



CURRENT DATES:

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 27

to

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 29



Finding New Hope

for the children affected with the loss of a parent
or sibling in the tragedy on 9/11

An Arts-based approach to healing and fun -
using cultural exchange and traditional camping
environments to promote rehabilitation

Major Sponsor:

Lions Clubs International

Marlena Greene, FAF's Lions Club Outreach Coordinator

- Little Heroes Camp - Summer camp for children
- Weekend Family Retreats - Retreats for entire families

All free to those directly affected by the tragic events of 9/11/01

Located at

JV Mara Blair Camp in Westchester

and

Lions Club camps throughout the region

Facilitated and coordinated by

Friendship Ambassadors Foundation

110 Mamaroneck Avenue White Plains, NY 10601

914-328-8589 • www.faf.org

The Holiday Weekend Retreat for the Affected Families

The entire immediate family is welcome. Please contact Marlena Greene for Lions registration forms.
1-914-328-8589; marlena@faf.org

Retreat Site

JV MARA CAMP BLAIR, Shrub Oak, New York

Either contact FAF for directions (in which case we will reimburse you for gas), or we will provide transportation as necessary.



WEEKEND SCHEDULE

Friday, December 27, 2002

Arrival at camp
Dinner
Get Acquainted Program
Ice cream social
Adult Cocktail Hour



5-6PM
6-7PM
7-9PM
9-10PM
10-11PM



Saturday, December 28, 2002

Breakfast
Optional Nature Walk
Arts Programming
Lunch
Intercultural Programming
Dinner Preparations/Relax
Dinner
Special Holiday Event
Adult Cocktail Hour



8-10AM
9-10AM
10-12Noon
12-1PM
1-4PM
4-5PM
5-6PM
6:30 – 9:30PM
10-11PM

Sunday, December 29, 2002

Breakfast
Optional Nature Walk
Celebration Ceremony
(A Native American ritual ceremony)
Lunch and Goodbyes



8-9AM
9-10AM
10-11AM
11-12Noon



Departure by 1PM

Programming: All programming provided by Friendship Ambassadors Foundation, JV Mara CYO Camp, Bond Street Theatre Coalition, Vanaver Caravan, Gil Tarbox, Westchester Jewish Community Services, and James Young.

Activities for Kids and Grownups will include: arts, intercultural sharing on the "Holiday Theme", ice cream social, nature walks, intercultural events, sports, sleighriding, campfires, feeding the farm animals, games, adult cocktail hours each night, and a dance party!

Friendship Ambassadors Foundation: Methodology, Research, & a history of Good Practices in the Field

An Interview with the Project Director, Szilvia Agoston

WHAT IS THE PROJECT ABOUT?

Finding New Hope is a project that uses the arts and person-to-person cultural exchange to help victims of human trauma. Its two components are: The Little Heroes Summer Camp and the year round Weekend Retreats for Families and is supported by Lions Clubs International.

Finding New Hope is a project that strives to help the traumatized population see the world as a friendly place once more. Those affected by the tragedy through the loss of a loved one, or simply by the shock of seeing it happen, now experience waves of fear, anxiety, grief or rage. According to NYU's Child Study Center, all of us – “adults and children alike may go through periods of shock, have physical complaints, and be angry, sad, and scared.” However, these psychologists recommend, “It is important to cope with tasks of living rather than seek to place blame or express anger at groups of people.”

In response to this advice, the program (funded by the Lions Clubs International) seeks to help the healing process by having our participants enjoy the arts and cultural exchange, release themselves, and eventually express their feelings creatively, with the help of professional art therapists and counselors. Most are integrated into projects that include affected and non-trauma related participants; some are offered practical tools for coping with anger and the feeling of loss, as necessary. These may be viewed as tools for finding inner peace; and they are given the opportunity to build relationships that help return the trust lost by the devastation – to find harmony with others. They get introduced to cultural diversity in a way that engenders understanding and eliminates fear or distrust.

The goals of the Finding New Hope project is to enhance the personal healing of the traumatized population, and to prevent possible future conflicts resulting from the fear and the blame that may grow in the hearts of those affected.

WHY IT IS IMPORTANT TO ADDRESS THESE ISSUES?

Feelings engendered by the 9/11 tragedy, for example, such as grief, anger or fear, if bottled up, may be destructive to the psyche. They may lead to isolation and they may lead to violence. Therefore it is crucial for a person to bring them to the surface, face them, and eventually let them go.



But individual healing has a social significance as well: one who nurtures negative feelings – as traumatized people often do – may become suspicious and quick to point a finger at somebody else. They may become receptive to stereotypes and prejudice, which in turn will create an environment “favorable” for conflict. Long-lasting peace begins in the minds of people, and the individual’s approach and behavior carries far more weight than any preventive military action.

Finding New Hope engages participants in a way that helps them come to terms with their feelings, and at the same time come to respect and appreciate diversity. It has the potential of break the cycle of hatred, even if changes on the individual level seem small, and difficult to measure.

WHY USE THE ARTS AND CULTURAL EXCHANGE?

The arts and culture are tools often used to relieve stress due to trauma and to enhance healing. As our Executive Director, Patrick Sciarratta put it, “Through singing, painting, drama and other arts, people can release emotions that logical discourse does not permit. It allows people to express what’s bottled up inside.” The arts help to release negative energy in a positive way, while intercultural exposure helps eliminate stereotypes while allowing participants to see the world as a friendly place once again.

Structured intercultural exposure, that is, person-to-person cultural exchange, allows the program’s participants to meet flesh-and-blood people from other parts of the world, and to look behind the mask of stereotypes and prejudice. Those involved will discover the commonalities and similarities they share, and will come to appreciate diversity. This experience opens the mind and eliminates suspicion and distrust towards the “unknown” – it educates people towards a culture of peace.

ROOTS

The arts and culture are tools often used in relieving stress due to trauma, and it has long been a core part of Friendship Ambassadors Foundation’s mission to use them as tools for healing. Finding New Hope stems from Friendship Ambassadors’ earlier work with young people emerging from tragedies around the globe. FAF’s project, once called the Balkan Youth Reconciliation Seminar Series, is now evolving into a wider-scale project “Mending Social Fabric”. It strives to assist young people from the Balkans reconcile - by using the international language of the arts as a common ground. (For a chronicle of that project, visit www.faf.org/byrss)