

# CANTERBURY HILLS CAMP

## SPECIAL APPEAL

### Letter from the Bishop

Dear Friends,

I am writing this letter to you to solicit your support for our Diocesan Summer Camp Program.

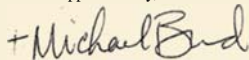
Fifty years ago this past summer, when the Diocese of Niagara bought the property in the Dundas Valley that became Canterbury Hills, we continued the tradition of operating a children's summer camp on the site that was begun by the Hamilton Lions Club in the early 1930's. Over the years, we have offered a unique and exceptional camp experience for families from all across our diocese, an experience that has touched the lives of thousands of children and provided invaluable leadership training for hundreds of young adults, many of whom have become leaders in our parishes and diocese.

In recent years, as we've had to re-examine and tighten diocesan budgets, it became clear that funding for the Summer Camp Program would be affected. We are grateful that in 2009 the Canterbury Hills Board of Directors voluntarily proposed a three year phase out of diocesan funding for the Summer Camp Program, and undertook the challenge to secure alternative funding to ensure the future of this important ministry. At the time, we pledged our support to Canterbury Hills in securing alternative funding. The time has come to act on that pledge. To that end, I would like to ask you to do three things:

- Read about our Summer Camping Program in this special insert.
- Reflect prayerfully on this urgent request for support of this vital ministry.
- Respond generously, as you are able, joining Susan and I in becoming Sustaining Sponsors of our Summer Camp Ministry.

Canterbury Hills needs our support now, before the end of the year, so that the Board of Directors can make a responsible decision about the future of the Summer Camp Program. My hope and prayer is that you can help secure the next fifty years of our Summer Camp Ministry by responding positively, in a timely manner, by becoming a Sustaining Sponsor today.

Yours appreciatively,



Bishop of Niagara



## Securing the future of our Summer Camp Program

**THE REV. CANON DAVID R. LINN**  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, CANTERBURY HILLS

The Diocese of Niagara, through the Summer Camping Program operated by Canterbury Hills, has a camp model unique in the Province of Ontario and a camp program that is inferior to none. We've been 'doing Camp' and doing it well for 50 years. We have a growing camper market (we added one residential and one day camp group last summer), a high percentage of returning campers and staff, and more applicants to our Leader-in-Training program than we can handle. We have a superb senior staff team and have just been re-accredited with the Ontario Camps Association for another 5 years. But we urgently need your help!

For most of the last decade, the Diocese has been able to support the Summer Camping Program with an annual grant of \$95,000. Given the thousands of campers and hundreds of camp staff that have benefited from this ministry, that has been a solid investment. But due to shrinking resources at the diocesan level, that grant reduced to \$60,000

in 2010, will reduce to \$30,000 in 2011, and will be gone by 2012. The Canterbury Hills Board of Directors negotiated this with the Diocese in 2009, so it hasn't be 'done to us', but nevertheless, it has placed before the Board the daunting task of securing \$95,000 of alternative funding for

this vital, proven, life-changing ministry. You will read about this as you peruse the four pages of this special insert.

By expanding the Summer Camp Program, we have actually been able to cut cost by economy of scale. As we speak, the Board of Directors is actively pursuing corporate sponsors for the Summer Camp Program. But the third component of the Board's alternative funding plan involves you, members of the Diocese of Niagara who have in one way or another come

to appreciate the incredible ministry Canterbury Hills Camp provides. Last summer alone, over 650 campers and 40+ staff didn't just learn about Christian community, they lived it! They didn't just hear about life-altering worship, they planned it and experienced it. They didn't read about the

love of Christ, they, and many of them for the first time, felt what that feels like in tangible terms. We are absolutely committed to continuing this ministry for the next 50 years. But we urgently need your help!

We know that there are several thousand families across our Diocese who have sent campers to Canterbury Hills Camp, whose daughter and sons have been on staff at Canterbury Hills Camp, or who have seen the impact young people who have attended Canterbury Hills

Camp have had on parishes across the Diocese and even to the life of the Diocese itself. For 50 years families, parishes and the Diocese have benefited from this ministry. Now it's time to give to this ministry to ensure it can continue to minister to children and youth in the name of

Christ and on behalf of our Diocese. We know we can count on you!

But we urgently need your help now, because we don't have the luxury or the resources to run an extended fund-raising campaign. We need to make an informed decision this month about the Summer Camping Program in 2011. And to do that, we need to know that we have enough Individual Sustaining Sponsors to move ahead responsibly. So please, read this special insert carefully, and act immediately.

**You can become an Individual Sustaining Sponsor by:**

- Going to the Canterbury Hills website at [www.canterburyhills.ca](http://www.canterburyhills.ca) and following the "Become a Camp Sustaining Sponsor" link.
- Sending a cheque in the amount of \$300 to Canterbury Hills Conference Centre (PO Box 81089, Fid. Grn., Ancaster ON L9G 4X1) marked Camp Sustaining Sponsor.
- Completing the PAP Form on the back of this special insert, requesting that \$25/month be directed to Canterbury Hills.

Thank you very much for considering this request and for supporting our Summer Camp Program. Thank you for joining the two dozen Board members, staff and Bishop who have already become Sustaining Sponsors. Thank you for helping to secure the future of Camp Canterbury Hills. Thank you for acting today.

# A priestly journey to Canterbury Hills Camp

**THE VEN. JIM SANDILANDS**  
ARCHDEACON OF MOHAWK

This past summer David Linn, of Canterbury Hills fame and an honorary assistant at our parish of Saint James, Dundas, called in a favor and asked if I would celebrate the Eucharist at the conclusion of one of the summer camp sessions. Thinking there are no free lunches, I agreed and prepared to do the priestly thing in the woods. "He owes me a lunch" I grumbled, dragging myself out of bed on a Saturday... Arriving early I met the young staff person (I know... everyone is younger than me) who was gracious, keen, and helpful and somewhat uninformed as to what would be needed. I asked for chalice... bread... wine... and after a puzzled look his

face lit up and he went off up the hill to bring me the "communion stuff". The "stuff" came in a Tupperware hamper along with some bread: some Pita wrapped in saran wrap accompanied by the invocation, "We forgot to thaw the bread so we nuked it in the microwave, I hope that's ok?" The bread was thawed to the near consistency of communion wafers, somewhat defeating the point of pita I thought but graciously said 'sure... thanks'. The hamper contained crockery chalices, a paten, a mini bottle of screw cap vintage, and one purificator. Thinking myself adaptable but having some standards I said "I'll need another cloth". Taking this in he shot back up the hill. I sat, waited, and watched the campers arrive; projecting what I thought was lov-

ing, priestly aura of flexibility while inwardly rehearsing my planned homily on the subject of inclusion.

It had been a brutally hot week but the campers arrived in good spirits in their groups, prepared to lead the singing, the readings, and the prayers and so on. I noted the arrival of one camper in a wheelchair who had motor and mobility problems and one or two others who, in another setting, may have been set apart by irregular verbal outbursts, or constant movement or the like. While I was taking this in the staff member arrived with the cloth. A J Cloth in fact. "This is all I could find", he said, "I hope it is OK?" The J Cloth had been lovingly torn to replicate the size of the purificator. Have you ever attempted to tear a J Cloth? Saying "thanks", somewhat

bemusedly, and possibly a little unctuously, I began the Eucharist

The groups had each prepared their own parts, including the singing of some songs; one of these I dimly recognized from a recent Disney 3D movie. The words were printed in small letters on Bristol board, illegible from more than three feet away. "This will be interesting", I pondered as the group surprised me by singing with such spirit that I was transported to Salt Lake City by the energy and feeling in the woodland setting. I watched as everyone, and I mean everyone, entered into the song in their own way, unselfconsciously joyous and enthusiastic.

It was awesome.

I watched as the groups seamlessly integrated everyone in the group into

common worship, collectively accommodating to the gifts and challenges of everyone present. And so, that day, I preached, as they say, to the choir. I watched as the bread was shared. "The body of Christ"... Responses included, "I'm Jewish", "Thanks be to God", "Is this Gluten free?" and so on. They, having lived a week of inclusion, gave a meaning to my words which made my heart ring with the doxology... Glory to God, whose power working in us...

Stuffing the J Cloth into the chalice and the chalice into the communion box, I gave a fleeting thought to the Altar Guild back home and the next celebrant at camp. Leaving with joy in my heart I drove home. "Drat", I thought, "now I owe David a lunch."

## The values of a summer camp experience

If you went to camp as a child, or worked at a camp as a young adult, you probably don't need to be convinced about the benefits of summer camp. Having experienced life at camp yourself, you know the profound positive effects that still matter to you as an adult, and you also know that, if you have children or grandchildren, you want the same thing for them.

But if you didn't go to camp as a child, you may not realize just how good the experience is for children and young adults. You may not know why so many parents are committed to sending their kids to camp, and why the Diocese of Niagara has been so committed to its summer camping ministry for the past fifty years. So... here it is:

### Top Ten most important reasons to send your kids to camp\*

- 10 SPEND THEIR DAY BEING PHYSICALLY ACTIVE** As children spend so much time these days inside and mostly sitting down, camp provides a wonderful opportunity to move. Running, swimming, jumping, hiking, climbing! Camp is action!
- 9 EXPERIENCE SUCCESS AND BECOME MORE CONFIDENT** Camp helps children build self-confidence and self-esteem by removing the kind of academic, athletic and social competition that shapes their lives at school. With its non-competitive activities and diverse opportunities to succeed, camp life is a real boost for young people. There's accomplishment every day. Camp teaches kids that they can.
- 8 GAIN RESILIENCY** The kind of encouragement and nurture kids receive at camp makes it a great environment to endure setbacks, try new (and thereby maybe a little frightening) things, and see that improvement comes when you give something another try. Camp helps conquer fears.
- 7 UNPLUG FROM TECHNOLOGY** When kids take a break from TV, cell phones, and the Internet, they rediscover their creative powers and engage the real world—real people, real activities, and real emotions. They realize, there's always plenty to do. Camp is real!
- 6 DEVELOP LIFE-LONG SKILLS** Camps provide the right instruction, equipment and facilities for kids to enhance their sports abilities, their artistic talents, and their adventure skills. The sheer variety of activities offered at camp, makes it easy for kids to discover and develop what they like to do. Camp expands every child's abilities.
- 5 GROW MORE INDEPENDENT** Camp is the perfect place for kids to practice making decisions for themselves without parents and teachers guiding every move. Managing their daily choices in the safe, caring environment of camp, children welcome this as a freedom to blossom in new directions. Camp helps kids develop who they are.
- 4 HAVE FREE TIME FOR UNSTRUCTURED PLAY** Free from the overly-structured, overly-scheduled routines of home and school, life at camp gives children much needed free time to just play. Camp is a slice of carefree living where kids can relax, laugh, and be silly all day long. At camp we play!
- 3 LEARN SOCIAL SKILLS** Coming to camp means joining a close-knit community where everyone must agree to cooperate and respect each other. When they live in a cabin with others, kids share chores, resolve disagreements, and see firsthand the importance of sincere communication. Camp builds teamwork.
- 2 RECONNECT WITH NATURE** Camp is a wonderful antidote to "nature deficit disorder," to the narrow experience of modern indoor life. Outdoor experience enriches kid's perception of the world and supports healthy child development. Camp gets kids back outside.
- 1 MAKE TRUE FRIENDS** Camp is the place where kids make their very best friends. Free from the social expectations pressuring them at school, camp encourages kids to relax and make friends easily. All the fun at camp draws everyone together—singing, laughing, talking, playing, doing almost everything together. Everyday, camp creates friendships.

\* With thanks to Jeff



**"Our son went into the LIT program a shy, introverted teenager. He finished the summer a different person. Before the program he did not have much to say regarding his day-to-day experiences. He was a quiet, go-with-the-flow guy, not often taking the lead. When we picked him up after the pre-camp training week in 2009, he did not stop talking about all the new experiences he'd had. Over the next few weeks of that first summer we watched his confidence grow and mature with each camp session. He shared more and later in the year started to volunteer to lead activities at school, church and with his scout group. He would not have readily done this before. He looked forward to applying for the second year of the LIT program, and with confidence he wrote the letter reflecting on learnings from his first summer and outlining his personal goals for the 2010 camp season. Again as a family we watched him mature and further grow in confidence this past summer. I am sure this would not have happened without the guidance of the staff and Summer Camp Program at Canterbury. My husband and I are most grateful!"**

MOTHER OF A LEADER-IN-TRAINING (LIT)

Canterbury Hills Camp played an incredibly meaningful role in my childhood and youth. As a child, I cherished my summer week at camp and dreamed all year of campfires, crafts, and seeing dear friends. As a youth and young adult, my experiences as a staff member and eventually camp coordinator were instrumental in the development of my values, relationships and spirituality. The people I met in those years remain some of the most important friendships in my life today. As an adult, when I began exploring various career possibilities, I knew I wanted to build on some of the ministry I loved most about camp: working in groups, service to others, being in a leadership role, and the opportunity to contribute to the growth of young people. Today, I'm an educator in the School of Nursing at McMaster University; it's incredibly rewarding work, and I love the opportunity to make a positive impact in the lives of patients and students. My experiences at Canterbury continue to weave themselves into my ministry today—in my interactions with nursing students, in my teaching strategies in small group settings, and in my desire to contribute to our community in a positive way.

**COURTNEY EVERS**

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR, SCHOOL OF NURSING, MCMASTER UNIVERSITY

"If it wasn't for Canterbury Hills, you wouldn't be the person that you are today."

I have heard that statement from my parents for years, and I agree with them. My time at Canterbury Hills Camp—6 years as a camper, 5 years on staff, and 3 years on the Resource Team—has significantly shaped my personality, and provided me with countless skills that have influenced the way I think about and see the world.

I am currently completing my Ph.D. at McMaster University, and during my time as a graduate student I have participated in, and spearheaded, many committees. Skills that I acquired at Canterbury, such as team building, conflict resolution, and facilitation techniques, have allowed me to succeed as both a participant and facilitator of these committees. Additionally, goal setting and personal reflection—two skills that are emphasized at Canterbury—have allowed me to set and achieve numerous academic and personal goals.

On a much more personal level, I am an only child. I grew up with my own room, my own things, and—although I hate to admit it—I like things to be "my way". Through living at camp, in a community that emphasizes sharing, team building, consensus, and reflection, I am able to see the perspectives of others, compromise with them, and work to have things "our way". This has helped me in many situations throughout my life, including my marriage!

Although I haven't worked at Canterbury since 2004, it is still such a significant part of my life. My best friend is a Canterbury alumna—we met as campers in Poplar Cabin when we were ten years old. Courses that I teach at McMaster always begin with name games that I learned at Canterbury. And, whether I am facilitating a meeting at McMaster, or figuring out what to have for dinner with my husband, skills and techniques that I have acquired through my time at Canterbury always come into play. As my parents often say, if it wasn't for Canterbury, I wouldn't be the person that I am today.

**STEPH SHIPTON (FORMERLY HOWELLS)**

To say that Canterbury Hills Camp (CHC) influenced my life would be a massive understatement! The experiences, relationships and the confidence I gained 25 years ago at CHC, are a huge part of my leadership that I rely on every week. For many years, I ran my own camp and for the past 19 years I have been involved in education, working closely with the leaders of tomorrow. By financially supporting the experience that CHC offers, you will be providing young people with the confidence that is generated through the camp's environment of unconditional acceptance and adventure. The old adage of, "You may never get to sit in the shade of the tree that you plant" applies to fundraising of this nature, but like the supporters of CHC before my time, I am so thankful for their generosity and for the life I enjoy today.

**ANDY RODFORD**

HEAD OF SCHOOL, KEMPENFELT BAY SCHOOL  
FORMER DIRECTOR, ONONDAGA CAMP  
FORMER CANTERBURY HILLS CAMP STAFF MEMBER

Both of our children began their camp experience at Canterbury Hills as day campers at the earliest age. Once they were old enough they began to attend the residential program. Our oldest who is now 14 has just completed his final summer as a camper. Our daughter can't wait to return.

Both of our children experienced the camping program to be a place where they were welcomed and accepted. The small group atmosphere which is central to the program has created opportunities for them to build close relationships with other campers. They have enjoyed the support, encouragement, and creativity provided by the camp staff. Our children are always reluctant to leave at the end of the session.

While they enjoy the activities that are offered at camp, they are most animated when talking about the creative programming that has been uniquely developed by and for their cabin group. Skits, evening programs, camp fires, and simple hikes through the woods are all part of this. The opportunity to lead a song at campfire, contribute to the planning of their camp schedule, and to live in community with others have helped our children develop a sense of leadership, confidence, and concern for others.

The camping program at Canterbury Hills has been an important part of our children's development. It is a place that they consider to be a second home.

**BRIAN AND TRACY LISSON**

2010 CAMPER PARENTS



**Pre-Authorized Payment Plan | Authorization Form**

**Please choose one:**

- NEW
- INCREASE
- DECREASE
- CHANGE BANK INFO
- CANCEL

**Ministry:** ..... CANTERBURY HILLS CAMP, ANCASTER .....

**Sponsor's Name:** .....

**Address:** .....

**City:** .....

**Postal Code:** .....

Please attach a voided CHEQUE if you're creating a NEW account or CHANGING BANK INFO.

Payments can be taken on any numerical day of the month. Please indicate which day(s) you prefer.

I/we hereby authorize you to debit my/our account each month on the ..... in the amount of \$ ....., payable to the Diocese of Niagara for .....CANTERBURY HILLS..... (Parish Code).

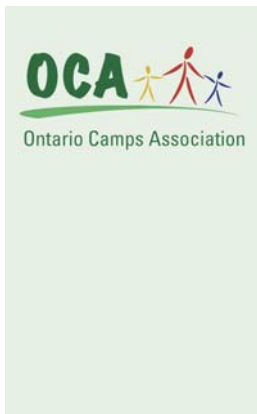
Your treatment of each payment shall be the same as if I/we had personally issued a cheque authorizing you to pay as indicated and to debit my/our account accordingly.

**This authorization may be cancelled upon written notice. Please note that we must receive the change by the 18th of the month in order for it to take effect for the following month.**

**Date:** ..... **Signature:** .....

**Please mail to:**  
The Diocese of Niagara  
Attn: Kim Waltmann  
252 James Street, North  
Hamilton, ON L8R 2L3

**Or fax to:**  
905-527-0963:  
Attn: Kim Waltmann



While there were only a small number of children's camps in the Province of Ontario in the 1930s, a small group of camp visionaries took it upon themselves to start meeting regularly to discuss issues of common concern, such as the importance of offering a well-balanced program, providing a good diet, properly maintained tents, cabins and docks, developing an appreciation for the environment (i.e. lakes and forests) and building character. Issues that still have relevance in today's camping world. From the outset, although most camps were privately owned, the owners had in common a camp experience through the YMCA, YWCA and/or the Scouting movement or CGIT.

Agencies and churches that operated children's camps were also included from the early years. As this group of camp professionals grew so did their vision, and as such, in 1932, the Ontario Camping Association (OCA) was formed.

Today, there are over 300 member camps in the OCA, representing a wide diversity of program focuses and camper populations. OCA camps are large and small, coed or single gender, located in remote settings or downtown buildings, use rustic or modern facilities, offer specialized or general programs, and serve a broad spectrum of special needs.

Canterbury Hills Residential Camp became an OCA member camp in

1983. Canterbury Hills Day Camp became an OCA member in 1999.

**Why should it matter that Canterbury Hills Camps (residential and day) are OCA accredited?**

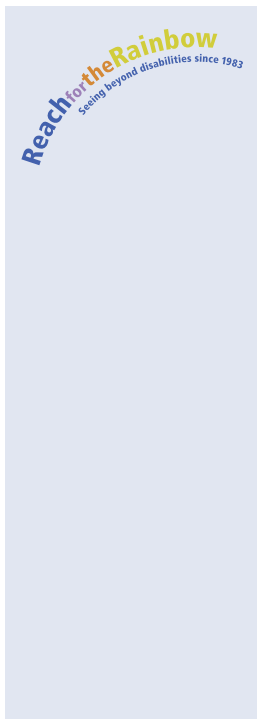
When parents choose to send their children to an OCA accredited camp, they can be assured that they have chosen:

- A camp that is committed to the best interests of their children;
- A camp at which their children will have fun;
- A camp at which their children will make new friends;
- A camp that provides a safe and caring environment for their children, and is committed to being inspected at least every four-five years to ensure

that is the case.

In 1937, shortly after its inception, the OCA established a set of Standards for its member camps which have served as a benchmark for sound camp operation ever since. Throughout the years, OCA members have reviewed and revised the standards to ensure that they adequately cover virtually every aspect of a modern camp operation. Today, OCA camps voluntarily adhere to over 400 separate standards dealing with all aspects of their program and administration, to ensure the camp's safe, efficient and professional operation.

.....  
Canterbury Hills Camps (residential and day) were successfully re-accredited in the summer of 2010.



Reach for the Rainbow (RFTR) is a registered charity serving children and young adults with developmental and physical disabilities in Ontario. Since 1983, RFTR has pioneered the integration of children and youth with disabilities into the mainstream of society through summer camp programs throughout the province. The RFTR program selects environments of inclusion for kids and youth while offering much needed respite for parents.

**Canterbury Hills Camp is proud of our long-standing partnership with RFTR.**

Each RFTR camper is able to attend camp with 1:1 counsellor support, and the goal is to have the camper be included in all camp activities while the 1:1 support staff responds to any specific requirements associated with the disability. Older RFTR campers, in their late teens and early twenties, campers who have attended Canterbury Hills Camp for several years, choose to come as 'volunteer site staff', still with 1:1 support, and often experience having their first job!

"Julie\* went to several camps this

summer, but Canterbury Hills was her favorite by far."

MOTHER OF 2010 RFTR CAMPER  
[\*NAME CHANGED]

"Dan\* attended the longest residential session. The staff was attentive, caring and clearly love working with kids. Lots of activities he otherwise wouldn't experience. The daily log was a wonderful way for us to track what happened. I wouldn't want to take him to another camp as this one is the best!"

PARENT OF 2010 RFTR CAMPER  
[\*NAME CHANGED]

It has been said that "it takes a village to raise a child." This adage holds particularly true when referring to children with disabilities. But it doesn't just flow one way. Over the years, many of the Canterbury Hills Camp staff have reflected that their involvement with RFTR campers were some of the most profound, rewarding and life-changing moments of their summer camp experience.

"In 2010 our daughter was hired as a Day Camp unit leader at Canterbury Hills. This was a new experience for her, not having attended camp before.



Her future goal was to one day teach in a school Music Program. Her role at camp working with the children gave her skills in problem solving and leadership, important skills for teaching. The experience that touched her most was her work with the Reach for the Rainbow campers. The special campers with special needs touched her in a profound way. She found herself doing things she didn't know

she was capable of doing, giving her personal confidence and a sense of accomplishment. It wasn't just what she did for these children, but what they did for her. As a result, her future career focus has changed. She is now pursuing a career in Music therapy, where she will work with individuals with special needs."

MOTHER OF A 2010 CAMP STAFF MEMBER



St. Matthew's House is an inner-city agency that ministers, in various ways, to individuals and families in need throughout the Greater Hamilton community. For several decades, Canterbury Hills Camp has reserved spaces in each camp session for campers being sponsored by St. Matthew's House Send-a-Kid-to-Camp Program. Every effort is made to integrate these

children anonymously into cabin or day camp groups, and, when necessary, camp clothing, sleeping bags and other essentials are provided from our rather extensive and freshly laundered 'lost and found stash' from previous summers.

In recent years, St. James Anglican Church in Dundas has worked directly with St. Matthew's House and Canter-

bury Hills to sponsor some additional children to camp.

Canterbury Hills Camp is proud of our nearly 30 year partnership with St. Matthew's House.

"Loved the nature walks, camping out, swimming, archery, and the friendships. Leaders are great, friendly and helpful. Just loved every-

thing about camp."  
KRISTA, 2010 ST. MATTHEW'S HOUSE CAMPER

"Camp was good. It was so cool. I got to swim every day, do archery and make choices of what I wanted to do. I loved it."

MATT, 2010 ST. MATTHEW'S HOUSE CAMPER



Angel Tree Ministry is a program of Prison Fellowship Canada that reaches out to the children of inmates and their families with the love of Christ. This unique program helps to meet the physical, emotional and spiritual needs of the families of prisoners. Specifically, Angel Tree arranges for prisoners' children to attend a Christian summer camp. Angel Tree recognizes that "camp can be one of the most life-changing experiences that children of incarcerated parents can have. Camp gives the child an opportunity to have fun, fellowship with their peers, build

relationships with caring camp staff, and to experience the love of God in the great outdoors."

**Canterbury Hills Camp is proud of our growing partnership with Angel Tree.**

**Did you know that:**

- Children of prisoners may be up to seven times for likely than other children to go to prison themselves one day.
- There are over 75,000 children in Canada who have to deal with the

abandonment, loneliness and shame that comes from having a mom or dad in prison.

- A disproportionate number of children of offenders have special needs physically, mentally or socially.

"Theo\* has been attending Canterbury Hills since his dad went to jail three years ago. Every summer, he anticipates seeing kids from previous sessions and meeting his new cohort. He really looks forward to reuniting with staff, as they have made a lasting impression on him. Although he goes

to church regularly, Theo has learned some pretty important lessons while at Canterbury Hills. He has learned that everyone is made in God's image as a unique individual, and that everyone has a story to share. He has also learned to appreciate, and wait for, the communion service at the end of the session. As Theo enters his 'tween years, we trust that Canterbury Hills Camp will continue to be that safe place of love, care and growth for him."

MOTHER OF AN ANGEL TREE CAMPER [\*NAME CHANGED]