



NOTEABLES

ABLE Families

August 2010 Volume 15 Issue 3

ABLE camps provide summer of thinking, growing, and fun



A satisfied Swim Camp participant.

More kids than ever before participated in ABLE Families 2010 season of summer camps. This year's line-up of camps included: Ecology Camp, Chef Camp, Books Camp, CSI Camp, Music Camp, and Swim Camp I and II.

Every camp was offered completely free of charge to local kids. Transportation, where needed, was also provided for free.

Funding for this year's camps came from a generous grant from the Congregation of St. Joseph, and from individual donors.

We stretched our attendance limits and added a second week of Swim Camp to make room for as

many kids as possible.

ABLE's summer camps are more than a way to keep kids busy. These camps provide a summer full of enriching, educational, healthy, and safe activities for local kids, in a region where there are few other options.

There are more registrations than we can handle because kids know they're *fun*. But we *do* them because we're getting our kids – almost without their realizing it! – to swim and run, investigate and solve, count and measure, read and write, explore and imagine, eat healthy and play hard. And that's a great way to spend a summer.

Single mom begins building a new future with GED, now looks to college this fall

Congratulations to Melissa Thompson, who earned her General Equivalency Diploma (GED) this summer. She did it after spending a lot of time and effort preparing here at ABLE Families, with our adult tutor, Molly Lueken.

During her months of preparation, Melissa became a familiar face around here, and a welcome one.

Melissa is a single mom

who lives near Kermit. The GED will open up many new opportunities that she would not have otherwise had.

But she's not stopping there. With Molly's help through the registration and financial aid process, Melissa is ready to begin classes this fall at Southern West Virginia Community and Technical College. We're very proud of you, Melissa!



A Note from the Director



I didn't leave much space for myself here, because I wanted you to get a good look at the wonderful things that have been going on around here this summer.

As you can see, lots of kids in the area had a wide variety of high-quality summertime experiences. Our camps are just about the only option these kids have for organized, enriching, safe activities during the summer. But what they get is extraordinary.

Look there on page 1 at what Melissa achieved, with Molly's help, and *also with yours* if you're one of those who have sent money recently to help us keep things going. And she's just getting started!

That funding from the WV Department of Health and Human Resources, mentioned just below, represents a lot of very important work that goes on here, providing information and resources to local families. The funding is a big vote of confidence from the state, in what we do.

And then there's that 'Movie in the Park' event I tell you about on the last page. Well, that was just fun.

By the way, you can read more about all of this on our blog, at www.ablefamilies.wordpress.com.

Barry

ABLE Families awarded \$85,000 DHHR grant

ABLE Families has been awarded a grant of \$85,000 from the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources, for fiscal year 2010-2011. The grant represents major funding for our the Maternal Infant Health Outreach Worker (MIHOW) program for the coming year.

This in-home family education program provides important information on maternal and infant health and well-being to many local parents. ABLE Families currently has nine in-home educators who visit about 100 families every month.

Summer Camps

Ecology Camp



Swim Camp

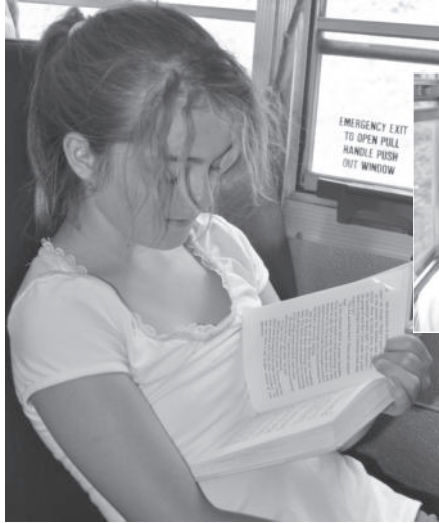


Chef Camp



Album

Books Camp

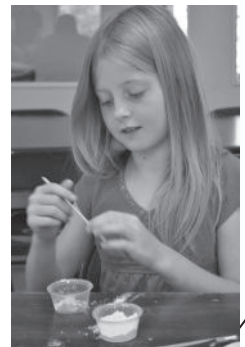


Music Camp



What a summer!

CSI Camp





Sponsored by the



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See inside for a photo album of the 2010 summer camps season!



A local couple enjoys the July 16 "Movie in the Park."

Local community responds with enthusiasm to ABLE-sponsored 'Movie in the Park' event

About **120 people** showed up at the Kermit town park on Friday night, July 16, for the ABLE-Families-sponsored "Movie in the Park." (Remember, Kermit's official population is about 200!) Babies and toddlers, children and teens, adults and senior citizens all enjoyed *October Sky*, a great movie that takes place just a few miles from us.

We grilled hot dogs and served watermelon, popcorn, and ice water, too. The forecast had been for thunderstorms, but we ended up with a near-perfect evening, weather-wise. (Well, it was pretty humid, but that's

summer in southern West Virginia.)

Our neighbors pitched in in some helpful ways to make it a great evening, too. Save-Right Pharmacy, next door to ABLE Families, let us borrow their popcorn machine; Kermit Town Hall let us borrow its sound system; one local woman sewed together the 'big screen' from sheets; and several folks stepped up to help grill hot dogs, cut watermelon, and serve popcorn.

We were thrilled that one of the teens asked, as everyone was folding up their lawn chairs at the end of the movie, "When's the next one?"

ABLE Families blog

Updated several times a week!

Visit

www.ablefamilies.wordpress.com

