



Camp Good Hope Director Jonathan Beard participates in one of the most important parts of Camp Good Hope and Teen Encounter - the flag-raising ceremony held early Saturday morning.



At Camp Good Hope and Teen Encounter, Campers participate in unique team building exercises.



A busy day at Camp Good Hope and Teen Encounter requires a hearty camp breakfast which greets each camper when they begin their day on Saturday.



At Teen Encounter, part of the day for teen campers includes participating in an Equine Assisted Psychotherapy Program with an EAP-trained horse professional and EAP-trained counselor.



Camp Good Hope and Teen Encounter grief camps for kids, provide an honest, safe place where kids can share and talk openly.



Camp Good Hope campers participate in art therapy in order to help express feelings.

HOSPICE OF CITRUS COUNTY PRESENTS CAMP GOOD HOPE AND TEEN ENCOUNTER

FLORAL CITY—Forty Four children participated in Camp Good Hope and Teen Encounter, bereavement camps presented by the Herry's Kids Division of Hospice of Citrus County. The children converged on Floral City's Good Counsel Camp from Friday afternoon April 16 through Saturday evening, April 17 with over 50 trained volunteers. The theme for Camp Good Hope was "Winter Wonderland", a theme which represents one of the four seasons of our grief.

Hospice of Citrus County has offered 14 years of weekend camps while providing grief counseling to Citrus County children and teens since 1985. 2010 marked the 21st Camp Good Hope experience and the 6th Teen Encounter overnight camp.

Hospice of Citrus County works with the school system and the community to identify children who may be having problems with behavior or learning because they have experienced a loss. Trained volunteers and professional staff guide the children through team exercises, canoeing, crafts, games and discussions designed to express feelings and to help the children cope. Teens participate in an Equine Assisted Psychotherapy Program with an EAP-trained horse professional and EAP-trained counselor.

"Fun is mixed in with therapy, and the important thing is that children learn they are not alone," said Wings Grief Services Manager Jonathan Beard. "While everyone expresses grief in their own way, children especially need to know that there is no right or wrong way to feel. Some of the children have never discussed their loss. Being with other youth who have endured a similar loss provides comfort and hope."

Camp Good Hope and Teen Encounter provide an honest, secure place where kids can share their feelings concerning their loved one's death. It doesn't take long for children to talk openly in a safe, comfortable environment. They learn coping mechanisms, improving their innate ability to deal with grief and loss.

Every Camper receives a custom T-shirt, cap, backpack, Frisbee, autograph log, and water bottle.

The Camp concludes with an exercise to memorialize the person the child has lost and teaches them they can reach out to others for comfort. Each child releases a carnation into the water, symbolizing the letting-go process.

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The Herry's Kids Division of Hospice of Citrus County provides medical services to children with life-threatening illnesses and offers grief support to young people who have experienced a loss. The Herry's Kids Division is totally dependent upon community support. Camp Good Hope and Teen Encounter are presented free to campers through donations, community sponsorships and grants.

Current sponsors include United Way of Citrus County, Beef O'Brady's in Inverness, Robert Boissoneault Oncology Institute, BB&T Bank, Chas. E. Davis Funeral Home, Hooper's Funeral Home, Angelo's Pizza, Citrus County Chronicle, Strickland Funeral Home, Arbor Lakes Service Club, Rotary Clubs of Citrus County, Publix, Coca Cola, Equine Assisted Therapy, Wal-Mart, Roberts Funeral Home, Sheriff's Mounted Posse, Pilot Club of Crystal River, Knights of Columbus, Wilder Funeral Home, and many individual donors.

Hospice of Citrus County has earned the Joint Commission Gold Seal of Approval. For additional information on future camps or for information on the ongoing children/teen grief services, contact Jonathan Beard, Grief Services Manager, at 352-527.2348, ext. 1508, or visit www.hospiceofcitruscounty.org