

# THE LIGHT.

## Outrageous Love



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**Executive Director Dan Doty believes Camp CUMCITO is a wonderful opportunity for youngsters to experience the outrageous love of an awesome God!**

*“Who is like you among the gods,  
O Lord—glorious in holiness,  
awesome in splendor, performing  
great wonders?” Ex. 15:11*

# Connecting with You

From the  
Executive Director

Dear Friend,

It was the *wonderful news* that God loved me and had a plan for my life that first caused me to search for Him—and as the Scripture reminds us, He is “not far from each one of us.” (Acts 17:27)

Youth today especially need to hear that the God of the Bible has a personal interest in them—that He loves them and wants to use them to affect their world. But alas, the culture that many grow up in tells them they can’t rise above where they are. How sad . . . and untrue! Read what God says:

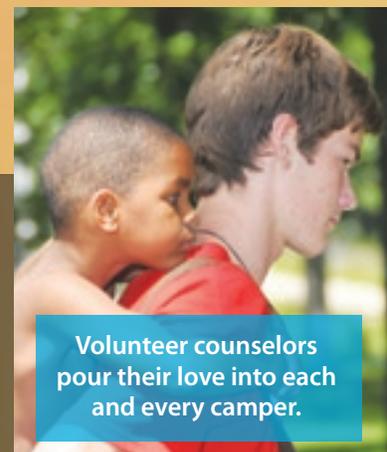
*What marvelous love the Father has extended to us! Just look at it—we’re called children of God! That’s who we really are. But that’s also why the world doesn’t recognize us or take us seriously—because it has no idea who He is or what He’s up to. (1 John 3:1, The Message)*

Thankfully, God raised up the Bulkleys to begin a ministry to reach our children and youth! Boys and girls have attended Camp CUMCITO since the early 1930s. The Lord is even now raising up men and women to come alongside our young people to demonstrate in real life how extreme His love is.

Imagine what our awesome God can do in and through the lives of these children as they learn to follow Him.

For His glory,

Rev. Daniel J. Doty  
Executive Director



**Volunteer counselors  
pour their love into each  
and every camper.**

## Why Does a Homeless Shelter Have a Summer Camp?

City Union Mission is committed to preventing homelessness, as well as caring for the homeless. The camp is an opportunity for children caught in poverty to see the potential for a better life, not only in the week at camp but in the programs we offer year-round.

“Camp CUMCITO is an opportunity for a changed life,” explains Peggy Ramsey, City Union Mission camp specialist. “We want to introduce young campers to the One who can change their lives, and hopefully they’ll find a better life and not become our clients when they get older.”

Growing up is tough enough under normal circumstances. But when you add a troubled family, poverty, homelessness or constant relocation, poor role models, low self-esteem—and no walk with God—the results can be tragic. At Camp CUMCITO, our goal is to model to boys and girls, ages 4 to 16, the components of a healthy and Christ-filled life, and help them understand that through Him all things are possible. We’ve been doing that for more than 75 years now, thanks to the contributions of faithful friends like you.

“I don’t see what we do as a means of escaping poverty so much as a means of thriving in spite of it,” says Travis Bradburn, youth ministries administrator. “We hope to give kids a glimpse of a different existence that may appeal to them, motivating them to pursue a Christian life. Camp nurtures boys and girls in so many ways, and they’re exposed to things they otherwise may never know.” Sadly, satisfied stomachs, belief in themselves and unconditional love are new experiences for many of our campers.

In the pages ahead, you’ll read more about how camp helps kids build hope for the future through the outrageous love they’ll experience from our staff and volunteers at camp ... and from an awesome God, forever. Thank you for your gifts to make this possible.

# Volunteers Bring Camp to Life!



At Camp CUMCITO, volunteers are needed for everything from raking to, yes, even racing!

For the more than 400 young people who will take part in our various camping sessions this year, the fun begins June 28. But for the scores of volunteers who bring camp to life, activities begin months earlier and last all summer long!

Many church and civic groups visit Camp CUMCITO in the spring to help with maintenance of the grounds, equipment and facilities, ensuring the environment is safe and in good repair when the first campers arrive.

Back at the Mission, all hands are on deck to assist with Saturday health screenings for campers, as well as loading and unloading luggage on Mondays and Saturdays as campers board the bus and return home from each camp session. Volunteers also accompany youngsters on the two-hour ride, easing any anxieties of our first-time campers.

Meanwhile, other volunteers at Camp CUMCITO are assisting with clean-up between sessions, preparing daily snacks for the little ones at Tot Lot, and helping the staff prepare for and carry out the end-of-the-week carnival and banquet night—everything from filling water balloons to waiting tables!

In all, more than 360 energetic and enthusiastic volunteers work behind the scenes to make camp happen for Kansas City's underprivileged kids. That number doesn't even include the men and women—of all ages—who contribute their time and talents on the kitchen, cabin, counseling and recreation staffs.

If you're interested in joining the fun, visit [www.cityunionmission.org](http://www.cityunionmission.org) for information on volunteer opportunities still available for this year's camping sessions—including taking photos, writing and recording camp stories and more!



## For the Todds, Camp Is a Family Affair

Kansas City has seen a lot of changes in the past 10 years. But according to what Dave Todd has experienced as a Camp CUMCITO volunteer, "I don't think *kids* have changed all that much. Many come with hard hearts and a 'you can't make me do anything' attitude. But they love the affection they get from the counselors, and pretty soon you see their hearts softening."

Helping out at Camp CUMCITO has become a family affair for Dave, his wife Nancy—who is also a camp staff director—and their three children. The Todds live in Shawnee, Kansas, so meeting kids from the inner city—some who don't have moms or dads at home or who live with their grandparents—helps the children appreciate the blessings of a stable, loving family.

For this family, camp is a chance to help underprivileged youngsters and give them an opportunity to feel loved and encouraged to share what's on their hearts. "Some of them open up and you see their situations at home and how it is so different for them here at camp. I remember one young man who was just so excited about going fishing. Many of them don't want to leave, and there are tears when it's time to go home," Dave says.

Dave is grateful for his loving family, and he prays it will be a model young campers remember as they grow into adults and build families of their own.

## Local Church Group "Wakes-up" Camp CUMCITO

Every spring, as the grass turns green, trees bud and flowers bloom, Camp CUMCITO is gently awakened, too, by local groups who come to help prepare the campgrounds for the summer sessions.

In March, 55 young people and 15 adults from **New Life Community Church** in Gardner, Kansas, donated a weekend of their time, completing a number of tasks from clearing trails and cleaning flowerbeds and campfire pits to repairing fences, decks and railings. They even built a new steeple for the chapel. The group was led by Reg Hamilton, associate pastor of FUEL and "The Journey" Student Ministries, who has been involved in our camp clean-up projects for nearly 10 years. "They loved it," Reg says, describing the young people's reaction to this year's trip. "They have really grown in their love for God, each other and the youngsters who attend camp as they have learned the character of being a servant!"

The Mission extends a hearty thank you to this group—and the many others—who make an awesome camp experience possible for needy kids.

# 2010 Camp CUMCITO Camp Schedule



Date	Camp	Ages
June 28 – July 3	Junior Boys & Girls Tot Lot I	9-10 4-6
July 5 – July 10	Teen Girls	13-16
July 13 – July 16	Family Camp	
July 19 – July 24	Pre-teen Boys & Girls Tot Lot II	11-12 4-6
July 27 – July 31	Primary Boys & Girls Tot Lot III	7-8 4-6
August 2 – August 7	Teen Boys	13-16

## Mission Family Looks Forward to Summer Camp

This summer, 4-year-old Mike is going to Tot Lot, the Mission's "miniature" camp for youngsters age 4 through 6. But he doesn't know it yet. His mom Tiffany, doesn't want to tell him too far in advance or he'll keep asking her if it's time to go. His 8-year-old sister Stacia went to camp two years ago and told him all about it.

She loved swimming . . . learning Bible verses and songs . . . eating all she could eat . . . and just being outdoors. She met a Big Sister (a Camp CUMCITO counselor) who sent her cards and letters after she came home. "That meant a lot to her," Tiffany recalls. Stacia is excited to be going back this year. She's old enough to know when July 27 will roll around and is checking off each passing day on a calendar.

Tiffany, Mike and Stacia are living at City Union Mission's Family Shelter—they lost their home and nearly everything they owned. Times are tough for the family, so Tiffany is grateful that generous City Union Mission donors make it possible for her kids to go to camp. It will be a bright spot in their lives right now, one she just couldn't afford on her own. "Everything is provided for them at Tot Lot—even all their clothing!" she says amazed.

Tiffany knows the kids will have fun. And at their young ages, it may not yet be evident the true impact the experience will have in their lives. "We hope we inspire a love for God and His Word, through loving relationships, chapel stories, devotions, memorizing Bible verses and other activities," says Peggy Ramsey, camp specialist. "If one of those verses sticks in the heart of a young camper, it may help that child get through a trial he or she might face at home. The kids can depend on God to be faithful."



Tiffany says she'll miss little Mike when he goes to Tot Lot for the first time this year. But she's eager for him—and his sister Stacia—to enjoy a week away from the reminders of being homeless.

## Help Send a Deserving Child to Camp

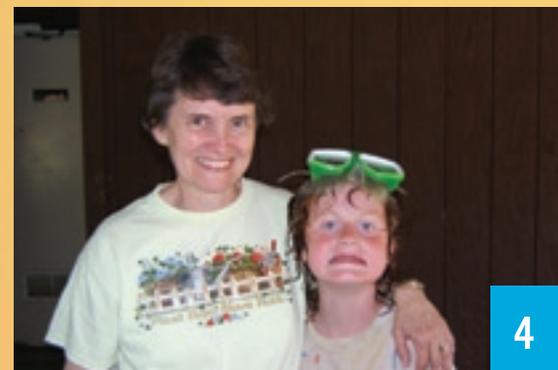
Last year we welcomed 413 youngsters to Camp CUMCITO. This year, we're well aware of the economic challenges causing even more Kansas City families to struggle, and we want to make sure every youngster who wants—and truly needs—this time to experience the love and care of our awesome God will have it.

Each camper pays only a \$5 registration fee for a week at camp. That's why we need your financial support to provide this life-directing experience for Kansas City's underprivileged children. It costs the Mission just over \$71 a day—or \$430 for a week—to provide for one child at camp. That covers Bibles for every boy and girl; healthy meals and snacks; clean, comfortable beds; arts and crafts supplies; a crystal-clear pool; and transportation to and from the city.

Please prayerfully consider a gift of:

- \$430 to sponsor an entire week of camp
- \$215 to help with half a week
- \$143.32 to cover two days
- \$71.66 for one day
- or a donation of any amount to help where needed most.

And remember, the love of dedicated, responsible and God-filled counselors and volunteers is given freely from the heart. You can simply indicate your gift on the enclosed reply card. Thank you for giving as God leads you.





# A Day in the Life at Tot Lot

Sarah loves the time she spends helping youngsters learn to believe in themselves and rely on God.

“A typical day at Tot Lot? Hmmm,” says Sarah Reddekopp, as she considers her experience as a second-year counselor. “They’re never quite alike.” Yet each morning begins the same way, with much-needed prayer among the counselors—called Big Siblings—who are each responsible for up to four youngsters between the ages of 4 and 6.

Then they wake the children and help them pick out their clothes. A visitor to Tot Lot might wonder why

many of the little girls wear dresses in this outdoor environment. Sarah explains: “We have clothes here at Tot Lot so the kids don’t have to bring their own. And many of the girls choose dresses that they don’t have at home.”

Next, it’s time for Bible verses, breakfast and the “toothbrush brigade.” “We help them brush their teeth, and then they enjoy the playground until it’s time to ride the ponies. “They just adore that time of day,” Sarah says. “They trot around the little arena twice, and then we go to crafts, Bible study and prayer.”

*And that’s all before lunch.* “I don’t know how the kids do it!” Sarah exclaims with a twinkle in her eye, actually referring to counselors. Finally, after they eat, it’s naptime.

The youngsters gather for a tea party when they wake up, complete with Kool-Aid and cookies, prepared by loving volunteers. Afterwards they put on their swimming suits and head for the pool. After dinner they have playground time again or maybe a special activity. Finally, they take showers, hear a story and head for bed. “And that’s their day!”

But for Sarah and the other counselors, camp is about helping the youngsters—many who have never been away from home before or had little loving guidance or attention—adjust to the new and unfamiliar environment. “They don’t know what to expect, who anybody is or what they’re going to be doing. Often they’re scared and introverted.” But throughout the week, as they begin to feel more comfortable, they sometimes start to act out. “We have to be sure we’re right on top of it. We see the kids do a lot better once they realize, ‘Oh, if I do that, there are consequences, and it’s more fun to do the right things.’”

Sarah’s favorite part of being a counselor is getting involved with the kids and watching them pray and grow. But that also means sending them back home is difficult, especially knowing some of the challenges in their home lives. “I just hold my kids as long as I can and let them know I care,” Sarah shares. “There are a lot of tears. But you have to rely on God to take care of things and just remember He is in control. No matter what, He has a plan for everybody.”

## From Camper to Kitchen Helper an Exciting Summer for Cameo!

Unlike most kids who come to camp, for teenager Cameo Bailey, the rural setting felt more like coming home, rather than getting away from it. Cameo grew up in the foster-care system in small towns in western Kansas. He had just moved in with a new family in Kansas City, Kansas, before coming to Camp CUMCITO’s teen boys session last year. “Kansas City is so big!” he said.

Being new to the area, Cameo appreciated the counselors’ concern for him and their offer to help him integrate into his new environment and find a church home when camp was over. But he was enjoying his experience so much, he wasn’t ready to leave at the end of his session. “I accepted God into my life about nine months ago,” he told us then, “and this is the first Christian camp I’ve been to. It’s so easy being a Christian here, compared to all the problems on the outside.”

As always, God’s timing was excellent. Cameo had just turned 17 and was old enough to take on a position as an assistant in the camp kitchen. So he was able to stay on at Camp CUMCITO, while learning marketable skills and serving God and his fellow campers, too! “It’s the best summer I’ve had in a long time,” he said.



Cameo enjoyed serving others in the Camp CUMCITO kitchen.

# Annual Women's Event

## Supports Camp CUMCITO



2010 luncheon honorees and event co-chairs

Women whose compassion and influence have had a positive and profound impact on our Kansas City community were celebrated at the third annual **Women Who've Changed the Heart of the City** luncheon, April 20, at the Hyatt Regency Ballroom. The event funds ongoing renovation and maintenance at Camp CUMCITO. Judy Steadman and Karen Fenaroli served as event co-chairs, and distinguished honorees included Mary Shaw Branton, Nancy Dillingham, Irene Caudillo, Sister Berta Sailer and Sister Corita Bussanmus.



Event emcee, Elizabeth Alex

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*Great care was taken to ensure this list was complete at the time of printing. Please accept our sincere apologies for any errors or omissions.*

# Because You Gave January—March 2010

## Financial Update

FY 2010 Budget (Oct. 1 - Sept. 30) **\$7,177,000.00**  
Amount Raised as of 3/31/10 **\$5,068,743.58**

Daily average of homeless sleeping overnight	<b>493</b>
Daily average of meals served	<b>940</b>
Approx. number of patients seen for medical issues	<b>2,638</b>
Daily average of homeless attending chapel services	<b>281</b>
Approx. number of salvations and rededications	<b>150</b>