



# ST. JUDE'S RANCH FOR CHILDREN

*with help comes hope*



St. Jude's Ranch for Children is a non-profit organization that serves abused, abandoned and neglected children, and families, creating new chances, new choices, and new hope in a safe, homelike environment. For more than 40 years, St. Jude's Ranch for Children has provided a safe nurturing home, and therapeutic residential treatment services, to more than 1,000 children in Nevada and Texas. St. Jude's Ranch is making a difference by creating new lives with new skills for abused, abandoned and neglected children of all races and faiths.

St. Jude's Bulverde campus has been sending kids to Camp Capers for summer and Mid-Winter camps for the last few years. With the help and support of the many friends of the Ranch, we have been able to raise the funds every year to send every child to camp who wished to attend. Over the last three camp sessions, we have sent a total of 44 of our kids to Camp Capers, many of whom had never been to camp before. For many of our kids, this was the first time they had ever been away from home. So needless to say, this was very exciting and they could hardly wait to get there.



We had one little boy, Adrian, who had to wait an entire year before he could attend camp because he wasn't old enough to go the first year he was with us. He was devastated that he couldn't attend, especially since his older sisters and the other boys in his house were all old enough to go. By the time his turn came around, Adrian had made a point of informing anyone and everyone that he was going to camp; it was his turn. Adrian came back with the biggest smile on his face, ready to tell us about all the stories and all the friends he had made.



All of our kids who have been able to attend Camp Capers have relayed how much they enjoyed their time there. They all had the "cool" counselor, or the "cool" cabin and how much fun the activities were. Kendra told us, "I loved the games. They were mind-blowing!" Linda said, "Camp Capers has AWESOME activities. And they have the best preacher around!"

For many of our kids, coming to St. Jude's is the first experience they've had with attending church and exploring their spiritual side. Some are very resistant at first, and Camp Capers is one resource we have that helps our kids learn to love God. The staff and activities at Camp Capers show our kids that being in touch with God can be fun, and that growing spiritually is a good, positive thing. One of our residents, Stormie, summed up her experience at Camp Capers by saying, "Worshipping God was very fun. My relationship with God got stronger every day." It's those comments that make us so proud to have a relationship with Camp Capers. We are grateful to Camp Capers for allowing our kids to just be kids, and allowing our kids to make happy memories that they'll be able to have for the rest of their lives.



*Rachel Richter*

**Residential Coordinator, St. Jude's Ranch for Children**

[www.stjudesranch.org](http://www.stjudesranch.org)