



# Whispering Winds

SUMMER / FALL 2011

## Walking in His Shoes

by **Martin Rosales, Executive Director**

We just ended another successful Family Camp program at Whispering Winds. Though ministry happens year-round, I believe our camp comes alive the most during our Family Camps. Dozens of staff, ministry leaders, and volunteers come together to provide full weekends filled with Christ-centered activities for the entire family. You will read about some of the many special moments the campers experienced in this newsletter.

A special moment happened to me that I will never forget. Laurie, one of our program staff, came up and asked me if there was a shoe store in Julian. I chuckled and kiddingly said, "Sure, right next to the Starbucks!" She said her husband Bruce always brings his oldest and worst pair of shoes to wear at camp since they get so beat up, but the pair he brought had simply worn out! I discovered that he and I wear the same size. Since I live on site, I decided that I'd give him the pair I had on and walk home to get another pair for myself. Before he could say no, I had taken my shoes off. We swapped, and I started walking home and get another pair. I immediately noticed the difference as dirt was getting in the shoes due to all the holes and I could feel the rocks through the worn soles. It caused me to slow down and quickly opened my eyes and heart to what was going on. I didn't think twice about giving my shoes up for this man. I've been watching Bruce volunteer

at every Family Camp for the last several years. My subconscious knew this was a worthwhile investment, as he represents a true Super Hero at Whispering Winds. I've watched the way Bruce supports Laurie as she embraces a strong role in leading teens. He's the first person everyone turns to when something is needed. I've watched him say yes to leading kids' songs, preparing arts and crafts, digging holes for shrubs, and picking up the slack where it's needed. His yes is always delivered with grace, patience and a wonderful smile. I soon realized what an honor it was to walk in his shoes. I was thrilled to offer relief to his weary feet and help make it possible for him to continue his amazing work at camp.

Whispering Winds is blessed to have people like Bruce and Laurie who embrace the ministry and give tirelessly so others may experience God's amazing love for them. For the many that pray for and invest in the camp, I can report to you firsthand that ministry is carried out in a very effective manner. When I took my shoes off and gave them to Bruce, I had the chance to feel what many of you feel who pray for Whispering Winds and invest in this work. Thank you for your belief in this mission. You empower our great staff and volunteers to be the "Hands and Feet of Jesus" (Mother Teresa).

**"How will they preach unless they are sent? Just as it is written, 'HOW BEAUTIFUL ARE THE FEET OF THOSE WHO BRING GOOD NEWS!'"**  
Romans 10:15



Martin Rosales with sidekick SuperBuddy

**"Before he could say no, I had taken my shoes off."**



### Inside...

	page #
Dinner Dance	2
I Remember When...	2
Camp Connect	2
Family Camp	3
Senior Moments Retreat	4
Reserve Your Date!	4
WW Women's Auxiliary	4
New Dining Hall	4

### Upcoming Whispering Winds Events

	Fall 2011
New Website	Fall 2011 (TBD)
Dining Hall Groundbreaking/Blessing	October 4-6, 2011
Senior Moments Retreat	November 10, 2011
WWWA Fall Mini-Retreat	December 9-11, 2011
Diocesan Confirmation Retreat	January 3, 2012
2012 Day of Fasting and Prayer	March 2-4, 2012
Diocesan Confirmation Retreat	March 3, 2012
30th Annual Dinner Dance	May 18-20, 2012
WWWA Women's Retreat	Summer, 2012
Summer Programs	Fall 2012 (TBD)
New Dining Hall	



# 30th Annual Dinner Dance Gala & Auction

## Save the Date: March 3, 2012



Join us on Saturday, March 3, 2012 in honoring Person of the Year, Vicki Youngers.

Vicki grew up in San Diego attending Blessed Sacrament, and in 1990 moved to St. Brigid in Pacific Beach where she now lives. She co-chaired our Dinner Dance in 1998 and has continued to serve on the committee as the Auction Coordinator for the past ten years.

As an active Cursillista, Vicki recently chaired the Cursillo 20th Anniversary Celebration for Whispering Winds and serves on various committees of the Secretariat. Very active in the Whispering Winds Women's Auxiliary, Vicki currently serves as the Ways and Means Chair, helping with their annual Tea and Silent Auction.

We look forward to honoring Vicki's limitless love and support of Whispering Winds!

## I Remember When...

*by Don Kojis, Co-founder and Community Relations Director*

Sister Mary Marshall was about 82 years old when she visited Whispering Winds for the first time. She had a bubbly personality, always had a smile on her face and did not wear the traditional garb of the Order of Sisters.

At that time we had several aqua-marine colored "outhouses" around the camp. Sister asked me what the blue buildings were. I told her that they were outhouses. She asked what outhouses were. I explained they were little restrooms and asked if she'd ever used one. She said that she didn't get out much, and wondered what people did in the buildings. I continued to explain that they were used as little bathrooms where people did their business. Of course she asked, "What kind of business?" I finally said, "There is a toilet and a urinal in each building". Sister asked if she could use one sometime, to which I said, "Sure, that's what they're for!"

The next morning as people were waiting nearby in line for breakfast, she came out of one of the outhouses and exclaimed in a loud voice, "THESE THINGS ARE WONDERFUL! YOU HAVE A PLACE TO SIT DOWN AND ANOTHER PLACE TO PUT YOUR PURSE!" Everyone had good laugh and Sister joined in the laughter too.



## Camp Connect

More than 100 children running around camp with smiles wide and broad were found at Whispering Winds during the first weekend of August. Camp Connect brought siblings in the foster care system together for a special retreat, some of the family members reuniting for the first time in years.

Camp Connect is a project of Promises2Kids, which supports abused and underserved kids in San Diego. Through Camp Connect, brothers and sisters separated in foster care have opportunities throughout the year to reconnect, strengthen family ties and create lasting childhood memories. Whispering Winds was the place for that special reunion from August 4-7.

Thankfully, a grant provided by the Philip Rivers Foundation helped make the event a reality. More than 50 volunteers facilitated team building games, arts and crafts, music and entertainment, swimming, nature activities and the challenge course that were all a part of this unique mountain get-away.

One of the young campers said, "we learned how to work together and ask for help when we needed it."

Whispering Winds is glad to be one of those helping hands in the life-changing Camp Connect project.





# Summer Family Camp *just* **Super!**

by Paula Bott, Director of Programs

The Whispering Winds mountains echoed with the words "Jesus You're My Superhero" as families from all over the diocese attended our annual Family Camps. This year's theme focused on "Preserving a Spiritual Legacy" as we celebrated our faith and our Lord, growing closer to the ultimate superhero, Jesus!

The adult guests received enriching talks from outstanding Catholic speakers, Steve and Cyndi Sapper, who focused on our relationships as married couples, parents and children of God. The Teen Program was blessed by the talents of Joyce Mendez, who helped our young people shed their masks and be heroes for Jesus. In the Children's Program, the kids were treated to a ton of fun activities as they learned about God's power and the truth that "they can do all things through Christ who gives them strength." (Phil 4:13). And we were all blessed to have Spirit and Truth, a six-person band from Los Angeles, provide worship music for all four weekends.

A huge highlight of the summer was the Child Care Assistant (CCA) program. Under the leadership of Laurie Mikolaycik, teens from all



over San Diego served our guests as caregivers of their young children. Because of the teen's giving, parents received well-needed rest and time away to strengthen their marriages. In addition, these helpful young people received their own spiritual time, having fun with their peers while learning more about God and their faith.

Many new additions were a part of 2011 Family Camp. We enjoyed meeting in our new, beautiful building, Founders Hall, the site of many fun activities, including Saturday's Super Fun Family Dance. Several guests took advantage of the peace and serenity of the new Prayer Chapel. Kids were given the option to sleep out in the Tent Hideout with their counselors under the stars. The mud bowl was huge hit, as kids young and old (including dads!), covered themselves in a dirty mess! And thanks to the Women's Auxiliary, guests arrived to some nice hospitality items and left with a special, commemorative mug.

As we look back and praise our God for Summer Family Camp 2011, we must say it was a **SUPER WHAM! BAM! SHIZAM!** time for all!



## Testimonials

"My highlight was ziplining with my family – my son was able to overcome his fear of heights, my little girl (who just turned 4) also ziplined, the horses were beautiful and the scenery was just amazing! My husband and I felt God's presence everywhere and experiencing this with our friends was awesome!"

"Singing, praying & attending Mass outside in nature really helped me feel part of God's creation and how wonderful it is to be loved by the One who made everything. God's presence is magnified in these settings for me and allows me to simply disappear into his loving arms."

"Our family smiled all weekend. The siblings were getting along because they were all busy and that made things so much more enjoyable for Mom and Dad. This weekend magnified the good in all of us!"

"From my viewpoint everyone went down the hill with more than they brought up. Is this not the reason the camp came to be in the first place? And doesn't it feel GREAT to be doing the Lord's work? Building stronger families in Christ is why we are here!"

"Your ministry is one of the most powerful Catholic assets to Southern California. We look forward to supporting you financially as we can, as well as by attending camps, spreading the word, hopefully bringing up/ sponsoring a family camp from our own parish school next year and volunteering as you need us."

"The adult speakers gave us a lot of useful information that already has helped my wife, me and family do things to better our family life and relationship! Martin's presentation and sharing of his experiences was outstanding too. He is wonderful and we love his energy. Paula and her parents were wonderful too! Cannot wait to see you all again!"

"The family dance and horse-back riding were loved by all; some enjoyed archery for first time; for Dad, meditating on Stations of the Cross. Sleeping in the teepee was a highlight for our daughter. Our teenager's attitude improved over the weekend and he would like to be a CCA next year!"

"Tropical vacations are nice, and day trips are fun, but Family Camp at Whispering Winds is the ONE vacation our family anxiously looks forward to every year. Blessings abound at this remarkable camp!"



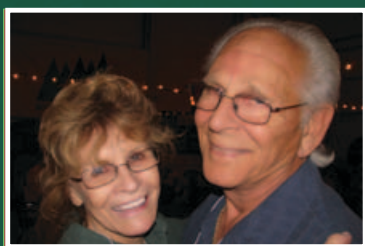
## 2012 Calendar Now Open!

To make your group's reservation for 2012, contact the WW office at 619-464-1479 or [office@whisperingwinds.org](mailto:office@whisperingwinds.org)

Do you have a large group? No problem, we have a large meeting space! Our beautiful, new Founders Hall seats up to 250, with heat/AC, a fire place, audio/visual set up and a coffee station. The Prayer Chapel, seating up to 50, is available to all guests and can be used for Mass, Adoration or personal prayer. Schedule your visit today!

## God Calling all Seniors!

55 years old, or even older? We want you at our Senior Moments Retreat, Tuesday-Thursday, October 4-6, 2011! The retreat will include 6 delicious meals, inspirational speakers, Mass, crafts, games and more. God is calling you to join your fellow seniors on the mountain. Last year's retreat filled up fast, so click here for more information and to register: [www.whisperingwinds.org/senior.html](http://www.whisperingwinds.org/senior.html)



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Be looking for our new website  
coming this fall!

[www.whisperingwinds.org](http://www.whisperingwinds.org)

## Women's Auxiliary



Diana Pins, WWWA President

In 1988, the Whispering Winds Women's Auxiliary was founded to contribute to the growth and development of Whispering Winds Catholic Conference Center. As women united by faith, we do this through prayer and fellowship; assisting in fundraising, scholarships, projects, and support.

Last year, our members:

- Lifted up countless people with our heartfelt prayers
- Provided new bibles, rosaries, and a chapel cross for the camp
- Raised \$15,000 for scholarships and camp programs

We want to accomplish even greater things in the coming year:

- Attract more members who want to make a difference and increase fellowship
- Expand the visibility of the Auxiliary in the community
- Enhance scholarships and camp programs

If you are longing for more meaning in your life, a deeper spiritual connection to your faith and the community of Catholics in San Diego, please consider joining us. All are welcome! Open this [membership form](#) for more information on how to join. For any questions, please email [wwindswa@gmail.com](mailto:wwindswa@gmail.com).

[www.whisperingwinds.org/wwwa](http://www.whisperingwinds.org/wwwa)

## New Dining Hall Coming Soon!

It's exciting to see what plan God is unfolding for Whispering Winds. We have received a generous matching grant that will allow us to build a new Dining Hall! Thanks for your patience during the construction; in the meantime here's a sneak peek! More information will be coming in an eUpdate.

