



Global Camps Africa

Empowering Children For An AIDS-Free Tomorrow

Dear Director,

As you may know, I owned and directed Camp Winnebago, in Maine, for 30 years.



Since 2003, I have returned to a path begun after my education and established a camp in South Africa. The camp's purpose is to educate kids about HIV/AIDS and to teach prevention, among the many other wonderful activities that go on at camp.

More than this, they are taught to look at the possibilities life can present and to have hope for their future. Global Camps Africa (GCA) is teaching *Life Skills* in the truest sense of the words!

You know that camp can be a wonderful place and it's no different in South Africa. While the children there are disadvantaged by any measure you choose, you wouldn't know it to visit Camp Sizanani. They are positive, uncomplaining, and cheerful. They are also determined to get everything they can out of the camp experience and apply it to their lives.

In collaboration with Tom Holland of Teton Valley Ranch Camp, we started the "Camp Goes Global" program last year. Here is what Tom had to say about his experience:

"We view it as our goal to create tomorrow's leaders. GCA provides a worldwide perspective of giving back beyond the camp gates."

The idea is to have your camp provide an extra value to the campers at no additional cost to you and with no extra staff. You can demonstrate to your families and campers that they can be more in touch with children abroad. You can help them realize that there is a vast community of campers outside the US borders that are having fun, learning skills and enjoying camp, just like them. They will learn that camp touches kids in developing countries like South Africa. And they can feel good about helping other kids have camping experiences.

The final part is that they will see how powerful camp can be in changing lives in a profound way, giving the campers the information, the tools, and the belief in themselves to move forward in life.

To sponsor a child at camp costs \$500 for a camp session and a year of our after-camp, follow-up program, called Kids Clubs. We are asking you to invite your campers – with their parents' permission – to contribute \$5 (or \$10, \$3, or \$1) from their camp store/canteen allowance. The money would be used to give a child in



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South Africa a camp experience. Your campers and their families will immediately have a window into South Africa. Every time a story about South Africa appears, they will have a special interest in reading about it.

In return for your participation we will send you a personal letter from and a photo of the camper being sponsored. You will be able to post them to your website, distribute them, or do whatever seems most appropriate to you.

We have put together a resource kit for participating camps, which is available online at www.globalcampsafrika.org. Included are letters to parents and campers about the program as well as certificates of participation that you may copy and distribute to the campers who joined in. We believe some kids may use their involvement as a community service project in school, so we have also included a community service form to validate their participation. Other tools are available in the resource kit that will help you with optional activities, like a raffle or a press release.

If you like, we will also send you a DVD to show to the campers during the summer, along with some talking points. In the meantime, if you want to watch the video online, it is found on our website at <http://www.globalcampsafrika.org/resources/> It is the 14:58 minute video.

Our goal is to receive a little from many camps. A little contribution from a large percentage of kids going to camp in the US will go a long way.

To learn more about Global Camps Africa, including other ways you can get involved with or support our work, please visit www.globalcampsafrika.org.

Best regards,

P.S. I am obviously passionate about our camps, but I truly believe this is a wonderful opportunity. What better way to get familiar with a foreign country than to have a relationship with someone or some institution in that country?