

## **REPORT OF THE CANTERBURY HILLS SUMMER CAMPING PROGRAM**

This summer Canterbury Hills Camp saw over 400 campers walk the path excited to sing, dance and play. From the very hot days in July to the cool nights in August, campers of all ages designed their schedules to include all of their favourite activities. The camping program is unique and tailored to each group of campers, but is made special when I see traditional camp experiences shared by every generation of campers. To me this means observing the coloured wrist bands symbolizing new and old camp friendships, the glow of excitement upon identifying a lunar moth caterpillar, and the sound of camp songs from kilometers away. Canterbury Hills has again shown itself to be a place of discovery, learning, and inclusion. Our partnerships with St. Matthew's House in order to support campers from families who are financially challenged, Reach for the Rainbow in order to collectively support campers with varying abilities and disabilities, and Angel Tree in order to support campers who are children of inmates, have again been mutually beneficial and successful. Together all campers are able to experience the magic of camp and the love and grace of God.

Another exciting part of our camping ministry is the Leader in Training (LIT) program. Their largest challenge is the Leadership Adventure, a 7 night off-sight leadership opportunity in the community. During the Adventure the LITs are able to gain experiential learning that test their leadership skills learned throughout the summer and also practice their leadership and skills to benefit the community. This year we were able to help, and also be supported by St. Elizabeth's Church and Christ Church Cathedral. Unfortunately timing did not work out, but we are hoping to lend support with St. Matthew's House next summer, similar to past years. The skills that are developed and practiced through the LIT's time at Canterbury Hills nurture their development into becoming leaders in their communities and parishes, and eventually in our own camping ministry.

The success of this summer can be attributed to the many involved at Canterbury Hills. To begin, the hard work and dedication of the LITs, Leaders, Resource Team, and all year round staff have allowed this summer to grow into the success it became. Thank you for being the best staff a camp could have! Furthermore, my deepest appreciation is also extended to the wider community for their support, both financially and with their time. It takes a community to foster the development of camp. Therefore I would also like to recognize the alumni support and the support from the Individual Sustaining Sponsors involved this summer. Your commitment is appreciated and your actions go far in making a difference. As we move towards summer 2012 the need for further support is greater than ever. If you know somebody able to commit to becoming an Individual Sustaining Sponsor please encourage them to do so. Also, please join me in praying for the support needed for the future generation of camping. Similarly, I would also like to thank all parishes who contributed to the Camp Bursary Fund. We were able to bring many campers to camp due to this support. Finally, to all those who responded with donations of craft supplies, sporting equipment and drama clothes I can assure you your gifts were put to good use. Thank you for thinking of us as we prepared for the summer season.

All of the memories, learning, and opportunities would not have been possible without the commitment of all Canterbury Hills community members which includes, but is not limited, to all mentioned above. Together we have not only completed another successful camping season, but have continued the legacy of the camping ministry at Canterbury Hills.

Respectfully submitted,  
Nate Seroski, Canterbury Hills Camp Coordinator