



The seeds of Hoosier Boys' Town are blossoming in Campagna Academy!

# CAMPAGNA CONNECTIONS

Fall 2010

Restoring Hope...Building Dreams

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**CAMPAGNA**  
ACADEMY



Restoring Hope...  
Building Dreams

Helping youth and families create a **better future** for themselves

## MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD PRESIDENT



Dear Campagna Friends and Supporters,

At Campagna Academy, we have a responsibility to inspire, equip and encourage our youth, and we take that responsibility very seriously when educating the youth and families we serve. We encourage them to become lifelong learners as well. John Dewey, American philosopher and educational reformer, said that the main aim of education is to enable individuals to continue their education.

It's is easy to think of education as something a person works toward and one day will attain, rather than how most of our youth struggled daily before coming to Campagna. We hear how important it is to provide children quality education. At Campagna Academy, we provide that education. Our teachers, therapists, youth care staff, drivers, and administrators know more and do more.

We never know what educational opportunities lay just over the horizon, but we do know we have a responsibility to inspire, equip and encourage our youth to develop all of their greatest abilities. This includes inspiring our youth to dream, thinking 'outside the box.' I am reminded of the saying, 'The dream of yesterday is the hope of today and the reality of tomorrow.' Campagna works to equip youth with the necessary skills to succeed, while helping them find purpose and develop confidence, self-reliance and determination. While encouraging our youth never to give up, we commend them for their efforts and encourage them to celebrate their successes. In Thomas Edison's words, "Genius is 1% inspiration and 99% perspiration."

Campagna Academy is blessed with a dedicated team, from our staff to our Board of Directors and volunteers, who are devoted to educating youth and their families in northwest Indiana. We are dedicated to partnering together to fulfill our mission of *Restoring Hope and Building Dreams!*

George H. Letz, President  
Campagna Academy, Inc. Board of Directors

## CAMPAGNA ADVENTURE SUMMER CAMP

This past July we hosted our first ever annual Campagna Adventure Summer Camp. The camp was a day camp experience for children in our foster care program.

Therapists, social workers, volunteers and other Campagna team members became camp counselors for the day. The two week camp was filled with field trips to the Times, Dunes, Library, Local Parks, Albanese Candy Factory, and I Max Theater. Our campers also

enjoyed a Spa Day, Pizza Making Class and Crafts. The National Guard also was on hand to help out with team building activities for the kids.

"Campagna's Adventure Summer Camp was designed to promote independence, cooperation, problem-solving skills, teamwork and self-esteem in our foster children. The camp also promoted healthy relationships with peers and adults. The two weeks were truly a great experi-

ence for not only our foster children, but also our staff, volunteers and foster parents. We can't wait for next year's camp," shared Elena Dwyer Campagna Academy's COO.



Rusty the RailCat was on hand to welcome campers and counselors to the first day of camp.

## IN THEIR OWN WORDS

In each issue of Campagna Connections, we feature an interview with one of our youths. Among our residents is Chris, age 15 who shares his experiences.

**What brought you to Campagna Academy?** I was getting into trouble at home and I had a problem with male authority.

**What did you think when you first arrived here?** I thought Campagna was kind of scary. I was expecting it to be like a group home. I was really nervous and guarded. I kept to myself.

**What do you think now?** I now know this place is not at all like I first thought. Everyone here is trying to help me. They want me to work on me.

**What have you learned in the past 6 months?** A lot. I have learned how to be responsible, how to talk to people, to understand others as well as myself. I also have learned a great deal about vocational things. I learned how to have a great work ethic and to be a leader. I even became a chore leader on my cottage.

*“I never really had time to stop and think or pay attention to what really mattered, now I am looking at things with a positive eye.”*

**Where do you see yourself in the treatment program?** I feel like I am developing and moving forward. I have really been working on me for the last couple of months. In the past I was living day to day on the streets. I never really had time to stop and think or pay attention to what really mattered, now I am looking at things with a positive eye. I see things much more clearly. I also have been able to work on my education. The teachers really want to help you learn and they make it easy for you to want to learn.

**Have you made any changes or growth since joining us at Campagna?** Personally, I have become much more patient and understanding. I also have learned to be much more respectful of others. Educationally, I have become a much stronger reader thanks to working with the Charter School staff.

**Can you list your differences from before your treatment to now?** Before I thought I was a king, that I could not be touched, that life was joke. I was very cold. Now I understand that life is not a joke. I feel like I have a warm heart. I have a better understanding of what is right and what is wrong.

**Is there anything you still want to work on while you are here at Campagna?** I am enjoying all of the vocational services that are available. I want to continue to learn more about what kinds of jobs are out there and explore all kinds of options for my future.

**What is your favorite memory at Campagna?** Our trip to Indiana Beach this summer. We got to go on all of the rides and spent the night on-site in cabins. It was a great trip; I really got to know more about my peers and the staff.

**What's one thing or experience you want to take from here?** The life skills and lessons the staff teach you.

**What is your favorite thing about Campagna Academy?** Before coming to Campagna I had to grow up really fast. I really like that Campagna allows me to be a kid again.

**What are your hopes and dreams for the future?** My short term goal is to make the basketball team and become a Campagna Warrior. After high school I hope to go to college and play basketball. Maybe I might even play in the pro's some day. If that does not work out, I would like to be a construction worker or a landscaper. With Campagna's vocational program I am finding out there are lots of options out there.

**Anything else you would like to share?** I like being here. Everyone at Campagna has taught me so much.



Brigette from McFarland Homes dropped off school supplies from McFarland's School Supply Drive for our Charter School students.



A resident planting lettuce in Campagna's community garden.



Darren Kwiatkowski recreational coordinator, helps decorate Campagna's car for the Celebrate Schererville Parade.



An Adventure Summer Camper working on a vision board.



## UNITED WAY DAY OF CARING

Campagna Academy hosted the annual Lake County United Way Day of Caring Kick Off Breakfast in late August. Over 200 Lake County volunteers were in attendance. The volunteers gathered to enjoy a great breakfast before heading off to volunteer their day working on projects for several Lake County non-profits.

After breakfast Campagna welcomed a team of over 50 volunteers from BP, Citizens Financial Bank, St. Michael Archangel Church, Queen of Angels Council, and several other community volunteers to our Day of Caring Project

painting three of our four cottages. "With the tremendous support of our volunteers and donors we were able to continue our campus beautification project, enhancing the healing and growing process of our youth while also providing their families, visitors, and our staff a pleasant and enjoyable campus experience," shared Bruce Hillman, CEO.

Thank you to our volunteers for sharing your time, breaking your back, getting full of paint, but most of all we thank you for your commitment to our mission of restoring hope

and building dreams. Special thanks to Cardinal Building Maintenance, BEHR Paint, Hammond Civic Center and BP for donating materials enabling this project to come to life.



A group of volunteers from Citizens Financial Bank volunteer their time painting cottage three.



Campagna Academy guidance counselor Christie Bowker, prepares to donate blood for our annual Charter School American Red Cross Blood Drive.

## MINDLINC BEHAVIORAL HEALTH EMR

Campagna Academy has selected MindLinc, Duke's industry-leading comprehensive electronic behavioral health record solution.

"Campagna Academy's decision to implement MindLinc is a part of our overall strategic objective to better demonstrate the effectiveness of our interventions. Continually improving the quality of care we provide to the children and families we serve is our number one

priority," states Bruce Hillman, Campagna's Chief Executive Officer.

Deo Garlock, Director Duke Behavioral Health Informatics shares "We're delighted to work with Campagna Academy because of a long-standing commitment to serving young adults, their families and the community. We look forward to supporting their strategic vision and help their clients achieve their personal, therapeutic

and academic goals."

Campagna and Porter-Starke Services are partners with Duke University Behavior Health in this endeavor to improve the service quality of those they serve. We continue to look at innovative ways to help those served and partner with other organizations that share our belief of Restoring Hope... Building Dreams.



Arlene and Frank Kazlewicz take a break from painting cottage four during United Way's Day of Caring.



Bruce Hillman, CEO with Campagna Academy Charter School Class of 2010 Salutatorian, Dominique Lipson (L) and Valedictorian, Sarah Bratcher (R).

## RUN FOR THE ROSES

Please join us for Campagna Academy's 5th annual Run for the Roses on Saturday, October 23, 2010. The 5K run and 2.5 mile walk will begin at 9:00am at Campagna, registration is from 7:30am – 8:30am in the gym. The Kids Fun Run (1/4 mile) free for children eight and under begins at 8:30am. Run for the Roses

proceeds go to the therapeutic and educational needs of the young men and women at Campagna. For more information or to register please visit our website [campagnaacademy.org](http://campagnaacademy.org) or call Beth 219.322.8614 x332. or Pat x397. Sponsorship opportunities are also available.



Runners gather at the start line for the start of the 4th annual Run for the Roses.



A resident enjoys doing the limbo during our summer family night gathering.



## **CAMPAGNA 2010** **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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## **CAMPUS EVENTS**

■ October 16th & 17th Campagna will receive a portion of sales from the Borders locations in Schererville and Merrillville and from Borders.com. Just bring in our special voucher with you to Borders or use it online. The vouchers are available on our website (under campus events) or by email please call Scott at 219.322.8614 x325 for more information.

■ We are excited to be partnering with Carson's for their annual Community Day. Campagna is selling coupon books good for Carson's Community Day Event Sale on November 13th. The book's are available for \$5.00 each. Each coupon booklet is packed with great offers. For every coupon book that is purchased - we keep a 100% of the donation, all \$5.00 per book! If you are interested in purchasing a book please stop by the administration building or call Beth at 219.322.8614 x332.



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# **JOIN US ON FACEBOOK**

## **MEET CAMPAGNA'S CHAMPIONS**

In addition to supporting Campagna Academy through volunteerism and fundraising, our newly formed community outreach group, "Campagna Champions", helps increase community awareness of the agency's services and programs for at-risk youth of Northwest Indiana.

Members are: Joy Anderson, Cal Bellamy, Skip Bosak, Kathy Boswell, Pete Doherty, Sharron Hillman, Marsha Huseman, Ken Leep, Carmen Lynes, Martha Sandoval, and Sandi Snearly-Vosberg.

Campagna Champions' first project was to host the agency's first ever Business After Hours in conjunction with three chambers of commerce--Crossroads, Schererville and Lakeshore. Over 100 business people attended and enjoyed a cook-out, games, door prizes, music, and mini-campus tours. Many of the attendees had never before visited the campus and were surprised to learn of the expansiveness of our services to help at-risk youth become productive members of society. "Residents of Campagna Academy also were on hand to greet visitors," said Martha Sandoval. "The agency's youth who helped were examples of the good work that Campagna Academy accomplishes."

Upcoming events include a Spirit of Chicago Skyline Cruise with entertainment and a live auction slated for Saturday, May 21, 2011. Also on tap is an Organic Wine & Beer Fest with Tapas, entertainment and a silent auction set for Saturday, October 15, 2011.

At the group's initial meeting in April, Campagna Champions adopted the following mission statement: "To increase friends and awareness on behalf of the youth of Campagna Academy to assist them in realizing their full potential and help secure the ongoing work and mission of the agency-- 'to restore hope, to build dreams'-- for at-risk youth throughout Northwest Indiana."



Campagna Champions (L) Ken Leep, Marsha Huseman, Cal Bellamy, Joy Anderson, Carmen Lynes, Sandi-Snearly Vosberg and; (top right) Skip Bosak and Martha Sandoval. Not pictured are Kathy Boswell, Pete Doherty and Sharron Hillman.