



**Announcing:  
The 3rd Annual Family Camp at Echo Hill --- summer of 2013!**

**Introduction to the Family Camp Project**

**We** are excited to announce that this summer Echo Hill Ranch will host our 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Family Camp designed to support children who because of abuse or neglect must live outside of their own home, either temporarily or permanently with their relatives---and to include their caregivers who may be an uncle, aunt or grandparent in the camp program at the ranch.

**The 2<sup>nd</sup>** Annual Family Camp is scheduled for July 26-29, 2013, and is made possible by a public-private partnership with the Harris County Children's Protective Services Fund, the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services, Echo Hill Ranch, and private donors who are Echo Hill Alumni. This program will be conducted on the camp's rustic 400 acre ranch near Kerrville, and will be the first family-based summer camp of its kind in the country.

**We** believe that by engaging in the many activities and unique bonding experiences that are available in our rural overnight camp setting, family relationships and communication can improve, and family members will have a chance to succeed and enjoy each other in a manner that would not be possible in their everyday life. Though a once-a-year camp cannot solve ubiquitous family problems, it can provide a powerful and personal learning experience that will serve as a reservoir of hope to draw upon when the families return to the challenges at home.

**Program Description, General Budget, and the Harris County Children's Protective Services Fund**

**The** pilot Family Camp was held July 22-25, 2011 at Echo Hill Ranch and was a great success for the families, kids and staff. (See Documentary Video) We plan to continue the program with a daily schedule of traditional camp activities including horseback riding, archery, swimming, fishing, sports, nature study/fossil hikes and more. Evening programs will include campfires with singing/storytelling, family friendship circles, and a family talent night.

**Special** features of the 3 night and 4 day camp will include; each family creating a Family Camp Memory Book that would be their personal record of the camp experience; 'check-in' peer group discussions with caregivers to talk about any challenges they are facing with their kids at camp; multi-family group discussions at night where parents and kids could share stories and 'appreciations' from the day; and a Family Advisory Committee of several adults and older children, selected from the participating camp families, to meet with the Director and help plan and evaluate the camp program.

**Based on our experience in 2012**, the cost of the camp program this summer will be \$15,000.00 which includes tuition scholarships for @40 participants (adults and children) for 3 nights and 4 days, all the planning, programming, room/board, staffing and transportation costs for participants to and from Houston. These funds will be deposited in a special account that has been established with the Harris

County Children's Protective Services Fund, a 501(c) (3) non-profit organization. In 2011, Echo Hill Alumni contributed \$10,000.00 and Echo Hill Ranch contributed the additional \$10,000.00 with financial and in-kind contributions. In 2012, Echo Hill Alumni and professional colleagues and friends donated \$18,500 which covered the actual expenses and left \$3,500.00 for the 2013 Family Camp tuitions.

**The HCCPS Fund** focuses its efforts on supporting projects that expand services to abused, neglected, or at-risk children and their families who are direct or potential recipients of services from Harris County Protective Services. The HCCPS/Child Welfare Board will help with personal incidentals like sheets, towels, and flash lights. The Kinship Care Program of TDFPS will provide supervisory staff to identify and orient the families who will participate.

### **Professional Resources and Staffing**

**The Director** of the Family Camp will be Roger Friedman, Ph.D., MSW part owner of Echo Hill Ranch and Co-Director, with his wife, Roz Beroza, MSW of Echo Hill Ranch. By way of background, Roger is a psychologist and clinical social worker who grew up in Texas and has been in clinical practice in Maryland for 30 years. Since 1984, he's also consulted with and trained child welfare staff in family-based practice across the country, and helped implement state-wide family-based service programs in Texas, Maryland, Georgia, Pennsylvania and Arkansas.

**All camp activities** will be supervised by staff from Echo Hill Ranch. Professional cooks, registered nurse, American Red Cross Certified life guards, and Certified Wilderness First Responders will be at the camp at all times. All staff or volunteers will need to pass state approved background checks.

### **How to make a donation**

**Credit Card charge through Pay Pal:** using the Pay Pal button on the home page of our website, you can charge your donation to a Visa or MC. This Pay Pal link is a secured, certified non-profit link that will deposit your contribution directly to the 501(c) (3) bank of account of Harris County Children's Protective Services Fund. The Harris County Children's Protective Services Fund will send you a letter acknowledging the amount of your contribution, and confirming that it is fully tax deductible as a contribution to a non-profit organization dedicated to expanding services to neglected and abused children and their families in Harris County.

**Pay by check:** If you'd prefer to write a check, **make it payable to Echo Hill Family Camp at Harris County Children's Protective Services Fund.** The Harris County Children's Protective Services Fund (HCCPSF) is a 501(c) (3) and will send you a letter acknowledging the amount of your contribution, and confirming that it is fully tax deductible as a contribution to a non-profit organization dedicated to expanding services to neglected and abused children and their families in Harris County.

**Please mail your check to:**

Susan Massin  
5500 Friendship Blvd. 1408  
Chevy Chase, Maryland 20815

Your contribution will enrich the lives of those struggling to keep their families together. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

Green Trees,

*Susan Massin, Dan Brener, Herb Pasternak*