

Peace Camp 2013

The Peace Camp for children has been providing experiences and education on peace through demonstrators, music, stories, and art and crafts since 1988. Peace Camp is one of many programs the Interfaith Center for Peace and Justice (ICPJ) has sponsored to ensure that peace concerns remain a focus in Adams County. Hundreds of area children have attended the camp over the years.

Peace Camp 2013 was co-directed by Wendy Mizenko and Emily Fox. The theme, "Mother Earth's Resources," deepened the children's understanding of responsible use of environmental resources, and the importance of maintaining and sharing them with others. The children were introduced to many topics from water/energy conservation to the creation of fabric from sheep's wool.

Each child built their own house on a miniature landscape that included mountains, valleys, lakes and streams. Many activities took place in this "village" including the introduction of domesticated animals and the mining of minerals from the mountain. One day the children arrived to find the village covered in bits of debris, spurring conversation about littering. Mizenko taught the children to make adobe bricks, using the earth to create a building material used in many regions of

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*Wendy
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the world.

Music was an integral part of this year's Peace Camp. Percussionist and Peace Camp veteran Ricky Czar taught rhythm and community cooperation through drum circle exercises every day.

Cheryl Bresin of Rise-N-Shine Farm came and gave a wonderful hands on presentation on processing raw wool for spinning or felting. The "sheep to shawl" theme was continued with Dana Witt teaching the children to weave. Susan Tyson of Susquehanna Service Dogs brought in her service dog, Mab, to demonstrate one way animals assist humans.

Peter Boving led a discussion on solar power, demonstrating a fan operated by the sun, and the children made "sunprints" on special paper. The older children participated in a discussion on climate change,

energy sources, and local food with Fox.

The importance of knowing where one's food comes from was shared through many activities including planting seeds with Audrey Hess. Many thanks to the Adams County Farmers Market Association and their Wednesday Rec Park market vendors, particularly Five Points Farm and Swartz's Pumpkin Patch, for welcoming Peace Camp attendees to visit the market, meet the farmers, and purchase bunches of carrots and vegetable plants.

We have had much positive feedback from the children regarding these activities. Everyone had lots of fun!

ICPJ has continues to make an effort to keep camp fees at a minimum, so that cost is not a barrier for any children wanting to attend. The camp is funded by the generous donations made to ICPJ. We thank all those who donated. Also, Peace Camp would not have gone as smoothly if not for our vibrant full-time volunteers Rachel Hottle and Hector Isidor. We and the ICPJ Board look forward to Peace Camp as we begin our next 25 years of working with community children in promoting peace.

Wendy Mizenko is a board member of ICPJ. Wendy Mizenko and Emily Fox served as co-directors of the 2013 Peace Camp.