

## The Giving Tree - 2008



This year will be our seventh year supporting the Greater LaGrange YMCA youth summer camp program. Each summer the Y hosts 10 weeks of summer camp. The program consists of structured activities and at least 2 offsite field trips.

The reasons students are enrolled varies widely. Some kids participate in a one-week session directed at giving them something to do and giving their mom a break during the summer. Other children are enrolled to replace school and its day care component. Often parents or the head of single parent families are working and cannot afford to stay home when their children are not in school. In these situations, the Y program becomes a youth day camp for up to 10 weeks.

Approximately 30% of the kids in the program come from homes that cannot afford to pay for summer day care not to mention give their children the opportunity to experience the positive environment that the Y camp provides. These are not kids from the inner city; they are kids from right here in our community.

In 2007 the YMCA has provided over \$183,000 in summer camp, membership and other program assistance. The Prairie Trail Federation has held the Giving Tree program annually for the past six years and has raised money to support this important program. As a Federation, we have contributed \$7,000, \$13,000, \$23,000, \$22,000, \$22,600 and \$23,900, respectively. Our contributions have allowed the Y to improve its program and to accept more children than would have otherwise been possible. It is a worthwhile program that improves our own neighborhoods and helps our neighbors.

The Federation board is again asking all tribes to consider sponsoring at least one child for a week of the program this summer. **The cost of each summer camp scholarship is \$205 per week for 2008.** Please consider sponsoring a child for a week or two or perhaps longer if the size of your tribe permits. As you consider the Giving Tree this year, give some thought to ways you can engage your young braves in helping raise money for your contribution. Last year 93 tribes contributed to the program with many tribes sponsoring multiple weeks. In fact last year our efforts sponsored 129 weeks of camping at the Y. Please encourage your tribes to sponsor as many weeks as they can. Even if your tribe can't sponsor an entire week, please know that any contributions will help and are appreciated.

As an incentive for our participation, the Y will again offer a party to any tribe that contributes over \$2,000. In addition, each tribe that sponsors over two weeks will have their name entered into a drawing to win a party. Each winner will have a choice of a pool, rock climbing or ice skating party at one of the Y's partnering facilities. Additionally, sponsoring a Camper qualifies as a "Civic Activity" and will earn your tribe 100 honor points as well.

Once again this year we will have our initial push at the Spring Campouts. **Checks should be made out to:**

**Greater LaGrange YMCA**

Checks can either be mailed to Ron Bandyk, 422 N. Kensington Ave., La Grange Park, IL 60526, or turned in to Ron at the May or June Long House Meeting