



# 2009

For children 7-11 who have experienced a parent's incarceration



1<sup>st</sup> Session: August 9-14

2<sup>nd</sup> Session: August 16-21

An ecumenical ministry of  
The Troy Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church  
The Episcopal Diocese of Vermont  
The Vermont Conference, The United Church of Christ

Covenant Hills Christian Camp  
Cabot, Vermont

## STORIES FROM CAMP:

"I came to camp because my mom's in prison and I want to be with other kids who are in the same situation so I'm not alone."

A camper

A camper on the last night of camp told a counselor, "When my mom gets out of prison, I will be thirty-five years old."

A camper

"The first time I visited my father in prison, we had to talk through a screen. I couldn't touch him or hug him"

A camper

"This is the first time in two years that I have felt safe."

8 year old camper

"Thank you for all the books I get to take home."

A camper

"I can't believe this; when I heard about Camp Agape and what Agape meant, I didn't believe that someone could love me without even knowing me. Then I came here and its true!"

A camper

"The camp is well named. Agape is all we have going for us and it is enough."

A returning counselor

"The soul is healed by being with children."

Fyodor Dostoevsky

**Yes! I want to help transform the lives of the children of Camp Agape Vermont**

I will pray for the Camp.  I enclose my check for \$ \_\_\_\_\_.  
(Please make checks payable to Camp Agape Vermont, Inc. (which is a non-profit, tax-exempt corporation))

I want to volunteer Gifts, Skills, Self.

Please specify: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: [campagapevermont@yahoo.com](mailto:campagapevermont@yahoo.com)

Mail To:

CAMP AGAPE  
P.O. BOX 596  
CHARLOTTE, VT  
05445

or Phone:  
802-425-5533  
802-862-4174  
802-885-5775



## Did You Know?

- Children of incarcerated parents again and again speak of their overwhelming sense of isolation, shame, guilt, grief and loss.
- There are over 4,000 Vermont children with one or both parents in prison or somewhere in the Corrections system.
- 50% of all children with incarcerated mothers are cared for by grandparents; nearly 2/3rds of children being raised by single grandmothers live in poverty.
- Nearly 75% of those admitted to state prison have been convicted of non-violent crimes.
- More than 60% of parents in prison are held more than 100 miles from home.

“Mass incarceration is the greatest threat to child welfare in the United States.”

-Comment from the international organization that awards The World's Children's Prize for the Rights of the Child

## About Camp Agape Vermont

Our history: Camp Agape Vermont started in 2006 at beautiful Covenant Hills Christian Camp in Cabot with 28 campers. In 2007, 49 campers came from 22 different Vermont towns. In 2008 we had 75 campers and a staff of nearly 60 people, mostly volunteers. In 2009, we are planning for 80 campers.

Our purpose is to provide a free week of Christian camping for children who have a parent in prison or under the supervision of the Vermont correctional system.

Our guiding principle is to offer the children *agape*, a Greek word which means the kind of love God has for us -- freely given, generous, unconditional, no-strings-attached love. We also offer campers an opportunity to share their experiences and feelings about having a parent in prison.

Camp Agape offers an alternative to the trauma, grief and loss children experience when a parent is incarcerated. We seek to break the cycle of ‘generational incarceration’ which traps so many children of prisoners.

One counselor put it this way: “In that week at camp, I really felt like I was experiencing the Kingdom of God!”

## You Can Help Transform Lives!

PRAY for prisoners, their children, camp counselors and staff.

DONATE SCHOLARSHIPS: It costs \$500 to provide a child a week at camp, \$100 for a day.

DONATE GIFTS: Campers receive free sleeping bags, backpacks, T-shirts, caps, sweatshirts, hand-made quilts, fishing poles, books and back-to-school supplies. Church groups, service clubs and individuals can provide these items. Help organize a group to gather some of these gifts.

DONATE SKILLS: In 2007, a magician, a weaver, a craft instructor and fishermen shared their gifts with campers. In 2008, a storyteller, a musician, a karaoke leader shared their gifts. What’s your gift or skill? Share it for a day or an evening!

DONATE YOURSELF as a cabin or relief counselor or staff person. Older men and women can serve as wonderful role models and mentors. Free room and board, the joy of helping transform lives, the experience of living the Kingdom!

### CONTACT US

\* snail mail the attached card

\* e-mail [campagapevermont@yahoo.com](mailto:campagapevermont@yahoo.com)

\* log on to [www.campagapevermont.org](http://www.campagapevermont.org)

THANK YOU!