

DIOCESE OF ORANGE



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DIOCESE OF ORANGE HOSTS 28TH ANNUAL RE-CREATION SUMMER CAMP

For almost three decades, the Re-Creation camp for adults with disabilities has provided a unique setting for support, interaction, artistic exploration and spiritual growth

ORANGE, Calif., (June 17, 2005) - The Re-Creation Summer Camp is a weeklong residential camp for adults with developmental, physical and mental disabilities which takes place June 26th-July 2nd, 2005, at the Marywood Center in Orange. The Diocese of Orange has hosted this camp since the Diocese was established in 1976. The camp program began in 1976 and is completely funded by the Knights of Columbus.

“The Re-Creation Summer Camp is a unique opportunity for developmentally disabled adults to interact with one another, learn arts and crafts, and expand their own spirituality. We are thankful that Bishop of Orange, Most Rev. Tod D. Brown, the Knights of Columbus, and Catholic Charities have been so supportive of our efforts to provide this program for our campers,” said Frank Murphy, Co-Director of the Re-Creation Summer Camp. Husband and wife, Frank and Mary Murphy along with Meredith Hamilton have been directing the camp in Orange for 15 years.

During the weeklong summer camp, participants have the opportunity to experience a variety of social and educational activities. Campers, accompanied by their counselors, attend arts and crafts classes, drama class, and journal class. They also participate in recreational games and spiritual enrichment activities. Nightly activities spotlight each camper’s unique abilities and provide a positive, interactive, social setting. These nocturnal activities include a campfire experience called “Waterfall,” a concert with the

Hi Hopes, a band made up of other adults with disabilities, an all-camp dance in the gymnasium and a Talent Show.

The highlight of the week for many of the campers, however, is the field trip. The destination of the trip is related to the camp theme. Past trips have included Disneyland, Universal Studios and Knott's Berry Farm. Last year's camp theme was "vacation under the sea," the group headed to Sea World. This year the theme is "Super Camp" and the group will attend a Dodger game.

The Re-Creation Summer Camp strives to maintain a one to one ratio of counselors to campers. This individualized attention allows volunteers to build personal relationships with the campers and ensures that every camper receives the attention they deserve. The camp recruits its counselors from local Orange County high schools and colleges. The majority of the counselors have been attending for many years, just as the campers have. Seven year veteran counselor, Meghan Schinderle has volunteered every summer since 1998. "Spending time with the campers each summer is the most important and rewarding thing I do all year. The counselors and volunteers at camp get as much out of this experience as the campers do," says Schinderle.

The goals of this enriching summer camp are multifaceted. First the camp hopes to provide an environment where adults with disabilities can participate in activities which will enhance their skills, independence, confidence and self-esteem. The second goal is to provide a small relief to those family members and care-takers that devote their lives to caring for their loved-one. The third purpose is to give volunteer teens and young adults an opportunity to participate in an educational experience that will strengthen their understanding of diversity and help them to develop leadership skills. The final goal is to keep with Catholic tradition and continue building an equitable community relationship by providing a spiritual environment for both adults with disabilities and youth volunteers.

For more information on the Re-Creation Summer Camp, please call 714-225-5334, or visit, www.rc-summercamp.com

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