

## Kempfs' Hands-on Camping Experience Crucial to Early Skyline



What a team! In the 1980s and 1990s, volunteers Wilma and the late Gene Kempf compiled a long, productive and unforgettable record of service to Camp Skyline, as it was then known.

Fifteen years after Skyline's first camp season in 1963, Gene became a willing Skyline Worker and advisor. By 1982 he was on the Skyline Council and a tireless member of the Summer Camp Committee at a time when First Presbyterian Church of Birmingham still owned and operated the camp. And, where Gene was, Wilma was sure to be!

Wilma and Gene met as teenagers when their youth groups camped at Youth Island near White Lake. Thus began a lifelong interest in camping and the outdoors. Later, with their five children – Dolores, Laurel, Michele, David and Kathryn – they camped throughout southeast Michigan in their seven-man tent.

In the 1980s the Kempfs provided support staff, with Gene helping Director Jan Williams with administrative details and Wilma teaching crafts and nature study to campers. When necessary, Wilma helped

Jan cook for the campers. Gene took campers to Seven Ponds Nature Center and arranged for a handicap-equipped van to transport day campers to Skyline.

The Kempfs were Skyline activists in 1981 when Skyline first received accreditation by the American Camping Association. Gene was active with the A.C.A., serving as a volunteer on its legislative committee and also as a camp inspector. Although later allowed to lapse, A.C.A. accreditation was regained in 1996 and today marks Skyline as one of the elite camps for all-around operation excellence.

After a year of suspended camp operation, (1991), Susan Frazer and Gene took on the monumental job of restarting the camp in 1992.

Gene headed the Summer Camp Committee in 1983-84 while Wilma, of course, was committee secretary and hands-on worker, pulling weeds and restoring supplies and landscaping after a dormant year. Gene also was on the Promotion and Publicity Committee in 1982-83 and in 1987 chaired Skyline's Conference Center Committee, minutes of which came from Wilma's notes and typewriter.

Gene wrote the first staff training manual; both Gene and Wilma helped year after year with staff training and many summer camp activities. Wilma remembers especially the thrill of working with special needs adults during Camp Joy.

Gene became Skyline Council chair in 1992 and Wilma served as secretary, their terms lasting through 1994.

On a cold February morning in 1992, Gene took a call from Site Manager Dennis Tomkins with news that the original Focus building had been completely destroyed by fire. It was on Gene's watch that the present Focus building was planned, built and dedicated.

For their unflinching loyalty and commitment to Skyline, Wilma and Gene, who died in 2003, are among those who have made a lasting difference in the Skyline history.

## Vincenza White: Ten years of Serving up Wonderful Meals at Skyline

A place like Skyline experiences a predictable amount of change, given the seasonal ebbs and flows of our programs. Besides these seasonal variations have been a good number of unforeseen shifts, large and small, in the life of Skyline.

Perhaps one of the most consistent things that endures throughout all of these dynamic tides is that our hospitality and meal service continues to receive high praise from Skyline's guests.

When we consider that this May marks the 10th Anniversary for Vincenza (Jenny) White, our Food Service Manager, then it makes perfect sense!

Jenny is a wonderful part of Skyline's team; her skill in the kitchen ranges from intricate and formal wedding feasts to the summer camp perfection of hot dogs and tater tots. Her standards of management have kept us consistently exceeding our accreditation requirements, and all in a kitchen that can be politely described as "diminutive."

Of course, those of us who know Jenny would not think first on the functioning of the kitchen at all. That which comes to mind is her very kind spirit, marked by a wonderful smile and laughter.

We treasure Jenny's humble heart and her deep love for Skyline. We hope the sound of her Sicilian accent and the flavors of her wonderful culinary gifts grace us for years to come.

Thank you, Jenny!





# CAMPERSHIP APPEAL 2013

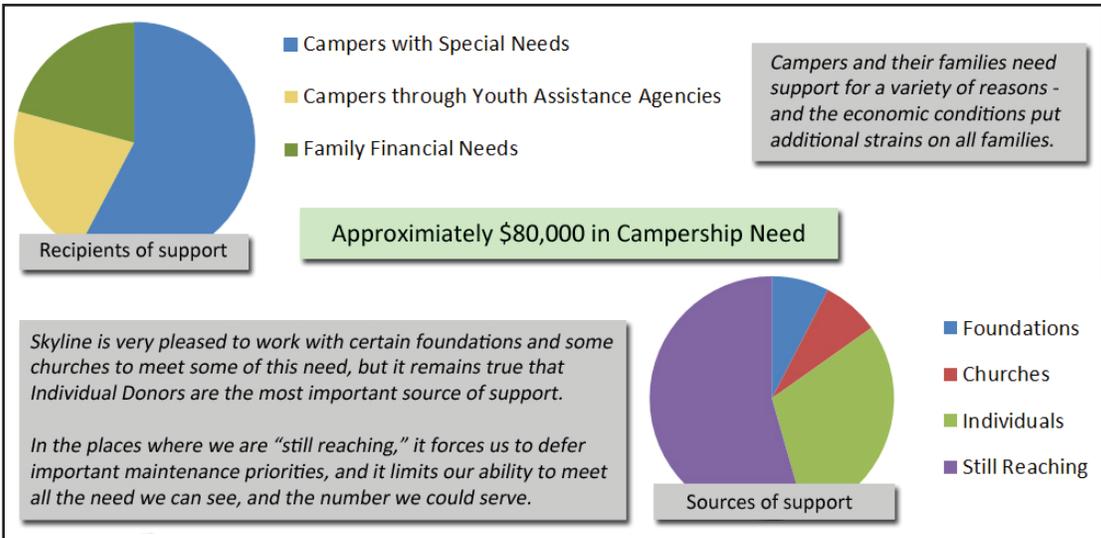
April 2013

Dear Friends,

Our Annual Campership Appeal is upon us!

Every summer, in line with our mission, we make it possible for those in restricted financial circumstances to have a wonderful Skyline experience. We delight in so doing, and we take great pride in this decades-strong tradition.

It's a difficult thing to achieve, and we are only able to do so with the support of generous individuals such as you. The charts below spell out some of the information we want you to know.



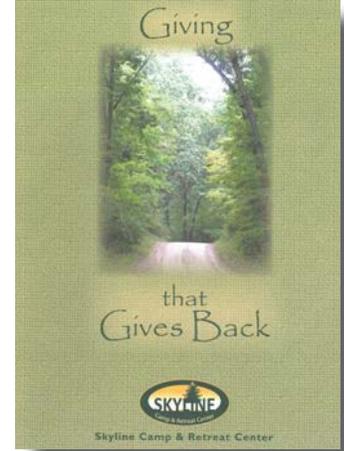
It is a challenge for us to reach this together; we know that the Skyline experience is worth it. Please consider contributing toward our campers' experience with a full basic campership donaton (\$495), a full special needs campership (\$995), or part thereof.

Every contributon is needed and appreciated, and every dollar helps. I ask you to share with others the work that Skyline does, and the experiences we create in partnership with you.

Sincerely,

Matt Henry  
Executive Director

## Additional ways to support Skyline



Skyline has an excellent resource available for those interested in **Planned Giving**. Skyline's Director and Board Members would be happy to share this with you, and answer any questions you have about this valuable source of support.

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Skyline's Board recently created the **Skyline Legacy Circle**, in recognition of those patrons and friends that have named Skyline in their estate plans. Let us know if we can add your name!

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Don't forget that during the this year (2013), if you have reached the age of 70 ½, you can take all or part of the **Required Minimum Distribution (RMD)** from your IRA and transfer it tax free to Skyline. For information about QCD (Qualified Charitable Distributions) we have links and information at [campsyline.org](http://campsyline.org).

# New Opportunities for Service-Minded Teens

Skyline is delighted to introduce some additional teenage programs this summer, with a leaning towards those who are interested in serving their community.

## Teen ConServation Corps

Summer camp at Skyline and earn community service credit! A program for high school students teaching practical conservation and leadership skills in a supportive, peaceful and natural environment, in partnership with Seven Ponds Nature Center.

Groups of eight teens (ages 15-18) will work together providing service to Camp Skyline, Seven Ponds and other community organizations in the day time. Evenings they will explore, play games, canoe, craft & create, enjoy the pool, & the stars, relax.

## Step Up Camp

In partnership with the Down Syndrome Guild of Southeast Michigan, this is a four day overnight camping experience for middle and high school adolescents with Down Syndrome beginning at 10am on Monday, July 22 and ending at 6:30pm on Thursday, July 25.

Campers will be partnered with peers for support and consistent positive social interaction. Look forward to new friends, games, hayrides, swimming, campfires, crafts, yoga, dance, music, therapeutic horseback riding, canoeing, fishing, delicious camp food, community living and much more! On Thursday evening at 6pm before checkout, there will be an Exhibition Evening to showcase the campers' creativity.

Learn more about these and all of Skyline's summer offerings at [www.campskyline.org](http://www.campskyline.org)



## Community Work Days

1st Saturdays of  
April - June  
September - November

Come along and  
help keep  
Skyline beautiful...



Don't forget your gloves!

## New & Notable at Skyline

- Welcome to new Board Members: Margaret Snyder, Nicole Bierie, Dan Anfinson
- The "blue room" in the Lodge, and one of the private bathrooms on the upper floor have been newly refurbished in the wake of a late-January bursting water pipe and the subsequent damage. Skyline's Maintenance Supervisor, Jerry Debruycker, guided contractors as well as his own hand in bringing about some updates and improvements along with the necessary repair work.

## McComber Award

Almost fifty years ago, Mrs. Annette McComber's generosity and intentions brought the possibility of Skyline into existence. The core mission of Skyline, to provide camp experiences to those for whom it would be difficult or impossible, has persisted. While the wording of mission statements certainly evolve, and particular programs ebb and flow, one thing that never changes is that Skyline thrives with gratitude to individuals, couples and families.

Be it through time, talent or treasure, Skyline simply would not be possible without this generosity. For those whose service to Skyline has been extraordinary, the Board of Directors some years ago created an award, appropriately named the McComber Award.

For commitments past and present,  
we thank and honor the recipients of the 2012 McComber Award:  
Stu and Ellie Shuster  
Jack and Pam Chandler



**Skyline Camp and Retreat Center**  
5650 Sandhill Road, Almont MI 48003  
Phone 810-798-8240 Fax 810-798-3680

**Business Office**  
1669 West Maple Road, Birmingham, MI  
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[www.campskyline.org](http://www.campskyline.org)



Our campership appeal letter and contribution envelope are enclosed, saving a separate mailing.

*Skyline was established in 1964 as a summer camp providing Christian Education for children and youth, and is now both a summer camp and a year-around retreat center. For many years Skyline has welcomed both adults and children to its unique environment.*

*Situated in a rural area in southern Lapeer County, Skyline's 156 acres of rolling hills and forests are a haven from the routine and stresses of the work day – the perfect four-season venue for retreats, off-site meetings and seminars. Whether your need is for a few hours, one day, overnight or week-long, let Skyline supply the natural beauty as well as all the facilities and tools. Skyline can accommodate 100 at one time in winter and 200 in summer.*

*Skyline is accredited by the American Camp Association, which is your assurance that it meets the highest standards of quality and safety. Every aspect of the Skyline experience is focused on providing our guests with a foundation for enriching their lives.*

Skyline welcomes and serves all, especially those in need, by creating sanctuary for experiencing God's creation, spirit, and unconditional love in a way that nurtures and transforms lives.

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