



The Royal Page

Winter 2006

Royal Family Kids' Camps, Inc.

Vol. 1

You are invited to join us for ...

Through the Years

The 16th Annual Celebration Banquet

With honored speaker

Joel Sonnenberg

Thursday, March 2, 2006

6:30 p.m.

The Irvine Marriot Hotel
Irvine, California

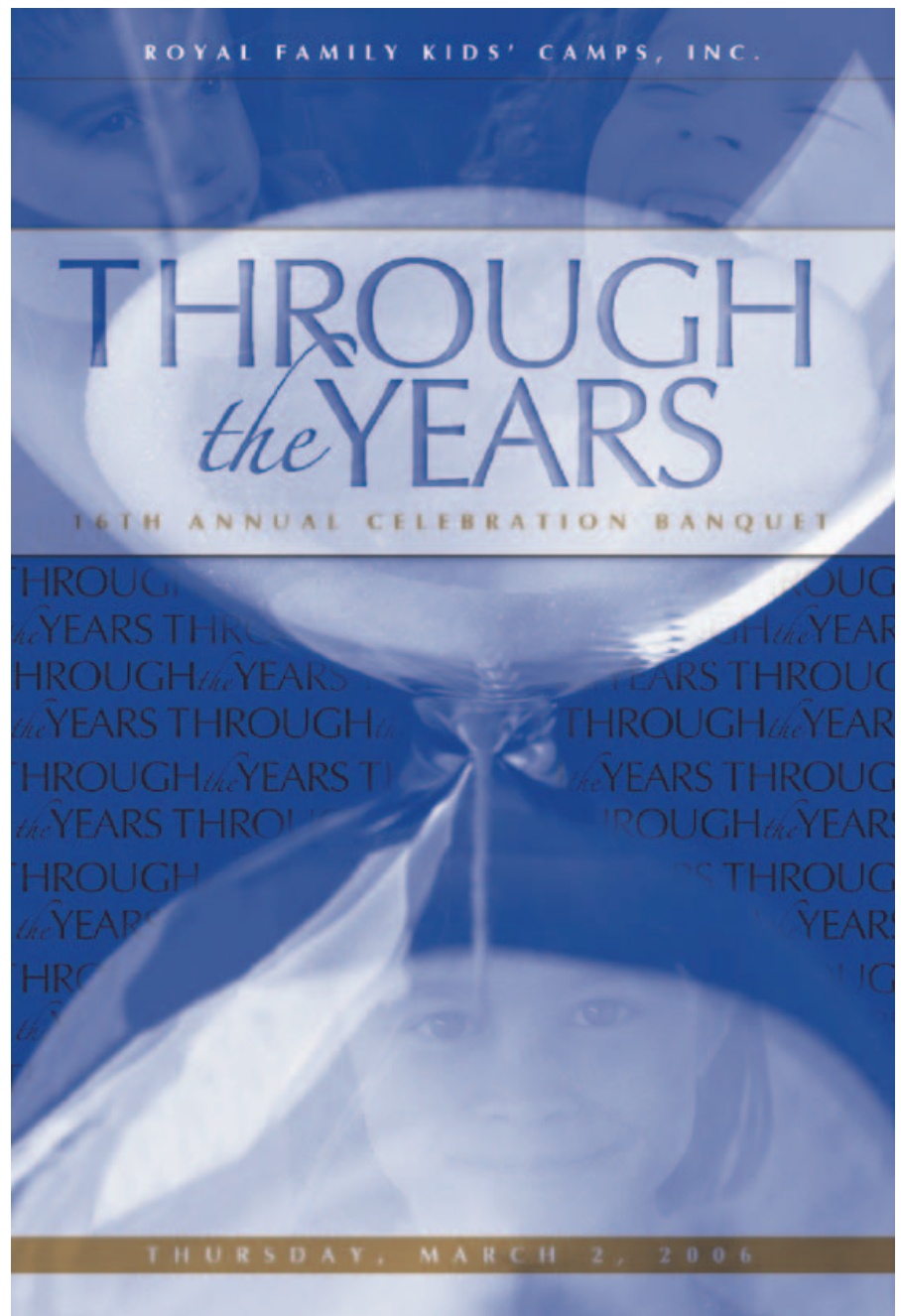
Advance ticket purchase required

We are honored to have Joel Sonnenberg with us this year! His testimony of God's grace and love has encouraged thousands to rise above the circumstances of their lives and live in the fullness of God's joy! As a two-year old, Joel was horribly burned, scarred and disfigured in a fiery car accident. Through the years, he has endured 45 painful surgeries and skin grafts. Today, he is a "walking miracle"! Joel openly and honestly shares his story of hope and a life transformed by Christ's love and acceptance ... and his story has changed lives! Though his



injuries were not due to abuse, his story of hope will be a wonderful reminder to us all that our campers can rebound from devastating childhood trauma — and that the resilience they possess can be encouraged and enhanced during a week at Royal Family Kids' Camps.

*For additional information, call our office
714.438.2494*



Looking Ahead to a GREAT YEAR!

Wayne and Diane Tesch

Co-Founders of Royal Family Kids' Camps, Inc.

Thank you for Royal Family Kids' Camps!

We are honored to continue to lead this fantastic — and growing — ministry! Little did we know 21 years ago that our passion to reach hurting and abused children would become an international effort ... and that a camp that began with 37 children our first year would flourish to over 35,000 children today! And yet, for us, it remains "all about one."



One, like Amber. Not long ago, we sent a "birthday box" of goodies to Wayne's nephew, Nathan, an Army Specialist. As he was eating a bag of RFKC purple and white M&M's, Amber, a fellow platoon member, approached him and said, "Where did you get those?" Nathan told her and, with excitement, she said, "I went to a Royal Family Kids' Camp in Lancaster, California, as a child. It was one of the highlights of my whole childhood!" Amber went on to tell Nathan that when she gets out of the Army and returns to civilian life, she's coming back to RFKC to serve in some way.



You never know where or when you are going to run into someone whose life was transformed by a Royal Family Kids' camp! (Pictured here are Nathan Housley and Amber, a fellow platoon member.)

Thank you for the part you have played in stories like that one! We certainly could not have done it alone! Now, as we look forward to another year of dynamic, life-changing outreach to abused, abandoned and neglected children, we are hopeful of what the future has in store!

As you know, we are currently in the midst of our "For the Children" capital campaign. Our goal is to raise \$526,000, to add 40 new

camps in strategic locations across the United States and build our team of Ambassadors of Vision, a dedicated group of people who recruit churches to establish new camps. To date, God has greatly blessed our efforts, and many kind and generous friends have helped us raise \$538,325 (in pledged and received funds). Going above and beyond our goal will enable us to do more than we ever imagined to reach hundreds of thousands of hurting children ... and give them positive memories to last a lifetime!

Thank you for being a vital part of what God has done — and will do — through Royal Family Kids' Camps in the days to come!

RFKC receives special funding

Recently, Southern California Edison helped Royal Family Kids' Camps by making us the recipients of the proceeds for an annual carnival-type event for its employees. Money raised from raffles and games on that day were donated to our camp program. Employees at the Huntington Beach Service Center were also given an introduction to RFKC and will now have the opportunity to donate a portion of their paycheck each month — to be matched by Southern Cal Edison — to help us meet the needs of abused, abandoned and neglected children. Much thanks goes to Southern California Edison!



Southern California Edison helped RFKC by making us the recipients of their annual carnival benefit. (From left to right — Glenn Garvin of RFKC, So Cal Edison employees Lance Torgerson and Chris Gates, and Wayne Tesch.)

Another company has gone "above and beyond" to help RFKC! The UPS Foundation presented us with a check for \$25,000 to help fund our "Birthday Box" program. Gift boxes are handed out to every child at every camp and are a way to celebrate each of their birthdays. (For many, this is the only birthday present they receive.) Again, thank you to UPS for caring for children in need and making it possible for RFKC to infuse our campers with tangible hope this summer!



The UPS Foundation provided "tangible hope" for children in need when they presented us with a check for \$25,000 towards our Birthday Box program. (Pictured with Wayne Tesch are, from left to right, UPS employees Jim Liberte, Will Sides, and Dave Pierce.)

Royal Family Kids' Camps: Changing lives, then and now!

We know there is no greater way to let you know how much your support for Royal Family Kids' Camps means than to share wonderful stories of lives transformed by our camps! Some of the children we hear from are still young, experiencing camp for the first time. Others are campers from the past, kids whose lives were changed by the care and love they received at camp years ago. Here are just two of the many stories we hear and read about every day ...

THEN ...

- Like most of the children at camp, Ryan was hurting. His young life was filled with nothing but pain and sadness ... until he came to camp! On one of his first days, Ryan noticed the first page of his workbook, which read: "Hey Camper! We are glad you're here!" and "We Care About You."



He took his pen and angrily wrote: "No you don't" over the caring words. Later he showed it to Mr. Mike, his counselor. Mr. Mike asked Ryan, "Do you really believe that?" "No not really," said Ryan ... "But are you glad I'm here?" "Yes, I am," Mr. Mike answered. "Absolutely." Ryan learned for the rest of the week that Mr. Mike and all of the RFKC staff were glad he was there! He felt loved, accepted and cared for ... and built positive memories we know he will NEVER forget!

- A camp counselor told this story: "When Sam got off the bus and joined our cabin group, he was already smiling. I am sure it was because of the ROYAL treatment he got by the staffers that checked him in at church. After seeing the cabin, going through the

rules, and heading over for lunch, he sat down at the table, let out a great big sigh, and said, "This is the greatest day of my life!" Mid-afternoon on Monday, at the tea party, he leaned back in his chair, hands behind his head, and said, "This is the life!"

NOW ...

Jessica found a new life at Royal Family Kids' Camp! When she first came to camp, her foster mom said she was so traumatized by the abuse in her past, she would hardly speak. Her foster family never heard her laugh, or saw her play ... she was completely withdrawn.

What a difference when she arrived home from camp! Her foster mom (who eventually adopted her) told us:

"She came back a real little girl. She played, laughed and talked about Royal Family Kids' Camp. Royal Family showed Jessica what love was, and that people truly loved her. It was okay to play ... and that she could shine."

Today, Jessica is an honor student in high school, a cheerleader and enrolled in ROTC. In her own words, she says, "It was all just from my experience at camp." She is a Royal Family success story!

And Jessica is not alone! There are hundreds of young men and women across the USA who found the first healing for the hurts of their past at Camp. Thank you for giving of yourself to give kids like Jessica, Sam and Ryan a week of happiness and care ... and HOPE for their future!



Jessica, a former camper, is an honor student in high school, a cheerleader and enrolled in ROTC ... a true Royal Family success story!

A "Thank You" from Social Services...

To Whom It May Concern @ Royal Family Kids' Camp,

So many months have now passed since the camp for needy kids took place last August, and I have wanted to write so many times, but the life of a social worker can be a distracting journey. My heart is filled with an overwhelming amount of gratefulness for the amazing, week-long experience you created for four of the children on my caseload, and a total of eight children from our agency. When the children returned from camp, so many of the things they shared with me touched me deeply. They loved the collective birthday party, which I found to be a wonderful idea since in moving from foster home to foster home, so many of their birthdays go uncelebrated. They loved getting dressed up for the tea party and experiencing a bit of sophistication. A few of them went for a "polar swim" with a counselor in the early hours of the morning, which I thought was a great example to give them, teaching them to experience intense fun and a rush of emotion with an innocent activity rather than through drugs or alcohol. They all returned feeling so loved and cared for by their counselors — two to one is an incredibly generous ratio — and everyone wants to return next year. But it is now that I am writing because, as I sat in the bedroom of one the "hard to reach" boys with whom I work, I saw that he had put up the framed quote from the Bible that you had given him, reminding him that he is special and he is loved. I don't know where he had had it between August and now, but apparently, in the darkness of these winter months, he needed to be reminded.

The gifts you give for these extremely needy children are unbelievable. Whether it is the self-esteem that you build, or the new experiences you offer, or merely the attention that is given during that week in August, the camp provides long-lasting effects that change these children forever. Thank you for being a part of the lives of these foster kids, children that are so often forgotten by the rest of society.

Many Blessings,

Joy Gribble
Social Worker, Oakland, CA

Commitment Guaranteed!

Our Royal Family Camp Counselors are special people! Each year, they give of themselves to shower love on children who desperately need it! They give "safe" hugs and they encourage. They provide the warmth and understanding needed to pull children out of the darkness of their abusive pasts and into the light of hope! Here are just a few examples of the wonderful volunteers we have:

A full-time nurse, Debi Smith took time off and spent the summer of 1996 preparing meals for campers and staff in Topeka, KS. The next summer, her supervisor at the hospital said she could not take the time off to work at camp. After a



Camp Director
Debi Smith

We have incredible counselors who give so much of themselves each summer to reach hurting children! Much thanks to Debi Smith, "Great Grandpa" Bill and Tom Newton for your years of service, sacrifice and support!

lot of thought (and a great deal of financial sacrifice), Debi and her husband decided she would quit her job so that she would be able to work at camp! Now, almost 10 years later, Debi works part-time at a middle school, has three generations of her family volunteering at camp and has the time she needs to direct her church's Royal Family Kids' Camp, including grant-writing. Debi says she has never regretted her decision.

Though she knew it would cost her family a considerable amount of money, she decided, "Money isn't everything. I'm not going to leave those kids out."

Over 1,500 miles away... "Great Grandpa" Bill brought his "baby" to camp! In 2003, then 90-year-old Bill Newton volunteered at our camp in Newport Beach, CA. The next year, he came back with his son, 65-year-old Tom. And they keep on coming! It is truly awesome for the campers to see what a wholesome family looks like ... and Bill and Tom say their time at the camp is incredibly rewarding, too!

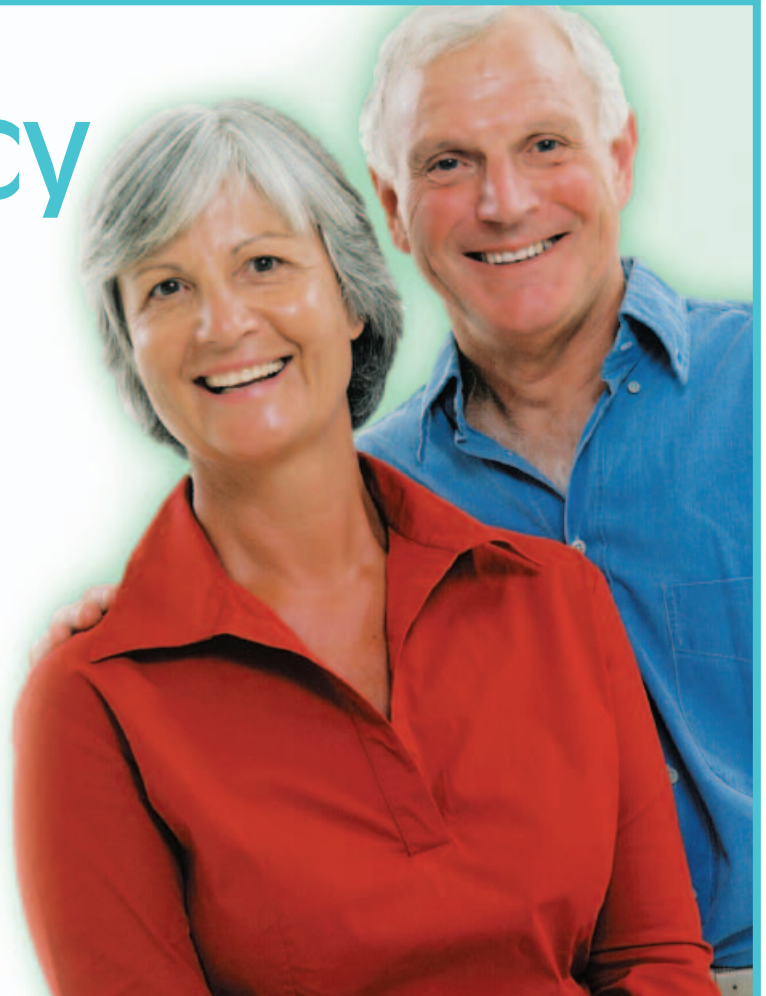
Leaving a lasting legacy

If you would be interested in learning how you can leave a lasting legacy that will benefit thousands of abused, abandoned and neglected children AND provide for your family in your estate, we have a suggestion! Members of our



Richard Tizzano

Royal Family Kids' Camps team can help you write a Christian will ... that will keep on giving and enabling us to reach even more hurting children. For more information, contact **Richard Tizzano**, Attorney, **360.697.7132** or **www.legalpeaceofmind.com**. Continue tomorrow what you have done so well today ... reaching out to lost and hurting children.



RFKC welcomes Pastor Don Steiger!

After serving in various pastoral capacities for nearly 35 years, Don Steiger has joined our Royal Family staff as a field representative, representing Royal Family Kids' Camps in a large network of Assemblies of God churches. We look forward to working with Don ... and to seeing our camp ministry grow by leaps and bounds in the days and years to come.



We are honored to welcome Don Steiger, pictured here with his wife, Loretta, to our Royal Family staff!

Walter Smith Golf Classic ... a *HUGE* success!

Our annual golf fundraising event went off without a hitch this year! There were 120 golfers ... and it was a BEAUTIFUL day! We were able to raise \$35,000 for RFKC, Inc. and two individual camps. We were also delighted to hear from two former campers, and our night was made especially fun by a professional auctioneer who helped the Smith family raise more money on this particular event than usual. A HUGE "thank you" goes out to all who planned, participated and gave to make the Walter Smith Golf Classic such a wonderful success this year and for the last five years!



This year's tournament champions (left to right) — Tim Bockhold, Steve Holmes, John Poulsen and Lonnie Charleson.



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To protect camper confidentiality, models are sometimes used in photographs.