn Bauman Cruz



Sharon McClung



Eddie Phillips



Kelley Doran



Julie Lazarus



Terry Haun Shaw

Here's How You Can Support Camp Fire:

- Visit AnArtistsChristmas.org to purchase your tickets and table sponsorships. VIP packages are available at certain levels.
- Go online to AnArtistsChristmas.org to "buy-it-now" or pre-bid on all artwork, luxury packages and raffle packages. Bidding opens October 11, 2011.
- "Like" us on Facebook under facebook.com/AnArtistsChristmas for the most up-to-date information on this not to be missed event.

OMNI HOTEL // FORT WORTH, TEXAS

June 29, 2011

Dear El Tesoro staff:

Camp was a great success!!! I just had to tell you that it was AMAZING to see Blake's face beaming as he walked into the closing ceremonies! As his mother, I was moved to tears to see how integrated he was. Everyone from campers, parents, counselors and the director sought me out to tell me how wonderful it was having Blake there. He fully participated and enjoyed it so much that he wants to go back RIGHT NOW.

Thank you for this opportunity! He will definitely be back.

Lorie Clement and Blake!

Inclusion Program Partnership Renewed

Each summer, El Tesoro's Inclusion Program mainstreams a limited number of campers with mild physical and cognitive disabilities into cabin groups. In 2011, Camp Fire was selected for its second year to receive \$12,500 in funding from the National Inclusion Project. The funds have been used to implement "Let's ALL Play - Inclusion in Recreational Programs," which allows children with developmental disabilities to enjoy a successful summer camp experience in an inclusive setting.



Toolbox Grant Awarded to Camp Fire

Thanks to a \$12,000 grant from the Community Foundation of North Texas, in 2012 Camp Fire families and customers will be able to register online for all Camp Fire programs and services. "These funds will enable First Texas Council to purchase and implement an online registration system, allowing Camp Fire to increase its capacity to deliver community services by improving customer service and staff productivity," said Ann Sheets, Sr. Vice President of Administration and Finance.

Camp Fire Launches Reward & Recognition Program

The Inspiring Body of Christ Mary L. Rush Children's College in Dallas has been selected as the first honoree in Camp Fire's new program to recognize customer loyalty for professional development and education. IBOC serves more than 290 children, birth through sixth grade. From May 2010 to May 2011, staff for the center completed more than 240 hours of professional child care training classes with Camp Fire. "Camp Fire is the greatest place to receive training," said Cecilia Dixon, Director. "They equip us for success."



Director Cecilia Dixon (top left) and Inspiring Body of Christ staff proudly display their award.

Volunteers Assist with Diamond Hill Station Makeover

On September 10, as part of the North Texas Volunteer Challenge, volunteers from Alcon and local VFW 8911 joined Camp Fire staff, neighbors, program participants and families to redesign the Diamond Hill Station youth program site. Volunteers painted, assembled furniture, and reorganized the space to create clear exploration and activity areas including an art studio, a computer/homework lab, a science lab, a library, a performance stage and game room. Grants of \$3,000 from Ronald McDonald House Charities and \$5,500 from Dallas Stars Foundation provided funds for the makeover.

Alcon



Diamond Hill Station kids try out the new Art Station.

NBC Recognizes Camp Fire's Step Up Program

The NBCUniversal Foundation has awarded \$20,000 to Camp Fire as part of the company's ongoing commitment to improving public secondary education in local communities. The grant will support Step Up, the First Texas Council's year-round intervention program which works with area high school students to improve school completion rates. Camp Fire was one of only five non-profit organizations selected in the Dallas/Fort Worth area. "We take our role of serving the North Texas community seriously," said Tom Ehlmann, president and general manager of NBC 5. "We are proud to support each of these organizations, which are all focused on ensuring a bright future for the youth of North Texas."



Don't miss the

Autumn

MARKET!

 Visit the Camp Fire Child Development Center Autumn Market

October 17-21 
for your early
Christmas shopping.



You'll have the opportunity to bid or "buy it now." Proceeds will benefit Camp Fire child care programs.



Can't attend? You can still help by donating a service, new item, or gift card to be auctioned. Contact Julie Bello at 817-831-2111, ext. 202 for more information.



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Friday, November 11, 2011

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