

ACA Ohio Grant Proposal

December 31, 2017

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YMCA Camp Ernst

7615 Camp Ernst Rd

Burlington, KY 41005

“Family Day at Camp Ernst”

We have been partnering with the Cincinnati Hispanic Chamber of Commerce for the past five years, with the goal of introducing the benefits of summer camp to the children of the Hispanic-Latino community in Greater Cincinnati. The Chamber has been an excellent partner, working with us to fund scholarships for 70 campers to attend a week of camp in summer, 2017 (growing from four in 2012).

Our proposal for “Family Day at Camp Ernst” will extend the camp experience beyond camp-age children and include younger siblings, parents, and other family members. Families will have the opportunity to ride horses, try the zipline, make a s’more, hit the target at archery, and explore the creek together. Children in these families who have already been to camp will have the opportunity to be “experts,” showing their parents and siblings around camp and demonstrating their favorite activities.

The day will include bus transportation to camp, as transportation is frequently a barrier to access within the community. Upon arrival, families will be oriented to the activities available to them. Friendly Camp Ernst staff will facilitate the ropes course elements (climbing wall, Burma Bridge, Zipline, etc), crafts, nature hikes, archery, horseback riding, tunnel slide, and games. Lunch will be provided, along with the opportunity to cook s’mores over the fire. Children from these families who attended summer camp will be given the chance to speak about their experience in front of the group. Families will depart in the late afternoon, having been refreshed and encouraged by their time at camp.

This project will create a space for family togetherness and help build comfort and familiarity with camp within the Hispanic-Latino community. We know that a camp experience provides children with achievement, belonging, and relationships. We anticipate that these results will follow in a family atmosphere as well. Long-term, we hope to see greater involvement with camp programming among Hispanic-Latino families, including participation in full family camp weekends.

PROPOSED BUDGET

\$500 transportation

\$1000 staffing costs

\$500 food and program supplies

\$2000 TOTAL

YMCA Camp Ernst is committed to completing this initiative, even if the entire amount is not awarded by ACA Ohio.

The Family Day program will be held in Fall, 2018.