

Spring, 2013



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a special place for special families

Our Lodge Renovation

To all “Our Dear Friends” who have supported the Lodge Remodel Campaign with their time, talents, and treasure. So many of you have given us sound fund raising campaign advice, lent your skills to the actual construction, and donated your resources. Without such dedicated supporters we would not exist and this lodge project would have never happened. We are very excited to tell you the rest of the story!

Dave and I, as co-founders of Camp Prime Time, represent the feelings of our special campers, the Board of Directors, and our volunteers as we offer our heartfelt thanks to all of you for the role you have played in Camp Prime Time’s success. Each of you has demonstrated a true act of kindness in giving toward this project. Because of your generosity, not only did you get us to the goal of \$1.5 million, you sailed past it by several tens of thousands. Our mother told us at a very young age that we only need to save our pennies, and the dollars will take care of themselves. And they have! All because of you and your generosity, Camp Prime Time can take pride in the fact we will have completed this project while adhering to our board policy to not incur any debt.

This campaign was made of up of a few large and many smaller contributions. If it were not for each penny, each dollar would have never found its way to Camp Prime Time’s door. Each of your donations are genuinely appreciated regardless of its size. You can be proud that you are among a significant number of people involved in this effort. Your support speaks volumes to the strength of Camp Prime Time and our ability to weather an economy that has been challenging, to say the least. No matter if it was a donation of time as a volunteer, a gift of in-kind materials, a donation of cash, or moral support; everyone gave according to their

ability and at a level that was reflective of their interest in Camp Prime Time. Working together, we all focused on building a facility that would meet the needs of our very special campers.

While it has taken almost four years of effort, we are nearly done with construction and plan to have the lodge up and ready for full use by midsummer, 2013. This remodel will breathe new life into an old building. When completed, the building will be stronger, capable of weathering the harsh elements, have an updated kitchen, a forced air heating system, restrooms, and other amenities, all ADA compliant. Our special families who are dealing with serious and terminal illnesses or special needs will now have an expanded lodge in



which to socialize and play. And on those days when the rain dampens outdoor recreation, families can still enjoy the warmth of the energy efficient lodge and our huge fireplace. To top it off, our volunteers will have their own

living space upstairs, with restrooms, showers, and a visiting area, reached by stairs or an elevator. The addition of the volunteer quarters frees up Cabin N for additional campers to join in on the experience of attending camp.

2013 will mark a new beginning for Camp Prime Time with the advent of the completed lodge opening for business. We invite you to visit Camp Prime Time and see what you have built, and join us in celebrating your achievements.

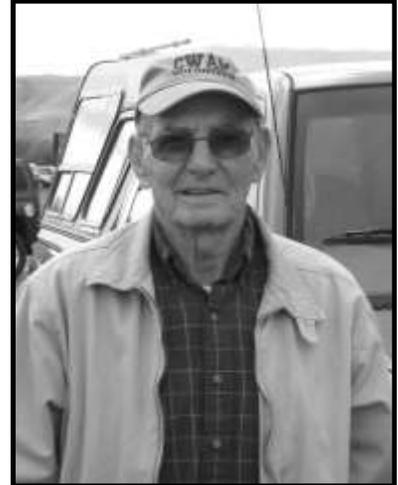
With warm regard,

Dave and Ralph Berthon
Co-founders and Board Members

We Can't Do It Without Volunteers

Volunteer Extraordinaire

So who is this powerhouse ...a guy who at 87 years old, a twinkle in his eye and not afraid to put in a full day's work, from sun up to sundown? ...an unusual character who smiles all day long while running circles around tradesmen less than a quarter his age? ...who thinks nothing of climbing ladders 30 feet into the air or packing around stacks of 16'x12" boards? ...a tradesman that knows every carpentry trick in the book? ...donates his time and talents as a carpenter to various community non profits including our very own, Camp Prime Time? Why it's our one and only, **Royce Baker**.



The only thing we have yet to see Royce do is jump over the Lodge in a single bound. Other than that, we swear he is Superman!

Royce started volunteering at the camp many, many years ago...probably before the turn of the century! In the early days, he showed up at camp as a member of the Drift-a-Way Snowmobile Club, who had adopted one of the cabins. They have helped re-roof most, if not all, of the cabins, worked weekends serving food, running the pontoon boat, and participating in projects around camp. Royce was often right in the middle of it. He is like the original energizer bunnies. He just never quits. In the winter they would ride snow machines into camp to check on the conditions of camp. We're sure it was their presence that warded off intruders who may have had plans to do bad things. The snowmobile cub was one of our original guardians of the camp. For what seems to be forever and still to this day, Royce and other club members can be found helping out camp and with other projects like the Christmas Tree Recycling Program. Royce's most recent work has been this past winter doing the framing work on the interior walls of the caretaker's quarters on the 2nd story of the lodge. Before that Royce led the volunteers installing siding on the exterior of the lodge. Royce's leadership on these projects has saved the camp tens of thousands of dollars in labor costs as we remodel the lodge.

Royce has been in the Carpenters union his whole working career. He started out as an apprentice in Arizona when he was just a teenager working with his dad. He has traveled far and wide, working on some great projects and finally settling in the Yakima valley many years ago. He has since put his finger print on many of our local buildings such as the Naches, Selah, and Sunnyside schools and now Camp Prime Time. Imagine a union carpenter for over 70 years! This man knows what dedication is whether he is working for wages, or as a volunteer, he gives his all to whatever he is doing. He loves to be able to share his knowledge and always tosses in a few great stories of his life. His life's journey is remarkable and one we are very proud to be part of. Thank you, Royce, for all you do for Camp Prime Time and other organizations in Yakima.

We Need Your Help this Spring

It's spring. And it's work party time! Time to get the camp ready for our summer campers.

Here's the plan. If you can help with ANY of it, give us a call. We need to make sure we have enough people scheduled, but not too many. And that we have enough food, but not too much. So please ... CALL or EMAIL.

Saturday, May 4 - Spring Work Party I - clean up around camp if weather permits

Saturday, May 11 - Spring Work Party II - clean up around camp, deep cleaning kitchen and restrooms

Saturday, May 18- Spring Work Party III - Cabin sponsors deep clean cabins and volunteers to clean grounds

How You Can Help

- Volunteer - weekends, work parties, and fundraising events
- Financial contribution by cash, check, credit card or PayPal
- Donate to special projects
 - ⇒ Endowment Fund - a long term investment
 - ⇒ Campership Fund - help send campers to camp
- Consider Prime Time when drawing up your wills or bequests. Stocks, bonds, real property—all of these may be donated to the future of Camp Prime Time. Take advantage of tax breaks for your donations.
- Sponsor a fundraising event - give us a call to discuss your ideas
- Introduce Prime Time to potential campers and supporters. We can furnish any materials you may need.
- In-kind donations, including materials and services, which helps to reduce our operating costs.
- Invite us to come and speak with your clubs, churches, and businesses. We LOVE to talk about the camp!



Camp Schedule - 2013

Date	Camper Group
May 4, 11, 18	Camp Work Parties
May 31-June 2	Yakima Valley Friends & Family
June 7-9	The Progress Center
June 14-16	Parent to Parent Kittitas County
June 21-23	Doernbecher's Children's Hospital and Parent Teacher Organization of ECC
June 28-30	Children's Village
July 5-7	Pierce County Autism Mom's
July 12-14	South King Early Intervention Program
July 19-21	Exceptional Families
July 26-28	Parent to Parent Walla Walla
Aug 2-4	Enumclaw Special Olympics and Phelan-McDermid Syndrome
Aug 9-11	MPS and Northwest Tuberous Sclerosis Assoc.
Aug 16-18	Candlelighters of Washington
Aug 23-25	Down Syndrome of Snohomish County
Aug 30-Sept 2	No CAMP
Sept 6-8	Williams Syndrome
Sept 9-11	Community Living
Sept 13-15	DOORS
Sept 20-22	Parent to Parent Thurston County
Sept 27-29	ARC of TriCities
Oct 4-6	Misc. Families
Oct 12	Volunteer and Donor Appreciation Dinner

Put it on your calendar
Camp Prime Time and
Avail Home Health
presents...
"Building Memories"
Dinner and Auction
Saturday, November 23, 2013
Yakima Convention Center

Board of Directors
Dick Haapala, *President*
Mike Burnam, *Vice President*
Leanne Antonio, *Treasurer*
Dale Carpenter, *Secretary*
Gale Benoit
Ralph Berthon
Dave Berthon
Dennis Clark
John Mahaney
Betty Jo Murray
Sheri Smith

Staff
Diane Eilmes
Executive Director
Shirley Thietje
Camp Manager
Debbie Armstrong
Office Assistant
Jackie Hertel
Bookkeeper

Become a Member



YES, I want to support another great year of family camping by becoming a member of Prime Time for \$25/year.

PAYMENT METHOD

Check enclosed (please make it out to Prime Time, Inc.)

Charge my: - VI SA - MasterCard

Name: _____

Card #: _____

Expiration date: _____ Total charged to card: \$ _____

Signature: _____

Please bill my credit card \$25 annually for membership renewal

Please bill my credit card on an annual basis to include an additional donation of \$

Your membership gift is tax-deductible as allowed by law.

Check out our new video on our website - www.campprimetime.org

Prime Time seeks to enrich the lives of families with children who are seriously ill or disabled by providing an outdoor wilderness experience where families can enjoy themselves in a supportive atmosphere without financial burden.



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Singing the Joys of Camp Prime Time

By Spencer Hatton – long time friend, camper parent, volunteer, and supporter of Camp Prime Time, Spencer recently published a book of his favorite writings while a newspaper columnist. Here is an excerpt from “Counting Crows: Stories of Love, Laughter and Loss.”. Autographed copies are available at www.spencerhatton.com, Inklings Bookshop, Yakima, and Dunbar Jewelers, Yakima. Copies are also available at Amazon (printed and Kindle-ready versions).

The pontoon boat meandered across the calm waters of Clear Lake. It was 100 degrees in Yakima that day, but here along the east slopes of the Cascades, the coolness of the stream-fed lake made for a pleasant boat trip for our small band of campers.

With a setting like this, the last thing you would expect to hear is someone singing. But often in life, the unexpected is the rule.

I was sitting across from her. The young woman’s mom, Fran, politely asked: Do you mind if my daughter sings? How could we say no?

I expected the worse, of course. Whenever a mother claims her daughter can hold a tune, no less sing a cappella on a lake in the middle of nowhere, you gird yourself for a sickening serenade akin to fingernails inching down a blackboard. Ah, misery for the ears and delirium for the mind.

When Ever Fecske hit the first note, though, it was pure joy. Her delicate voice brought bright smiles to everyone as she breezed through the 1930s classic “Pennies from Heaven” that Bing Crosby had made famous.

Perfect pitch, I thought.

“You should be in movies,” I beamed.

That’s when her mom answered with measured nonchalance: “Oh, she has been.”

It turns out Ever, who’s 22 and lives in Southern California with her family, had a starring role in the popular television series, “Boston Public.” She played the character of Ester Guttman in four episodes in 2003 and, yes, even sang on air, before millions of viewers.

And then the unexpected happened. Her life took a turn no one had anticipated. Success seemed to follow her every step, and so too had nagging sore throats, bronchitis and sinus infections.

Ever became a member of an exclusive club who all had one thing in common: PIDD, or primary immune deficiency disease. Her body, which had produced such a sparkling singing voice, also had a damaged immune system that, through a rare genetic flaw, was in short supply of a key element to good health: immunoglobulins. It’s the stuff that keeps our immune systems ticking and keeps sore throats a rare occurrence.

The disease runs the gamut of extremes, from Severe Combined Immune Deficiency (the boy-in-the-bubble disease) to what Ever has, Common Variable Immune Deficiency, a far more treatable disease.

The maddening aspect of PIDD is its difficulty in being diagnosed. Often, it may take years for doctors to finally fix the right diagnosis to the symptoms, but by then the damage to a person’s organs, especially the lungs, may be too severe to be response to treatments.

These remedies are not a walk in the park. For those like Ever, treating immune deficiencies means long hours undergoing intravenous injections of immune globulin, a substance extracted from human plasma that helps to rebuild the body’s immune defenses. Her treatment can last up to four hours and are given every two weeks. More severe cases may require daily treatments...

The [Immune Deficiency] foundation brings families together like Ever and her mom who decided to travel up from California to spend the weekend at Camp Prime Time with a group of other families afflicted with primary immune deficiency.

The 50 or so people who showed up were newcomers to Camp Prime Time, a camp near the shores of Clear Lake that offers a no-hassle, three-day weekend for families of children with special health-care needs and disabilities.

Besides being in the outdoors, the camp is also free for those who stay, thanks to generous donations from businesses and families, and to a veritable army of volunteers who cook, clean and organize such adventures as excursions on the camp’s pontoon boat.

While scrubbing pots and pans in the kitchen, I was struck by how well everyone in this group got along, even though many had never met before. A few families had come from as far away as Florida. Even though a small infection could spell a trip to the emergency room, they happily swatted mosquitoes and played roughhouse with each other, as if the unexpected had never happened in their lives and that the wheeze in their lungs was not really permanent but something passing, like the Frisbee that someone had just tossed in their direction.

At the Saturday night camp fire, Ever and her mom sat together, chatting with others. They smiled often. For Ever, keeping a positive frame of mind is essential.

a special place for special families



**Summer
2012**

Spring Camp Work Parties - May 4, 11, 18 - Call if you can help.