



Serving Children  
from the Midwest  
and West Coast  
since 1998.



## Letter from the President and CEO

### Eva Payne, CEO

Dear Friends,

I began this summer camp for youth infected with and affected by HIV/AIDS, when I was attending college in 1998 on the hopes that I could make a difference. Sharing in my vision of Camp Kindle, Mandy Nickolite Muehling came on board in 1999. We held our first summer camp session that summer serving 50 young people from all over the Midwest.

Many of our youth come from low income home and could never afford to go to summer camp, much less find a camp where ones HIV status is irrelevant. Because of the financial stress the disease brings to each family it affects, Camp Kindle covers 100% of the costs, including travel, to bring these

children to camp each summer. Some of our campers have arrived with only the clothes on their back and a pillowcase holding one other outfit for the entire week. In cases like this, we supply the youth with whatever they need to have a safe and fun week at camp. This includes giving them new clothes, shoes, bathing suits or towels. We want each camper to experience the fullness of Camp Kindle without having to be embarrassed that their family can't afford a sleeping bag or tennis shoes.

Over the years we have developed a program that is so much more than just a fun experience. Our campers learn about leadership and have their strengths recognized through a character education program. We teach health education, the importance of teamwork and build self-esteem

through a variety of activities. Our campers have said that camp is their "home away from home." Camp Kindle has served over 1,200 young people since its inception and we will continue to support children impacted by AIDS as long as their is a need.

These kids are my passion and they have changed my life. Each of our counselors, nurses and psychosocial team members have said the same. Camp Kindle is 100% volunteer based and every year we have returning staff members who rearrange their schedules to come to Camp Kindle. This camp changes the lives of not only the campers, but also the volunteers who serve these youth.

Thank you for your support!

Sincerely,  
Eva Payne

Camp Kindle  
Information Packet



2010

### 2010 Camp Dates:

California Camp: July 19-25, 2010

Nebraska Camp: August 2-8, 2010

## Who We Are

Camp Kindle is a nonprofit 501(c)3 organization. Our mission is to improve the overall well-being of young people infected with or affected by HIV/AIDS. The purpose of Camp Kindle is to provide a supportive environment, which allows youth to safely explore opportunities for growth and acceptance through interactive participation in educational and recreational programming. Camp Kindle also benefits children with a safe and accepting refuge from the challenges of living with HIV.

The camping program currently serves young people residing in the Midwest and the West Coast. Camp Kindle hopes to serve children from all over the US within the next few years.

Due to the financial stress this disease places on each family it affects, their limited funds do not allow many extra curricular activities. Because of this, we cover 100% of the costs in sending each young person to our camp.

## How We Began

Eva Payne founded Camp Kindle in 1998. As a 21 year old college student, Eva noticed that there were very little services for hundreds of young people and children infected with and affected by HIV/AIDS. She began thinking of a way that she could make a difference for these youth. Having grown up attending summer camps, she knew what an impact the experience of summer camp could have on a child. She decided to start a program for these underprivileged and deserving youth. The demand for this therapeutic recreational intervention, coupled with her experience, provided the foundation of Camp Kindle's establishment.

Mandy Nickolite Muehling came on board as the Vice President in January of 1999. She brought with her a strong background in mental health and a passion to develop a program that would offer young people living with HIV/AIDS a chance to be accepted, find hope and friendship, along with developing knowledge of wellness and personal strengths. Camp Kindle has served hundreds of young people since its inception.

## Vision

Camp Kindle's vision is to offer the young people we serve a change to build a stronger future, one in which they believe in themselves, and where they have the leadership and character to make a difference in their own lives and in the lives of others.



## Project Kindle Board of Directors:

Patricia Sampson- President  
Business Development Manager  
Cisco Systems, Inc.

Joseph Abraham- Vice President  
Senior Vice President  
CalNational Bank

Ryan Ollivier, CPA- Treasurer  
Vice President  
Cadence Consulting Corporation

Nichole Wiener- Secretary  
Registered Nurse  
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Marty Hager  
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The Minnow Project

Melissa Hobley  
Vice President  
Shrine Coburn Communications

Lindie Shapland  
ADSM National Accounts  
ADP



## Who's Behind Us...

Camp Kindle has an active and dedicated Board of Directors who reside in Nebraska, California and New York. The Board meets quarterly to discuss the progress of Camp Kindle and new ideas for each summer.

Camp Kindle operates each summer session with a dedicated volunteer staff. Hand picked by Nichol Costa, Camp Kindle's Camp Director, the staff are trained for over 40 hours prior to campers arriving at Camp Kindle. In 2010, Camp Kindle expects to see 85% of the same staff from the year before.

Camp Kindle receives monetary contributions from countless foundations, corporations and individuals.

Camp Kindle regularly receives referrals from hospitals, support groups and other agencies each year.

The parents, whose children attend Camp Kindle, have praised our programming and the opportunity to allow their children an outdoor experience they would otherwise never have.

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## Who We Serve

The target population that is serviced by Camp Kindle includes, children and adolescents that range in age from 7 to 15 years old, with the average age being 12. Youth who are between the ages of 16 and 18 may apply and attend Camp Kindle as Counselors In Training. Campers may be infected with HIV, in various stages of the disease process, have infected siblings, parents or caretakers or have lost a parent to AIDS related diseases.

Within the target population, Camp Kindle strives to meet the needs of those youth that are under-served in their communities. One of the goals of Camp Kindle is to increase the number of participants that attend camp each year and expand our geographical outreach. This goal has been achieved successfully each consecutive year that Camp Kindle has operated.

## Camp Kindle Volunteers

Camp Kindle staff is made up of almost 100% volunteers. Many of these volunteers have been with the organization for several years. Camp Kindle's volunteers take their vacation time, summer vacation and weekend to dedicate to helping improve the lives of the children that Camp Kindle serves.



<h1>Facts that Drive our Cause</h1> <p>According to the Center for Disease Control, of the estimated number of diagnoses of AIDS through August 2007...</p>	AIDS cases in the US	AIDS cases in the US (age)	AIDS cases by State
	Under 13 9,209	Under 13 1,343	New York 181,461
	Ages 13-14 1,169	Ages 13-14 988	California 148,949
	Ages 15-24 44,264	Ages 15-24 16,761	Florida 109,524

## International Statistics

According to the Center for Disease Control on HIV/AIDS, as of August 2007, the following trends of the worldwide epidemic (or pandemic) of HIV are evident:

- Today, 33 million people are estimated to be living with HIV/AIDS
- An estimated 5 million people acquired the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) in 2007.
- During 2007, AIDS caused the deaths of an estimated 2 million people.



**At Camp Kindle, we teach our campers to stay safe by:**

1. Universal Precautions
2. Practicing Abstinence and/or Practicing Safe Sex
3. Getting Tested!



## Camp teaches kids not to be ashamed of HIV, AIDS

By BRETT ELLIS / Fremont Tribune

Michael, of Denver, Colo., is a counselor in training for Camp Kindie, a camp that serves youth that have been affected by, or infected with the HIV/AIDS virus. Michael's mother was infected with the virus after he had been born. (Chris Bristol/Fremont Tribune)

FREMONT - As a counselor at Camp Kindie, Jim Ageton has heard his share of sad stories from campers.

One told about his brother not being allowed to attend a certain school. Others talked about being bullied.

While their stories have been different, the campers all share one thing in common: They are infected with or affected by HIV or AIDS.

"They have enough to deal with already, then you add this stigma and they feel like they've got to be inside themselves," said Ageton, who lives in Lincoln and is in his second year as a counselor at the camp. "To be here and see them just let loose is awesome."

Camp Kindie, in its 11th year in Nebraska, allows children ages 7-15 to attend a week of summer camp at no charge. Their travel expenses also are covered, said Camp Kindie director Nichol Costa.

Last week's camp, which ended Sunday, took place at Camp Rivercrest near Fremont. Costa said it drew a record 109 campers.

And while the campers got to do many typical summer camp activities like swimming, volleyball and arts and crafts, they also attended educational sessions on how to better deal with the effects of HIV and AIDS.

"On the surface our camp looks like just any other camp," Costa said. "However, we realized that our kids really wanted to talk about this disease and how it affected their lives. And while they knew that HIV affected them, they didn't know the details about it."

That led to the educational sessions and to the formation of SPEAK OUT - Sharing Personal Experiences and Knowledge: Our Unique Truth. In those sessions, campers were able to share how the disease has impacted their lives.

"They don't have to be ashamed about the disease that has kind of plagued their lives," Costa said. "This is a safe place and they will not feel the stigma of HIV and AIDS here."

Michael, a 17-year-old from Denver, began coming to Camp Kindie 10 years ago. He did not know it at first, but he found out his mother was infected with the HIV virus.

Michael enjoyed the camp so much he now is in the counselor-in-training program. He hopes to return to the camp as part of its support staff.

"They've given me so much and I want to be able to give back," Michael said. "I've received so much that I want to be able to give back to the campers that are coming in."

Reggie also is hoping to become part of the support staff. The 17-year-old from Chicago has been infected with HIV since he was born.

He said Camp Kindie has helped change his outlook on the disease.

"This camp shows me the leadership I have and shows me to take pride in what you have," Reggie said. "I'm just glad to be alive. It's taught me not to be ashamed."



October 8, 2009

To Whom It May Concern,

I am pleased to write to you about the amazing experience our children had this past summer at Camp Kindle. Many of our children had never been to camp before. I was privileged to deal with you in the process leading up to their going to camp- including coordinating getting necessary paperwork in. You were great about getting me forms and letting me know what to fill out & when and really tried hard to get as many eligible kids to camp as possible. I was then able to get our children to their flights – both commercial airlines and Angel Flight. The pilots were very gracious & wanted it to be a wonderful experience for the children. They were great about communicating with us the details of the flight.- including calling moms to let them know they had arrived safely.

But the really fantastic part was the experiences that our children had at Camp and the stories/memories they came home with. When I picked them up, they were excited—non-stop sharing about new friends –both staff & campers. They talked about things they did, that they had never done before –boating/ archery/campfires/skits/hiking in the woods. They shared silly stories about animals they weren't used to dealing with—raccoons in the trash. Songs they learned – singing them to me. Skits they were a part of with their counselors. They also shared positive interactions with staff where they were encouraged to develop their talents. One teenage boy was being considered for a program after camp where he would be sharing his experiences with other teens in other states. He hopes to go back next summer as a CIT (counselor in training). These were positive life-changing experiences for many of these children. We look forward to being able to send more of our Children to Camp Kindle next year. – We can't thank you enough on behalf of our moms and children for this opportunity.

Sincerely yours,  
Mary Jo Munkel  
Client Services Coordinator

## Others Believe...

To Whom It May Concern:

October 12, 2009

The Children's Hospital Immunodeficiency Program (CHIP) is honored to recognize Project Kindle for their invaluable role in the HIV community. They provide family-focused support for children and families living with HIV/AIDS. It is with great pleasure that I write to you today in recognition of CHIP's long-term relationship with Project Kindle and our collaborative efforts to provide services to the HIV community.

The Children's Hospital Immunodeficiency Program (CHIP) provides comprehensive, coordinated, family-centered care for HIV-infected children, adolescents, and young adults. Care is also provided to infants born to HIV-infected pregnant women and to parents of HIV-infected children. The multidisciplinary CHIP team is dedicated to providing state-of-the-art care that meets the medical, social, psychological, developmental, and nutritional needs of our HIV-infected clients. The program is affiliated with the NIH as a research site for the Pediatric AIDS Clinical Trials Group, which assures access to the newest investigational drugs and to the most recent developments in the treatment of HIV disease. The CHIP team also provides cutting edge state-wide programs for screening and treating pregnant women with HIV in order to decrease transmission to the infant, and sponsors the CHIP Youth Project (CYP) to bring prevention, screening and care to at-risk youth.

CHIP is grateful to Project Kindle for their ongoing service and dedication to children and families that are infected and affected with HIV/AIDS. We value their commitment to provide children and youth with a safe place to help normalize and develop an extended peer network of support, deal with their unique emotional challenges, as well as reduce risky behaviors and self-destructive patterns. Camp Kindle is a resource we utilize every year to help our patients with an experience where they feel accepted and are able to be open about their diagnosis.

We hope that Project Kindle's desire to continue and enhance their services will be achieved and are committed to supporting them in their efforts.

On behalf of our children, youth and parents, we thank you for your desire to develop services that meet the needs of children living with HIV in Colorado and throughout the United States.

Sincerely,

Lora L. Trevis, MSW, LCSW  
The Children's Hospital  
13123 E. 16<sup>th</sup> Ave. B055  
Aurora, CO 80045  
720.777.2587  
[Trevis.Lora@tchden.org](mailto:Trevis.Lora@tchden.org)

# Do You Believe?

## For Questions contact:

Nichol Costa  
Director of Camping Programs

877.800.2267 ext 708  
nichol@projectkindle.org

## For more information visit:

[www.campkindle.org](http://www.campkindle.org)  
[www.projectkindle.org](http://www.projectkindle.org)

## Main Office Address:

28245 Ave Crocker, Suite 104  
Santa Clarita, CA 91355

## Camp Kindle Staff

### Nichol Costa Director of Camping Programs

Nichol has always wanted to "make a difference" and has the chance everyday as the Director of Camping Programs. She



graduated from California Lutheran University in 2008 with a degree in Communications and Journalism. As a former Camp Kindle volunteer for over six years beginning

in 2003, Nichol realized working for Project Kindle would be a dream job. Today she is the "go to" woman in the office wearing several hats and has wisdom beyond her years. When not thinking, eating and breathing Project Kindle, Nichol is hanging out with family and friends, hiking, going to the beach or watching re-runs of 'Friends'.

### Eva Payne Executive Director

Eva began Project Kindle in 1998 during her senior year at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. She is married with four children and resides in Southern California. Eva has



received recognition for her work with children impacted by HIV/AIDS as a finalist in the Volvo For Life Awards, L'Oreal Paris Women of Worth, Los Angeles Business Journal, and DirecTV Hometown Heroes. Eva enjoys expanding her knowledge on the subject of leadership. She uses her creativity and visionary outlook to support the Kindle staff in executing Kindle's mission.

### Randi Golden Programs Director

Randi graduated from UCLA in June 2009 with a degree in Mathematics/Management & Accounting. She got involved with Project Kindle in the summer of 2008 after being involved for 4 years with Dance Marathon at UCLA which benefits Project Kindle. While she was involved with Dance Marathon she held positions like the Operations Director and the Assistant Director of Production. In her spare time she enjoys running, line dancing, and watching sports. Her favorite part of Camp Kindle is watching the campers sing and dance during their lip syncs at the Dance Night.



### Nikki Wiener Medical Director

Nichole Wiener joined Camp Kindle in 2003 as a Nurse Assistant, and has served as the PK Medical Director and Camp Nurse since 2005. She completed the BSN program at the University of Nebraska Medical Center College of Nursing, and is currently a



graduate student at UNMC pursuing a MSN and Family Nurse Practitioner degree. When not at Camp Kindle, she can be found at St. Elizabeth Regional

Medical Center in Lincoln, NE, where she works as a Perinatal RN, specializing in High Risk Obstetrics. Nurse Nikki enjoys baking, party planning, Power Pump classes at the YMCA, and traveling around the country for SPEAK OUT tours!

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new information about Project Kindle and Camp Kindle! Check us out! [www.twitter.com/projectkindle](http://www.twitter.com/projectkindle)

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