

Camp Boggy Creek

By Denaé Phillips



On the weekend of April 15th, several North Florida Health Corps (NFHC) members drove to Camp Boggy Creek, a year long camp serving children 7-16 years old with chronic or life threatening illnesses. Located in Eustis, FL, the camp creates memorable experiences for both campers and counselors. The main mission of Camp Boggy Creek is to "Forget you have what you have." Many times, children with serious illnesses are bogged down with medical treatments and do not have the chance to be who they are: kids that just want be kids. NFHC members had the opportunity to be camp counselors for

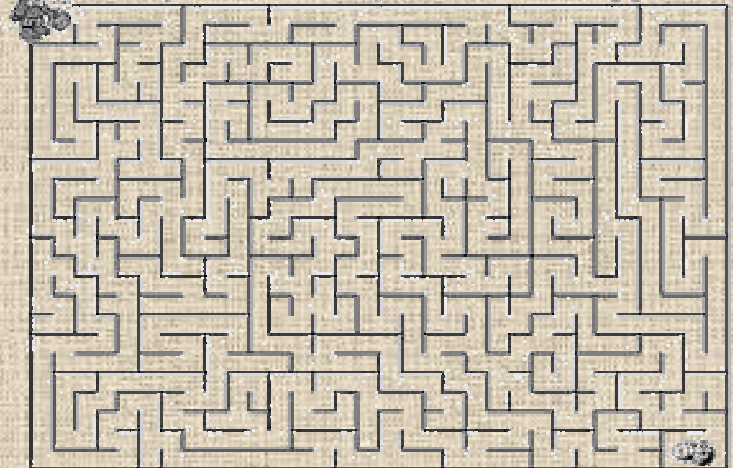
the weekend alongside a number of other volunteers. Some counselors had participated before, and several were campers themselves when they were younger. More than 30 children with Sickle Cell Anemia had the opportunity to just be kids for the weekend.

The theme of the weekend was the Circus. Both campers and counselors participated in face painting, arts and crafts, archery, fishing, swimming, circus-themed singing and dancing, and a talent show. Since camp was very secluded, participants were able to just be themselves and have a break from their typical fast paced, stressful environments. NFHC members had several memorable moments at camp. Britta Roach shares hers, "At the beginning of camp, everyone

was given this ball of yarn. To show appreciation, you would give pieces of this yarn ball to others. On Saturday night, we had a circus themed dance, and the camper who was about nine years old, thanked me for dancing with her by giving me a hug, followed by a piece of yarn. I thought it was very touching!" Tania Lugo thought the dance and talent show were very memorable. One particular act that stood out was, "A camper named Lil' Smooth's performance of a rap his mom wrote while he was in the hospital". This service proved to be a genuinely touching experience, and one that several NFHC members will remember as a pivotal moment during their time as AmeriCorps members.



Help the Bunny Find the Eggs



Birthday Announcements:

Tania Lugo.....May 6th
Jennifer Larramore.....May 11th

Cassandra Tardif.....May 15th
Linda Maturino.....May 29th

For more information, visit our website: <http://www.northfloridahealthcorps.org>

The NFHC is a special initiative of



NFHC is now recruiting host sites for 2011-2012. Please contact Erica Coleman for more information

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