



Camp SERTOMA of NC/VA/MD Bulletin



www.campsertoma.org

May 2008

Chairman's Message

... Deaf Camp Week is on the Horizon!

The official deadline for registering for the camp has expired but has been extended. (See message of registration coordinator below). Please contact your local schools, health care professionals, and social service agencies and spread the word about Camp Sertoma.



Why are we providing this camping experience? The answer is provided by one parent, whose foster child benefitted immensely from our camp. The letter is reprinted in this newsletter.

We thank all of the clubs that have contributed to the camper scholarship fund in the calendar year 2008. They are also listed in this newsletter.

If your club is not on the list, please take remedial action. As a round figure, it costs \$500 to sponsor one child to the camp. Will your club consider sponsoring one or more children?

We also thank the clubs that have stepped forward to make improvements to the cabins bearing their names. Other clubs are encouraged to do likewise.

I and other members of the camp committee will be happy to visit your club and make a presentation about the camp. Please invite us.

I plan to be at the camp the whole week during camp week. I hope to see you there..

Yours in Service to Mankind,
John Kelly

A Parent's View of Camp Sertoma

For several years, we had a foster child in our home that had hearing challenges; Sarah's* challenge was Central Auditory Processing Disability. CAPD is a neurological disorder where a person may be able to hear, however, it affects how one hears, then how one interprets the sound or words. This is similar to a bad connection on the telephone, or the game of "gossip," when by the end of the game, the message isn't any thing like what the first person said.

Years of speech therapy had not been able to help Sarah cope with these challenges. The County Public school system had helped as much as they possibly could. What the school system couldn't provide is non-academic social interaction with peers.

We found Camp Sertoma, through a link through the 4-H website, and it sounded exactly what we were looking for. Considering Sarah's communication challenges, we talked about whether she would feel more comfortable with other peers dealing with similar issues. She was very excited to spend time with other kids who had problems communicating.

We arrived for registration, and I was impressed by the efficiency and organization of how the staff managed to have everyone check in, with the usual camp gear, equipment, medications, and assorted communication skills.

When we arrived at the end of camp, Sarah ran to us, hugging us, and begging to be able to return the following year. She said she had made several friends, and that she felt she was like the other kids.

As a result of Camp Sertoma, Sarah gained confidence, and was more compassionate with others who had hearing challenges. Using ASL at camp helped her develop additional methods of communicating, which she in turn shared with friends (and family) at home. Sarah enjoyed the activities,

and the social interaction. A lover of horses, she enjoyed the riding, and swimming periods of the camp; she enjoyed the usual hiking, and crafts projects as well.

Several of the friends and counselors continued to communicate via email and letters through the year.

Background: Sarah attended 4-H camp a year before she went to Sertoma Deaf Camp. She found it difficult because of her communication challenges. The differences caused by her communication skills were significant enough for peers at school and at the 4-H camp to make fun and tease her.

My own experience with camping: I know how important it is for a child to be included with their peers, to develop independence and self-reliance, and I wanted Sarah to have a similar experience.

I had grown up with family members who were very active with the church camping program where we lived; much like the members of Sertoma who volunteer their time and energy to provide youth with camping opportunities.

At family camp and on camp workdays, the adults would include their children to help with activities or the work at the camp. I attended 4-H camp and church camp at the local camp. Later I worked on staff at two separate camps.

One of my memorable experiences as a counselor was the week we had twelve hearing impaired children, (with four to six counselors who were proficient in signing) and several children from the inner city. That week, everyone campers, and staff alike, experienced growth in recognizing our individual and collective diversity and our similarities.

And isn't that one of the reasons to go to camp, to learn more about our world and each other?

*The camper's name has been changed to protect the child's identity.

Camper Registrations

I am pleased to report that at this time we have 45 59 children registered to attend Sertoma Deaf Camp. Our Adventure section (ages 14-16) is full but we have PLENTY of spaces left in the younger groups (ages 8-13). Our initial goal is to have a minimum of 90 campers (because that is the minimum number of campers that we are paying for anyway), but my personal goal is to reach 100 campers. We can easily handle that number, especially in the age 8-13 sections. The printed registration deadline was May 1st but of course we will continue to accept applications until the camp is full. We do need to keep in mind, however, that there is a stack of documents that need to be filled out for each child, which are state-mandated, and include requirements of a doctor's signature as well as a notary public signature. I have found that this takes a good bit of time for the families to accomplish this, and campers will be turned away at the door if all the documents are not properly completed and executed. So bottom line, we do need to pump up the camper recruitment so that we have all our 90 or 100 registrations in hand and we can get the families working on the paperwork right away. **If each club finds just one camper in their area who has not yet heard of Camp Sertoma, we will fill our roster!**

A copy of the camp brochure can be downloaded from <http://campsertoma.org/camp/forms.shtml>.

(Submitted by Sandy Waterman, Camp Registration Secretary)

Transportation Volunteers Needed

We are in need of volunteers to assist with transportation of campers for the upcoming camping season. Drivers and "co-pilots" are needed. If you are interested in helping please contact Ray Clarke at raynkay@triad.rr.com. Or by telephone at 336-540-1729. He will get back with you

Honor Roll of Donors

Donations Received January - April 2008

Chesapeake Bay District

Alexandria
Frederick Evening
Fredericktowne
District Total \$3750

Doug Council District

Capital City
Raleigh
Tar Heel
Wilmington
District Total \$8,017

Henry C. Carter District

Greensboro
Old Salem
District Total \$2,890

A heartfelt thank you to the clubs that have donated.
May we add your club to the list? Mail check, to *Clutch Coverdale, Treasurer, 604 Clearfield Ave., Chesapeake, VA 23320*

New Camp Sertoma Club Fundraisers

Each day at camp, all of the campers line up in front of the flagpole several times per day. By the end of camping season, the grass in front of Cheshire Hall is worn down, leaving bare spots of dirt. The Camp Sertoma Club has undertaken a project to construct a brick patio in front of the flagpole. To raise the money to construct the patio, the Club has established an 'Adopt a Brick' campaign. For as little as \$60.00 individuals and organizations can have their name(s) or message printed on a brick that will line the patio outside of Cheshire Hall. 100% of the proceeds will directly benefit the camp through camper scholarships or other improvements to the camp property. The application form can be downloaded from the club's website at www.campsertomaclub.org.

You also have an opportunity to participate in Food Lion's **LionShop & Share** Program. Each time you shop at Food Lion and use your MVP card, a portion of your total grocery purchase will be donated to the school, church or other local not-for-profit organization you have selected. Our **Camp Sertoma Club of NC/VA/MD** is now an option. Please visit the link below for details. Select 'Register MVP Cards' (under 'In The Community') to participate. When prompted for State and City, enter NC and Raleigh, respectively.

<http://www.foodlion.com/IntheCommunity/ShopAndShare/default.asp>. Please contact Jeff Cape at jeffrey299@aol.com if you questions about these programs.

Donations for Cabin Refurbishment 2008

Tar Heel Sertoma Club (for Tar Heel Cabin)

- \$6,000.00

Old Salem Sertoma Club (to adopt Durham Cabin)

- \$5,000.00 (plus labor)
- They are also planning to purchase new bunk beds

Raleigh Sertoma Club (for Raleigh Cabin)

- \$5,110.00
- Purchased and installed new window blinds

Wilmington Sertoma Club (for Wilmington Cabin)

- Donated materials and labor to refinish wood floor
- Acid washed and repainted concrete floor
- Purchased and installed new lighting throughout the cabin
- Purchasing new window screens
- Purchasing new mattresses

Triangle Sertoma Club (for Triangle Cabin)

- Purchased and installed new window blinds
- Provided a day of labor repairing steps, removing stump from front of cabin and removing trees around cabin

