

Campers Enjoy Activities

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experience. “The most rewarding part of this camp, is seeing the kids happy at the end of the week. They share a common bond of being visually impaired. In the beginning they start off shy and timid, but by the end of the week they are crying and saying they want to stay. A lot of them have made new friends. That is the reward,” said Corman.

Corman, whose husband is visually impaired, shares a bond with the campers she encounters. She became associated with the Little Rock Foundation when her husband met Tina Fiorentino, one of the foundation’s originators, at a piano bar. From the initial meeting in 1998 came the idea for a summer camp.

YMCA CEO Fred Wasiak was happy to host to the annual camp at Camp Ockanickon in Medford. “This facility is a great place to host this camp. The camp relates well to our mission of reaching out to children, youth and adults through various services,” Wasiak said.

“For me, seeing the smiles on the children’s faces is the most inspiring thing. They have the chance to be out in the woods and hear the sounds of nature; the splash of the paddle from a boat, the crackle of the campfire and do ecological projects,” he said.

Group Services Director Tony Lea is in charge of choosing the activities associated with Camp Little Rock. Before camp, his staff receives training in working with children who are visually impaired through an orientation.

“Most of these activities don’t have to be modified. Many of these kids have the capability to do them. We need to have the empathy to see that things run well and to keep it safe,” said Lea.

“Knowing that we are a part of their memories for years to come and seeing the smiles on their faces is very rewarding,” he said.

AJ Selko, 11, of Gloucester Township, has been coming to Camp Little Rock for four years. He looks forward to the day when he can become a counselor in training (CIT). But for him, the return of



Photo By LISA BARRON/The VOORHEES TREND LEADER

Shannon Thompson, Desirea Delgado and Tori Rossi make ceramics at Camp Little Rock.

water activities like fishing and swimming are the highlight of the summer activities. “I’m glad the lake is back. I love to fish,” he said.

A flood two years ago in Medford, left several of the lakes unusable for campers’ summer recreation. This summer the lakes were back in full force, providing hours of recreation for Camp Little Rock attendees.

Pieu Appling 15., a third-year attendee welcomes the camp and enjoys swimming, riding horses and spending the night. “I just enjoy everything about this camp.”

Rocco Fiorentino, the foundation’s namesake, has been entertaining campers and counselors for years at the annual talent show. He brings in his sound system and sets up the wires, before performing songs like, “When I fell in Love.” Nine-year-old Rocco said, “I love the kids and their personalities and the counselors that come with us for the week.” He looks forward to the camp’s water-park day, where a host of inflatable slides and a dunk tank are part of the day’s activities.

“Every year my mom gets these really cool blow up slides. Every year it is usually really hot. It’s like my mom talks to the weather,” said Rocco.

Rocco’s mom, Tina Fiorentino and Donna Forman formed The Little Rock Foundation in 1997, with the goal of helping families of blind and visually impaired children. The camp is an institution to the foundation.

“It (the camp) gives you a really good feeling. We go home with these children in our hearts, seeing their world,” said Tina Fiorentino. She takes great comfort in seeing

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