

Camp Agape needs you!

What is Camp Agape?

Camp Agape is a one-week residential camp for children ages 6-14 who have a parent in prison. It's sponsored by the Episcopal Diocese of Easton, and is currently entering its third year. Our camp has doubled in size each year, and we expect that this year will be no exception. This year we are expecting 50 campers.

Camp Agape offers traditional camp activities such as hiking, swimming in a natural pond, archery, fishing, canoeing, crafts, Bible lessons, music, nature studies and campfires. Our camp is separated into two "camps within a camp." Our first is for younger campers (ages 8-11) and is centered around the biblical story of Daniel.

For our older campers, we are introducing the *Lead with Love* program. This program is designed for campers ages 12-14 who have previously attended Camp Agape. The Lead with Love program will include additional activities to help young people develop leadership, decision-making and conflict resolution skills and most of all, to have fun!

Why do we do this?

- More than 1.5 million children have a parent in prison -- that's one child in 50!
- According to a 2004 study by the State of Virginia:
 - 38% of 5-12 year-olds with a parent in prison exhibit behavior problems in school
 - 41% of 12 to 18 year-olds had been suspended from school
 - 31% of the children between the ages of 12 and 18 years had been involved with the police
- According to the U.S Department of Justice, 70% of the children of incarcerated parents will be incarcerated within five years if we do not take action to intervene.
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What We Do

The Episcopal Diocese of Easton is attempting to break the cycle of incarceration by providing the community of support, caring and hope for children of incarcerated parents. We begin this journey by creating an atmosphere of safety and sustenance that allows the children to immediately understand that we believe that they are people of value. All of the children that attend the camp are given all of the supplies that they need. They receive a sleeping bag, pillow, backpack, t-shirt, and camp supplies. At the end of camp, each child is given a backpack filled with school supplies so that they are ready for school.

Camp Agape's activities help the children to understand that there is a community willing to help them achieve their dreams. At the camp, this has been most evident at the swimming hole, where, over the course of the week, each child learns to swim. The cheers and smiles that accompany this achievement are new to the children, as is the lesson that comes with it. As one camper put it, "*if I can do this, I can do anything!*"

continued

How Can I Help?

Camp Agape Needs YOU!

Join the Camp Agape Planning Team

The Camp Agape Planning Team meets the first Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m. Locations are as follows:

May 4 - St. Paul's, Kent

June 1 - Camp Mardela, Denton

July 6 - St. Alban's, Salisbury

August 3 - St. Alban's, Salisbury

All are welcome! Bring your ideas and enthusiasm!

Serve as a Camp Agape Volunteer!

Camp Agape needs many hands to help with our activities. No special skills are necessary. All you need is a willingness to be part of the Agape team. If you can give a few hours, a day, or the whole week, we would love to have you! You supply the energy and love and we will provide all the training you need.

Contribute Money!

Camp Agape is funded entirely with donations. Many congregations, individuals, and organizations have been generous with their cash donations to help fund Camp Agape. Funds raised provide supplies for the camp and campers; compensation for professional counselors, instructors, musicians, and medical personnel; rental of the camp facilities, staff training sessions; and the additional insurance expenses of this ministry. If you wish to contribute make your tax deductible check payable to:

Diocese of Easton—Camp Agape
314 North Street
Easton, MD 21601
attn. Ms. Ruth Alexander.

Join Us in Prayer

We ask that you pray daily for the 50 children whom we will serve at Camp Agape and for those into whose care the children have been entrusted.

*O God, guide us as we seek to do God's work
and shine the light of Christ
in these children's lives. Amen.*

http://web.mac.com/brenda.dingwall/Camp_Agape_2008/Camp_Agape_Welcome.html