New FOCUS Programs in 2010

Camp Twin Lakes (CTL) at Will-A-Way in Winder, Georgia, is the site of two new FOCUS programs, both on October weekends.

Under the Stars 2

Because the waiting list for family camp in CTL Rutledge in August was so long, FOCUS added a second camp, Under the Stars 2, to accommodate more families. Thirty families registered for the first event. Children and adults loved the cool weather, the S'Mores bonfire, and the evening hayride.

OctoberFest

Building on the success of the teen/young adult (TYA) social group and summer camp, OctoberFest is an overnight retreat for TYAs. Campers and staff enjoyed zipping, climbing, boating, and being together on crisp fall days. A Halloween costume dance highlighted the weekend.
FOCUS Mission: FOCUS understands and supports the unique needs of families with children who are medically fragile or have significant developmental or physical disabilities. FOCUS offers comfort, hope, and information to parents; accessible recreational and social programs for children and teens; and fun, inclusive activities for the entire family. A non-profit founded by parents in 1983, FOCUS continues to embrace and strengthen metro Atlanta families.

With the help of many volunteers, FOCUS offered a dozen support, or share, groups and made weekly visits to see hospitalized children. The largest, longest, and most entertaining support group met at Lake Lanier for “Mom’s Day Off on the Houseboat.”

FOCUS sponsored multiple activities for hundreds of families in the community in 2010, including:
- Six Flags Day in May
- Aquarium Day in September
- Zoo Day in October
- FOCUS on Fashion in November
- Holiday Party with Santa in December

FOCUS invited families with medically fragile (or MVP) children to smaller seasonal gatherings:
- Valentines Party with characters in February
- Children’s theater in June
- Boo-B-Que in October
- A holiday photo shoot in November


Other FOCUS programs include:
- 3,500 bimonthly newsletters
- Website with over 100,000 monthly hits
- Informative annual conference and monthly workshops
- Transition conference for parents of older teens
- Home Modification Tour, demonstrating wheelchair accessibility, and
- Kool Kidz Closet, a thrift store and job site for teens, open longer in 2010

Out of every dollar raised, 89 cents goes directly to programs for FOCUS children and their families!

*FOCUS maintains assets roughly equivalent to a year’s operating expenses.*