

CAMP CRESTRIDGE ALUMNAE AND FRIENDS



P.O. Box 22038 ♦ Lexington, KY 40522-2038
www.ridgecrestcamps.com/girls/alumnae/index.php ♦ alumnae@windstream.net

Look What's Going On (and up) at Crestridge!

Thanks to the generosity of alums, friends, parents of current campers and Lifeway, ground was broken in September for a two-story building on the site of the current camp store, across from the infirmary. The main floor will contain the camp store (The Beehive) that will include a clothing room, a dressing room, bathroom, and space for drink/snack sales (The Cupboard).

The second floor will house the CCAF Museum. Years of Crestridge memories will now have a permanent, weatherproof home. Sandy Brown Lovette has devotedly compiled and displayed items in the museum for many years. Now camp's history will be in a central location where more people can enjoy it and alums can reconnect with their past. The basement area, overlooking the Green, will provide storage for landsports equipment.

This project was conceived by the CCAF Board several years ago and is the largest one undertaken by the organization. By the end of summer 2011, \$116,000 had been raised through generous alumnae donations, the proceeds of our 2009 reunion auction (about \$21,000), the sale of Stepping Stones, and camper parents' participation through "Buy-A-Bear, Build-A-Store" at the camp store on opening days. To help us meet the estimated construction cost of \$151,000, Lifeway stepped up is providing \$35,000 in capital funding. To cover unanticipated cost over-

runs, CCAF has been offered a private line of credit up to \$25,000 at 0.0%. Obviously, continued donations are necessary to ensure that we can cover all costs.

A lot of prayer and hard work has gone into this project, and it is exciting to see it come to fruition. Alums are truly making a difference for the betterment of camp. Just look around and you'll see our accomplishments: the Pavilion (1998) and its natural stone fireplace (2004), the Chapel expansion (2005), the Chip/Chick Playground (2006), and now an entire new building!



Camp store proprietor Debbye Lackey Skaggs (seated) helped alumnae sell bears to incoming campers and parents on opening days.



A sketch of the proposed building gave customers an idea of what the new building will look like.



Cute bears bore campers' names if they gave a donation to the new store/museum.

Johnnie Armstrong, *ex officio*
 Paulette May Basham
 Susan Cheatham
 Amy Guffey Clay
 Anja Aloia Cleveland
 Karen Grimes Day
 Kathleen Hobbs

Alumnae Board

Lisa Harris Joyner
 Whitney Lemarr
 Susan McFerrin Nielsen, *president*
 Melinda Jay Norman
 Cara Pollard, *secretary*

Marva Rawlings, *ex officio*
 Jill Angell Reynolds
 Ramey Driggers Schutz
 Rhonda Smith
 Karen Stitt, *president-elect*
 Susan Bridger Waggener, *treasurer, ex officio*

Fundraising Fanfare by Cara Pollard

One of the many ways CCAF supports Crestridge is by raising money. We are getting everyone involved in giving back to the place that gave us so much. No matter what the amount, every little bit helps.

Parents of current campers gave more than \$2,000 toward the new store/museum during Opening Days this summer! Parents were asked to round up their camp store purchase total to "Buy-A-Bear, Build-A-Store." The response was overwhelming! Campers signed their names on paper bears and taped them to the front of the store. Even the youngest camper had a part in building the new store.

The members of the CCAF Board made a commitment to fundraising in 2011. Each member made a des-

ignated gift to Special Projects for the new store/museum. Our goal as a board was to match funds given by alumnae up to a certain amount. The Board made a commitment to give almost \$9,000.

One way you can help is by purchasing a Stepping Stone in honor or in memory of Crestridgers or to commemorate a special honor or occasion. These stones are lining the Chapel walkway. We hope to expand the Stepping Stone path all around the Chapel. Stones can be ordered using the form on the back of this newsletter, or on our website in the Store section: www.ridgecrestcamps.com/girls/alumnae.

The Scholarship Endowment Fund is growing. We currently have three named scholarships that are fully funded. Three scholarships have been started and await donations: in memory of Julie Parkerson, in memory of

Ginnie Burriss, and in honor of Ramey Driggers Schutz and Kara Belcher Cooley. Interest earned from this permanent investment is already producing annual scholarship aid in the amount of about \$3,000.

The first priority of CCAF is to give \$12,000 in camp scholarships annually. Think of all the girls who have been able to experience Crestridge because someone cared enough to give a little extra for a stranger. What could you give up to help send a camper to your favorite place in the mountains: Starbucks for a week, two dinners out, three tickets to the movies? As you pay your dues for 2012, please consider an additional gift to CCAF. Every little bit makes a difference! (2012 dues notices will be mailed soon.)

Not "Just Merchandise" – *Crestridge* Merchandise

We at the CCAF store have been cleaning out our old inventory and making room for the new. That's right, we have many *new* items to offer this season. Go to the "Store" section on our website to see and order these and many other items:

We introduced the 16-oz. **Tervis Tumbler** in the last newsletter. These were a hot commodity and we sold out before the last session of camp. Due to popular demand, we have reordered the 16-oz. tumblers and added a **NEW 24-oz.** tumbler.

We also added a **Tie-dye Sweatshirt Backpack**. These are made out of the same material as the Crestridge store's sweatshirt blankets. Upon arrival at session 2B, four were sold right out of the box!

We now have stunning **Beach Towels** with "Camp Crestridge" embroidered on one end. They're 16 x 64" and a beautiful shade of blue.

Maintain the Memories

Here's a special offer! An anonymous donor will pay for free rooms for the **first 10 new families** who tell Karen Stitt (stittkaren@yahoo.com) they are coming to Maintain the Memories in May 2012. This work weekend is usually held on Memorial Day weekend; exact dates will be publicized soon. The fine print:

1. A family must be two or more people, and
2. It must be the family's first time coming to the work weekend, and
3. The family must stay both Friday and Saturday nights.

Each new family will be recognized as first-timers by Johnnie Armstrong or CCAF Board President Susan Nielsen on Saturday morning at the beginning of the work day.

In Memoriam

Virginia (Ginnie) Vail Burriss, 1983-2011

Crestridge has lost a shining star with the untimely death of Ginnie Burriss of Atlanta. Ginnie spent many summers at camp, where she taught swimming and became Landsports Director. She died in her sleep on May 5. At the time of her death, Ginnie was teaching sixth-grade social studies at Peachtree Middle Charter School. She was a second-generation Crestridger; her mother is Annie Hunt Burriss. Many donations have been received from friends of the family for the CCAF scholarship endowment fund. If you wish to contribute toward an endowed scholarship in memory of Ginnie, you may do so through our website or mail your donation to CCAF, PO Box 22038, Lexington KY 40522-2038.

MEMORY CORNER: *Happiness is ... horseback*

by *Lori Davis (Camper 1987-1994, Staffer 1995-1997)*

If someone were to ask me to associate something with happiness or being happy, I wouldn't hesitate to reply, "Camp Crestridge for Girls." For the 11 years that I was there, camp taught me more than I could ever imagine – and nowhere more than in the Horseback Department. From the minute I sat on those stone bleachers and put that black riding helmet on, I knew I had found my place. I started on my journey of trying to learn what happiness was, finding that there was more to it than I could have ever thought – and even now, I am finding that those lessons learned while being in Horseback are teaching me so much more.

Happiness is finding laughter and joy when you least expect it. One thing I learned working in the Horseback Department was that the funniest things would happen in the strangest places. I remember one year before camp opened and we were running brush and debris from the riding ring to the dump ... and, when we finished and tried to start back, promptly getting the dump truck stuck. We were knee-deep in mud, wet, tired and sore—but still laughing.

Another time, I was getting a horse ready for the morning lessons and was picking his feet. The horse fell asleep in the midst of this, and started to lean on me more ... and more ... and more. I remember calling for someone to wake him up and tapping a form of SOS on the stall wall with the hoof pick. I still smile every time I remember that.

Happiness is finding a

place where you truly belong and people you belong with. Being in the Horseback Department gave me something I felt I didn't have—a sense of belonging. Dealing with difficult personal struggles during my years at camp made me extremely shy, which made it difficult to talk to people and get to know them. However, this started to change at my first riding class. When Birdie Bell put me up on my first horse, I was so happy to feel at home somewhere, and that sensation never lessened in any of my years at camp. One of the first things I would do after arriving at camp was run down to the riding ring to see the horses and say hi to Birdie and other staffers. I can never thank Birdie enough, or anyone else I worked or rode with. You helped me more than I can ever express.

Thinking nothing of yourself, sharing what you love and giving to someone else—that is the greatest source of happiness there is! I can't tell you how many laps around the riding ring I walked, how many blisters, knee injuries, long hours spent in the dirt and heat, but to see a smile on a camper's face when she sat on a horse for the first time, or to see her eyes light up when being taught how to care for the horses—there is nothing more precious than that.

I have always tried to apply what I learned from being in Horseback about being happy in my everyday life, hoping that I would be able to share what I've learned to help someone else. However, I never could have imagined the situation where this came to fruition—helping care for a friend during the final

weeks of her battle with brain cancer. When she came to live with my landlady and me because of a less-than-ideal home situation, I was afraid, but at the same time there never was any question about helping Stacy or making sure her needs were paramount.

It was heart-wrenching to see such an independent woman slowly lose everything she was, but it made me so happy to be able to contribute to her care by making meals, giving baths, preparing medications, and helping keep vigil at nights in case Hospice needed to be called. More importantly, I was able to be there for Stacy in ways that nurtured her during the journey to her imminent death. She too had a love for horses and I would share stories from camp about horses I remembered: Grace, Sugar, Ebony, Samuel and more. I showed her pictures of camp and the horseback pictures I had taken, and she got just as much out of them as I did. I had a part in giving Stacy a place where she belonged and a sense of peace, laughter and joy at the end of her life, and we talked about God, happiness and peace during many late nights. Even when she was no longer able to communicate, I strove to make her feel a part of things, and to put her before everything else. And when she finally left us in October 2010, amid the sadness of her passing there was a sense of happiness and peace.

Thank you, Camp Crestridge for Girls, and the Horseback Department. You gave me so much joy and happiness and enabled me to "pay it forward" to others in my life!

Camp Crestridge Stepping Stone Path

"... and each must make, ere life has flown, a stumbling block or a stepping stone."

If you would like to order a stepping stone, please fill out the form below and return it with your check to CCAF, PO Box 22038, Lexington KY 40522-2038.

Purchaser's name _____

E-mail address _____ Phone _____

Check stone size:	_____ Small (8x10")	1 line of text	\$100
	_____ Medium (11-12")	2 lines of text	\$125
	_____ Large (13-14")	3 lines of text	\$150

Text to be inscribed on stone (please PRINT legibly):
(size of font varies by length of line)

First line: _____

Second line: _____

Third line: _____

Stones may also be ordered online through our website:
www.ridgecrestcamps.com/girls/alumnae (click on "Store")



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Please let us know at alumnae@windstream.net if you'd prefer to receive this newsletter by e-mail. Also, please let us know if you want to be removed from our mailing list.

With my feet on the ground and my heart attuned, I shall reach for the stars.

