

Community Matters

Local Donor Helps Bring Families Together at Camp



Families got to relax, create new memories and meet new people.

Our Kids Count is a local community-based organization that focuses on improving the lives of children and families through various programs and services. They offer support in areas such as education, health and social services, aiming to ensure that all children have the opportunity to succeed and thrive.

Our Kids Count received a \$7,000 grant from the Thunder Bay Community Foundation's James & Shirley Symington Family Fund. With this funding, Our Kids Count held a camping trip for families at Camp Duncan this year from July 15-17. They provided accommodations, food and activities for the families at no cost. A summer camp can be a transformative experience for families by providing their children with enriching opportunities they might not otherwise have. It offers a chance for kids to engage in fun,

educational activities, develop new skills and build lasting friendships. "The camping trip to us was extremely valuable for us as a family to get to spend time together and have our 3 young children with us go camping in a tent. We really enjoyed the activities that were held for everyone, especially the treasure hunt at the end of the trip! Our kids got to make some really great friendships as well as my partner and I made some friends with other parents. It was a great time to connect with other families in our community during crafts, games, swimming and by the campfire. We look forward to this trip when we are able to attend! Thanks again for having us and we look forward to joining again for future camping trips!" - Iesha, Andy, Tilly & Noah "The 2-night camping trip has become a much-loved tradition for our families at Our Kids Count. Our funders are essential to making this

camp available to families every year, and their contributions allow our families to get a true holiday with all activities and meals provided for them. Highlights always seem to be tie dyeing, the treasure hunt, with of course our own pirate story and the amazing meals. The families that attend this experience always appreciate the adventure, fun and worry-free experience that is the OKC camping trip. We are so grateful for all the support we receive in order to make this happen," says Sonia Kruger, Fundraising Coordinator at Our Kids Count.

The purpose of the Thunder Bay Community Foundation is to inspire, promote and facilitate philanthropy to strengthen and support the ever-changing needs of the District of Thunder Bay. We connect people, families and companies with causes where they can nurture their passion, build our community and create a legacy. "Over my lifetime I and my family have spent many enjoyable days camping, either tenting in wilderness settings or in the less primitive environments of formal parks, fishing camps or cottages. I fully understand the joy and peace that these experiences bring, especially to kids. When I learned that the normal funding for the OKC family camp was not going to be available for 2024, I thought that this project fit perfectly into the goals of our endowment fund and am pleased we were able to provide the necessary funds," explains Jim Symington, fundholder of the James & Shirley Symington Family Fund.

Each year, the Thunder Bay Community Foundation provides funding to deserving organizations in the Thunder Bay and District areas. This year, the Thunder Bay Community Foundation will be accepting grant applications from September 3 - October 14, 2024. Applicants can apply online for funding by visiting www.tbcf.org/grants.

If you would like to help make a difference in our community through the Thunder Bay Community Foundation, please contact Athena Kreiner at (807) 627-0512 or akreiner@tbcf.org. We would be more than happy to share more information on how you can make a difference.



Participants played games, did crafts and enjoyed nightly fires during their time at camp.

Passionate about our Community?

Consider starting a Fund at the Thunder Bay Community Foundation!

- Support organizations and areas of need that are important to you.
- Give students the gift of education by establishing a scholarship or bursary.

Visit tbcf.org or call (807) 475-7279 for more information