

# The CampLIFE! Line

\* December 2007 \*

## A Message from John

CampLIFE! successfully added a November camp last month - our first camp in six years to facilitate without waterskiing. This camp focused on the holidays - Christmas art and a Thanksgiving dinner were two of the highlights. The campers were involved with:

- individual accomplishments on the climbing wall and zip line,
- teambuilding during low ropes course activities and games,
- fun times during the Safari Scavenger Hunt, and
- song composing - where their words were put to a melody titled, "I Am."  
(You can hear it on our website at [www.camp-life.org](http://www.camp-life.org))

Scott & White Hospital provided the grief counseling, with special counselor, Jack Houston, providing the music. This camp, the largest we have ever had, was made possible by a grant from the Dallas Foundation Triad Fund.

CampLIFE! is now preparing for our first spring camp, which will focus on campers' growth through the year. (Our August camp focused on preparing for the school year and the November camp focused on preparing for the holidays.)

We are excited about our own growth in 2007-2008 - the establishment of the board of directors, adding two additional camps, and receiving our first grant! Please consider CampLIFE! a gift option this month for your gift giving. (See details in "Holiday Giving" section.)

This fall, CampLIFE! celebrated the life of Andrew E. Jackson (Uncle Andy/Pops.) CampLIFE! donations came from all over the country in memory of him. He was an enthusiastic Southern gentleman, who never let a lemonade cup get near empty at camp!

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

## November CampLIFE!



## Holiday Giving

If you are looking for a meaningful and unique way to donate during the holiday season, remember CampLIFE! Any donations in check form can be mailed directly to CampLIFE! headquarters at the address below. A card honoring your donation will be sent to you or mailed directly to the person you are honoring. Please indicate the address and person when you mail the check



CampLIFE! 12908 Park Drive, Austin, TX 78732  
CampLIFE4Kids@yahoo.com \* [www.camp-LIFE.org](http://www.camp-LIFE.org)

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## Spotlight: The “Platinum Platoon”

One of the highlights from our past two camps has been a growing number of “Platinum Platoon” members! While all campers are divided into color groups, these ladies are the amazing moms who accompany their kids to camp for the weekend. They continue to inspire, touch our hearts and put smiles on our faces with their courage, charisma, good humor and strength. Their schedule for the November weekend included chair massages, the zip line for the brave of heart, their own teambuilding activities and breakfast in bed!



The Platinum Platoon

## CampLIFE! In the News...

[Click here](#) for the latest article about the November camp from the Ft. Hood Sentinel. Station KWTC included a story called “[Left Behind](#)” on the Gold Star Program, including an interview with Debbie Busch, Founder and Director of HUGGS.



## CampLIFE! Family Goes International

One of the HUGGS families we’ve gotten to know over the past three camps brought their two exchange students—Tommy from Taiwan and Nahla from Kazakhstan- with them to experience the weekend. Our CampLIFE! family continues to grow!

## Spring Forward with CampLIFE!

CampLIFE! will hold its first April session this spring. We’re excited to add another new session to CampLIFE! and welcome new and returning families. If you are interested in volunteering to be a counselor, please contact Pete Dawson at [communications@camp-life.org](mailto:communications@camp-life.org).

## CampLIFE! on the Web

Our website continues to grow as we add photos and information relevant to all CampLIFE! supporters and participants. Remember to check out <http://www.camp-life.org> for updated photos and the song from our November camp! Any questions can be directed via e-mail to [Marketing@Camp-Life.org](mailto:Marketing@Camp-Life.org). For our November camp, photographer Tim Toole joined us and captured so many special moments through his lens. Thank you, Tim!



A Teambuilding Challenge with Muddy...

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## CampLIFE! Heart: Our Counselors

Many thanks to the following volunteers for making our November camp a wonderful success:

Liz Florence	Beth Lavender-Levi
Sara Dawson	Denise Hoos
Pete Dawson	Heather Reed
Don Kersting	John Gillis, Sr.
Dan Wilson	Carolyn Gillis
Sherri Wilson	John Gillis, Jr.
Cole Cappel	Lynette Gillis
Chris Gordon	Muddy Moxley
Chrisma Jackson	Georgie Weston (Brooke and MacKenzie)
Kelly Coulter	David Liles
Jim Royer	Tim Toole
Catherine Bailey	Peyton Poer
Diane Hicks	Kristen Slaymaker
Jordan Harmon	Sheri Wilson
Kelly Loudenslager	Kristi Bradford
Meagan Collier	Rae Bazzarre
Laurie Moxley	

Best wishes from CampLIFE! for a blessed Christmas season and fantastic start to the New Year! See you in April!



Sunset at CampLIFE!

## Seasonal Inspiration: JOY

Joy is both an emotion and a state of existence, a source or cause of delight. Happiness is a pleasurable or satisfying experience. Often we seek happiness which seems to change moment by moment when what we need is a deep joy that also exists in spite of our "moments". At

During Christmas we often say "Merry Christmas". Merry is an adjective which means joyous in disposition or spirit. Have a happy Christmas experience by rediscovering the joyful spirit in the meaning of Christmas.