

# CRESTRIDGE ALUMNAE & FRIENDS

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The "Beehive," home to the Crestridge store and museum, was formally dedicated at Maintain the Memories 2012. Camp director Marva Rawlings, along with current and future campers, helped with the official ribbon cutting.

## Crestridge Buzzes with a New Generation of Campers (by Elizabeth Fowler)

Summer 2012 at Camp Crestridge was literally buzzing this year! The completion of the Beehive served as a wonderful addition to camp. Camp Crestridge Alumnae and Friends (CCAF) had witnessed the need for an updated store and museum, and with your help were able to construct and completely pay off this building this year.

This recently completed Beehive stands where the former "store" was located across from the camp infirmary. The beautiful two-story building serves as camp clothing and refreshment store as well as housing the official Camp Crestridge museum upstairs.



Inside the store

This past summer, the Beehive served as a meeting place for many camp skills and provided a great base in

many camp activities. Furthermore, the new camp museum beautifully displays pictures, awards, and souvenirs spanning generations of camp.



Inside the museum

The Alumnae have taken the time to ensure that each of these mementos is properly preserved so these items can be enjoyed for years to come. If you have any items you would like to donate to the museum, please contact us and share your memories!



Moving memorabilia from the lodge to the new museum

CCAF's goal is to support the mission of Camp Crestridge and provide the necessary programs and buildings to continue camp's lifelong effect on its campers, staffers, parents, and visitors

alike. Thirty-two beautiful new rocking chairs on the wraparound porch have nameplates with inscriptions provided by their donors. There is room for 52 rockers, so 20 remain to be donated.



Rocking chairs on the porch

Proceeds from the donated chairs help fund construction; proceeds from future chair donations will help replenish our now-depleted Special Projects fund. To donate a rocking chair, go to [www.crestridgealumnae.com](http://www.crestridgealumnae.com).

Just as the Beehive structure of past years witnessed much activity, so does the newly constructed one. The name Beehive itself conjures up wonderful memories for many past campers and provides a new structure already buzzing with a new generation of Crestridgers.



Recently it became necessary to change the domain name of the CCAF website. The new website name is [www.crestridgealumnae.com](http://www.crestridgealumnae.com). The site is the same; just the name has changed. The old name will no longer work, although you can access the CCAF site through [www.ridgecrestcamps.com](http://www.ridgecrestcamps.com) (scroll down to the bottom of the home page and click on "Crestridge alumnae.")

# EVERYTHING

By: Julie Davis Hopkins

Presented at

Maintain the Memories 2012

You gave Camp Crestridge  
such a personal touch,  
Hours of preparation, staff  
training and such,  
Probably to you it didn't seem  
like much,  
But to me, it was everything.

I arrived each year more  
excited than the one before,  
Filled with anticipation and  
giggles galore,  
Maybe you thought you could  
be doing more,  
But to me, you did everything.

Each Tuesday night your  
words went straight to my  
heart,  
God used your gifts to play  
such a big part,  
In the molding and shaping of  
each little heart,  
Which to Him is everything.

I can't begin to tell of all the  
memories I hold so dear,  
Christmas in July, Council of  
Progress, Singspiration  
every year,  
Perhaps you thought once I  
grew up,  
The memories would  
disappear,  
Just so you know, they mean  
everything.

How fortunate I was to be in  
your space,  
For so many summers in that  
unique and special place,  
And someday when I see our  
Master face to face,  
I will thank Him for you, and  
for everything.

Dedicated to Johnnie  
Armstrong, for giving her  
"everything" to make Camp  
Crestridge a place  
for girls to feel  
the Savior's love.

## More Amazing Things Happen During 2012! (By Sharon Aylestock)

What a summer! I can't believe how fast it went. It seems like yesterday we were welcoming the staff for their training. This was an incredible summer. Each session was either full or almost full with only a few spaces left. We are praising God for another record-breaking season!

This year's theme was "The Well." The idea came from Isaiah 12:2a, 3, "Surely God is my salvation ... With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation." During each session, the Gospel was presented through the theme. The campers learned how Jesus was 100% man and God; we are all thirsty and look for something or someone to satisfy that thirst; we are sinful and need to understand what sin is; Jesus took care of our sin by dying on the cross for us; and, where we can go from here? We referred to the Well as being many different things in our lives, the ultimate being Christ. The overall question was, "Which well will you draw from?"



Campers enjoying goodies from the store!

As you know, the Beehive was completed just in time for the beginning of camp. I'm not sure how we survived without this new addition. The campers loved sitting on the rocking chairs while enjoying their "store." The Cherokees and SALT appreciated the added space in the store while working and stocking the shelves. Debbye loved the clothing store, especially that it actually felt like a camp store. The campers and parents enjoyed the closeness of the Museum and opportunity to see how Crestridge began. Marva and Nancy were excited for the extra storage space so they can have the "Warehouse" (basement of the Crafts building) all for programming materials. Thank you so much for your contributions and prayers!

Johnnie's Gym got a makeover before the summer. We were able to replace all the windows, which improved lighting and airflow. We painted the outside, which was much needed. We went with a solid green this time. You can't miss it if you drive by! The gutters were also replaced to prevent debris buildup.



(Above) The gym, after a much-needed paint job. (Below) The new rifery range.

A couple other things that were added include a new Rifery Range just past Cherokee 22 (former Cherokee 4) and a stage on the Green to use for campwide and village activities.



We had a special guest perform at our 1A Closing Program—Steven Curtis Chapman! His daughter was a camper during 1A and he graciously performed "The Great Adventure" for us. Campers and staff loved being able to sing and dance along. You can find a video of an interview and his performance on our blog. We're hoping to see both of his daughters attend in 2013!



Stephen Curtis Chapman performs "The Great Adventure" at closing.

Ridgecrest Summer Camps has a new look. Our new website went live at the beginning of August. Be sure to take a look at

[www.ridgecrestcamps.com](http://www.ridgecrestcamps.com).

As for this year, we are currently in the process of deciding which projects will have top priority for the summer of 2013. We are excited for what the year will hold! You can keep in touch via Facebook/Twitter to hear more news.



# Maintain the Memories Breaks Attendance Record

(By Karen Stitt)



enjoying being at camp. We had a record-breaking 137 people attend this year, quite a change from 2000, when we only had 38 people.

On Saturday night we always gather in the campfire area for s'mores and a time of sharing.



This year Ramey Jane Driggers Schutz shared what this weekend means to her family and the many friends they bring each year. For them, Maintain the Memories (MTM) has become a family camp. "Camp is such a special place for my

family and me. I cannot really remember a summer without Camp Crestridge. I always knew that when I had children they would be Crestridgers & Ridgecresters as soon as I could get them there.

"I wanted my husband to love camp with the same passion that I did. I didn't want him to see camp just as any other Christian camp. We decided to bring Willa up to camp for MTM when she was 4. My thought was that she would become comfortable with where everything was and know her way around by the time she started coming at age 6. I also thought if we came up for MTM weekend, my sweet husband might feel some of God's spark and learn that standing on the dining room chairs singing songs is not really that odd. Seeing the sweet faces of old camp friends was wonderful, but God surpassed my every expecta-

This Memorial Day weekend once again found Camp Crestridge teeming with excited adults and kids of all ages working hard and

tion. Doug didn't just see camp and meet camp people; the Holy Spirit lit a Crestridge spark inside of him. He loved it all: campfire, chapel—and his favorite MTM activity is using "man tools." (Man Tools: wood chipper, giant drills, chain saws, etc.) Doug made his own "camp" friends with the other husbands who came. Doug started telling his family and our friends from home about how much fun he had and told them they should come with us to 'Family Camp.' (This is what he calls MTM). Our first MTM weekend was 8 years ago, and now we come with a crowd of friends and family. For this past MTM weekend, there were 24 people in our fun group to add to the Crestridge work weekend family camp. When I look at how God answered my prayers for Doug to love camp with the same passion that I have, He once again surpassed my expectations. God's glory sings from the mountaintops at Camp Crestridge. So this year bring your family and anyone who loves a good time with fun "camp" people. I'll be there with my herd. We love Family Camp at MTM!"

Cara Pollard uncovered an untapped resource this year at Maintain the Memories. Each child over 5, and some under, helped with the work of the weekend by being a part of the Kids Crew. Members of the Kids Crew helped with raking, tarping leaves, cleaning out the creek, spreading mulch, and cleaning cabins. The Kids Crew alternated between work and play all day. The Kids Crew felt a sense of pride in what they accomplished and parents were excited to see their children take part in the cleanup of camp.



**Mark your calendars for next year, May 24-26, 2013, and plan to join us for this special time in a place that means so much to so many people.**



The day begins with Johnnie reading the "to do" list. Then we divide and conquer the various tasks around camp. Whatever the job, it includes fun!

## To An Old Camper

by Mary S Edgar

*You may think, my dear, when  
you grow quite old you have  
left camp days behind,  
But I know the scent of wood  
and smoke will always come  
to mind,  
little fires at twilight and trails  
you used to find.*

*You may think someday you  
have quite grown up and feel  
so worldly wise,  
but suddenly from out of the  
past a vision will arise,  
Of merry folk with bare brown  
knees and laughter in their  
eyes.*

*You may live in a house built to  
your taste in the nicest part  
of town,  
but someday for your old camp  
togs you'd change your latest  
gown,  
and trade it for a balsam bed  
where stars all night look  
down.*

*You may find yourself grow  
wealthy, have all that gold  
can buy  
But you would toss aside a  
fortune, for days neath an  
open sky  
With sunlight and blue water  
and white clouds sailing by.*

*For once you have been a  
camper, then something has  
come to stay  
deep in your heart forever which  
nothing can take away  
and heaven can only be a  
heaven with a camp in which  
to play.*

## Mother/Daughter Reflections of Session 2A

(By Amy Guffey Clay)

As we said our goodbyes on the front porch of Chip 1 (formerly Chip 8), I felt an overwhelming sense of peace. In the weeks prior to camp I had taught her “Ki Yi,” “Cutie Pie” and the Chipewa song. She had even memorized Luke 2:52 and was more than ready for camp. Her first week of camp, I held it together really well until I saw a picture of her and two friends at Nibble Nook – three buddies with big smiles and ice cream on their faces (see below).



I have to admit that I broke down and sobbed. It is not that I was sad or necessarily missing her, but my heart felt so much joy that I could not contain it. My Tyler was beginning the same journey that I started in 1984 as a Chickasaw.

Each night I eagerly waited for the pictures to be posted on the Crestridge website. I would save them, post some on Facebook and email them to her dad at work. This nightly activity was the highlight of my day.

I knew she was safe, having fun, making friends, and creating lasting memories. When the time came, I was eager to get to camp to see her and her friends in the CC musical. Little did I know that when I pulled up to the gate I would be picking up a more confident, independent, and well-rounded child. As I walked into camp, I saw her friend Rachel and she gave me a big hug and said, “Tyler has a big surprise for you.” As I walked past the chapel and by the lake, it was not hard to spot her with her neon green Parkway Baptist musical T-shirt, black shorts, tennis shoes with no socks, hand on hip and Cheerwine in hand. When she saw me approach, she ran up and gave me a big hug. As she pulled away, she said, “Mom I have something to tell you,” and she looked up at me with big watery eyes and said, “I asked Jesus to live in my heart forever.” The two of us hugged and cried tears of joy. Tyler had made the most important decision of her life sitting on the steps of the Bear Trap, which ironically is exactly the image that I had in my head and had hoped and prayed for. Crestridge had chal-

lenged Tyler physically, mentally, spiritually, and socially and she had grown because of it. It is now my daily prayer that Tyler be a stepping stone to Christ and not a stumbling block. I know she was given this challenge and I look forward to watching her grow this year.

My daughter and I now have a bond that is even more inseparable. Camp has become something greater for both of us. Many of the women who guided me on my walk with Christ as a camper and staffer are still at camp today and are teaching my daughter the same life lessons. I am in awe of all of them and all they do for the girls. “The words of a million angels could not express my gratitude” (“My Tribute” –Andre Crouch).

Several years ago, a dear camp friend shared this poem in a letter (see column on left), and I have never forgotten it and I want to pass it on to you. Oh, how I long for “little fires at twilight and trails I used to find.”

“Life is good, life with Camp...is better.” (Cara Pollard) To God be the Glory!

Congratulations to Debbye Lackey Skaggs (now Debby Lackey Newton) who celebrated her 30th year on staff at Camp Crestridge this summer! Warm wishes go out to her as she recently married Larry Newton and moved to Oklahoma! (At right, Debbye, her daughter Lyndsey, and granddaughter Caton)



## Did You Know that Camp Crestridge is a Non-Profit Organization?

Unlike many other camps, Ridgecrest Summer Camps are non-profit. There is no private owner running the camps in order to make a profit. Instead, Ridgecrest Summer Camps are mission-based and strive to promote physical, emotional, social, and spiritual growth in the lives of each boy and girl who comes to camp. When you make a donation to Camp Crestridge Alumnae and Friends (CCAF) you are helping to support this mission. Here are some ways that you can be a part of this.

(1) **Prayer** – please pray for camp, for camp leadership, and for the staff and children who attend each summer.

(2) **Donate your time or talents** – come to “Maintain the Memories” weekend each Memorial Day and help prepare camp for the summer, or donate in other creative ways (maybe your business could help with PR or with our newsletter).

(3) **Donate money** – There are many opportunities to donate resources to directly benefit camp. (a) CCAF provides scholarships each summer for girls who otherwise could not attend camp. You can give directly to the annual scholarship fund or to the scholarship endowment fund that will eventually provide scholarships from interest earned. Named scholarships can be secured through a \$10,000 donation. (b) Donate to our special projects fund. Our new building, the “Beehive,” is our latest special project. This building was open for business this summer, and was completely paid for. It is our hope that we can soon raise the money to pay off this loan. (c) Pay your membership dues. (d) Buy CCAF merchandise.

You can donate, pay your dues, or purchase merchandise online at [www.crestridgealumnae.com](http://www.crestridgealumnae.com). You can also purchase a stepping stone or adopt a rocking chair for the Beehive porch. You decide the inscription to be added to the chair or stone. Details for purchase of these items are available on the website.

Thanks so much for contributing to CCAF. Because of your generosity, this organization is able to continue making a difference in girls’ lives by supporting the mission and ministry of Camp Crestridge for Girls.



### Contest Corner

Send us your creative caption for this photo and you could win cool stuff from our Alumnae store!

Email your favorite entry to [calumnae@windstream.net](mailto:calumnae@windstream.net) by November 1. We will pick a winner and mail you some great CC4G merchandise. Think of it as a care package! We will publish your caption in the next newsletter.

## Remember When?

The following quotes were taken from our “Remember When” Facebook page. Please add your own fond remembrances!

“Listening to Hallelujah chorus and still remember my part... loved practicing and singing for Christmas in July.” – Christy Jennings Miqueli

“Remember when...we had Song Fest for Evening Activity. ‘Doe a Deer’ could go on forever!! Comment with your favorite song from Song Fest. I’ll start! Boom, Boom, Boom, Boom, Gee Whiz!” – Cara Pollard

“One afternoon as I was coming down from teaching tennis on the upper courts with a group of young campers, we literally ran into a rattlesnake on Chick hill. They ran to get Johnnie and I stayed with the snake. When she got there, rifle in hand, I headed down the hill. She said, “get back here and help me with this snake.” The snake had crawled between 2 big rocks. She shot at it and told me to poke it with a long stick and see if she hit it. It is the only time in my life I told Johnnie Armstrong ‘NO’. I told her to give me the gun and she could poke it, which she did. Needless to say, we walked down that hill with a dead rattlesnake draped across the barrel of that gun. Johnnie is quite a woman!!!” – Kay Kelly Jenkins

“Marva coming to check on Choctaw 2 bc there was the BIGGEST spider we had ever seen. Its eyes even shined with the flashlight... we must have been screaming for a really long time... whoops....” – Carson C Walker

“I was driving to work yesterday and heard, “Go tell it on the mountain.” I teared up and thought about camp...Christmas in July...I miss it.” – Berrylin Martin



# Crestridge Merchandise.....buy it before it's gone!!!!

(by Anja Aloia Cleveland)



You can get some great, one-of-a-kind stuff from our Alumnae Store! These make great Christmas presents for Crestridgers—current and former! [www.crestridgealumnae.com](http://www.crestridgealumnae.com)

We are quickly moving through our merchandise this year. Many items, both old and new, have sold out this summer. We pride ourselves in getting quality items with the Crestridge name or logo on them, but we also give them one shot and rarely reorder. So, don't procrastinate! Look at the website now and get your order in for Christmas stocking stuffers and other special occasions. Then again, any day is a special occasion for Crestridge merchandise!

Looking at our website today, we appear to be offering few items. However, watch for updates as the end of the year approaches and we get in NEW items. We are currently considering new items for regular sales as well as to present at our 60th Reunion in the summer of 2014.

We welcome your input as to items you would love to purchase. Please send us an email with your suggestion/idea and see if YOU are the one who finds the next best product that CCAF has to offer. Order now....don't delay!

A special thank you to alumna Lori Angell Langway and L&E Meridian for donating the production, printing, and mailing of this newsletter!

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Camp Crestridge Alumnae and Friends  
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## SAVE THE DATE: Summer 2014



Help us celebrate the  
60th Summer of Camp  
Crestridge for Girls!

Reunion details to follow!

