#GivingTuesday Testimonials

THE POWER OF CCK Community. Character. Passion



Mike & Kim Sophie's Parents

CCK is unlike any other place our daughter Sophia has ever experienced. The sense of inclusiveness is reflective of a close knit community. Every year she attends is like going home for a visit. It is an amazing environment brought about by a caring and dedicated combination of full time staff and volunteers that give of themselves selflessly to help make her disability disappear. While at camp she enjoys horseback riding, paddle boating, swimming, and interactive activities that allow her to be just like every other kid who is away at camp. For the time she's at CCK she is accepted and celebrated and allowed to be herself in an caring and compassionate environment. Thank you CCK for being you and for making our kids the focus of your loving and empowering efforts



Zion

Courageous Camper

Hi, my name is Zion and I have learned a lot about character at The Center for Courageous Kids. Things like following my leaders, because they know where our next fun adventure will be. I'm a better friend because of CCK. Acceptance and diversity are huge parts of being at CCK. I might just have one finger and have no feet (I had both feet amputated at the age of 6 years old) but I can tell you I am one cool camper. We are all "different" and having a place that celebrate who we are is so important. I love coming back to camp every year to see my amazing CCK friends and the staff. CCK has taught me how to be nicer to other people. Like when I go fishing. I'm supposed to yell "Casting!" before I cast so everyone will be careful and I won't get my hook stuck in someone's shirt.

So why is building character such a big part of CCK? Because every child deserves to experience a summer camp! The staff, volunteers, and my fellow campers have safe, fun, and crazy adventures at camp — it's the greatest! I am more confident and able to encourage others to grow each summer as well. I am a leader and I will let others know why CCK needs people like you to help make this camp possible throughout the year.



Bruce Hunt Former Summer Staff

In the summer of 2008, I walked in as a den counselor for The Center for Courageous Kids. Once that first summer came to a close, it was evident within myself that something had changed. My perception on life as well as, developing a passion for helping others was ignited inside me. Being part of a team so devoted to celebrating and enhancing positive experiences in life has been life-changing. Since then, the passion that CCK sparked inside me has carried over into an ongoing drive to always give as much of myself for the purpose of bettering the world around me. It has lead me to be involved in numerous charities and events, and could not accurately say that I would be as involved had it not been for the passion and heart given to me by my CCK family.



Caroline Paris Former Summer Staff

I am still in awe that I have a second home in Kentucky and a family of cocounselors that live all throughout the US! The Center for Courageous Kids has given me a new perspective on life and especially my future career as a Physician Assistant. I first learned about camp by two former summer staff members, Hallie Gilbert and Dylan Everett, who radiate camp all over Seton Hill University's campus, especially through their original SHU-P sale fundraiser! After listening to their stories about camp, I quickly began to prioritize my summer plans to ensure I could volunteer for at least a week. During Summer 2017, I was lucky enough to spend two weeks at camp which were by-far the highlight of my summer and I knew when I left camp I would be applying for summer staff in the future.

In the summer 2018 I was humbled to receive a position as a den counselor. Having the opportunity to work in an environment that was fueled by smiles and laughter was astounding. Each child that I met taught me that their illnesses and disabilities are a small label that allow them to shine

in their own special way. The determination to "Be More" (no, not because they aren't already enough but because we all have undercover superpowers that we need to ignite) and the loving hearts the children who came to camp this summer had were impeccable and taught me so much! Leaving camp at the end of summer was tough but I was passionate about continuing to live out all that camp has taught me.

