



# CAMP FIRE USA GREEN COUNTRY COUNCIL

TULSA, OK

CHILDREN DO WELL WHEN THEIR FAMILIES  
DO WELL, AND FAMILIES DO BETTER WHEN  
THEY LIVE IN SUPPORTIVE COMMUNITIES

2006 FAMILY STRENGTHENING AWARDS

## PARENTS AS PARTNERS

For busy parents, joining a club that meets weekly is a big commitment. Yet 100 parents in Tulsa, Oklahoma do just that when they take part in the Community Building Clubs of Camp Fire USA Green Country Council. Through the Clubs, parents and children strengthen their communications skills, learn about resources that can help them achieve their goals, and connect to other families who become a source of mutual support.

Throughout the school year, families in the Clubs work together toward goals for school and personal development through other Camp Fire programs, such as Age-Level Clubs and Teens in Action. They also spend time with group leaders, who often become additional role models.

“Community Building Clubs reach beyond the immediate peer groups to build young people’s relationships with their parents and with other adults who can encourage them to pursue longer-term goals,” says Bobbie Walker Henderson, Green County Council’s executive director. “It’s a great way to support their dreams.”



WHEN FAMILIES BUILD CONNECTIONS  
AND COMMUNICATIONS SKILLS IN OUR  
CLUBS, THEY STRENGTHEN THEIR ABILITY  
TO MEET THE CHALLENGES THEY WILL  
FACE TOGETHER.

—Bobbie Walker Henderson, Executive Director, Camp Fire USA Green Country Council

## UNDERSTANDING THE STRENGTH OF ONE'S FAMILY

In school buildings and apartment complexes, in outdoor settings and community centers that parents can easily reach, Community Building Clubs use the same approach to leadership development that characterizes all Green Country Council's programs.

Parents and children share in dinners and campouts that build social networks and service learning projects that strengthen their community. Speakers and workshops teach families about everything from car seat safety to preventing HIV/AIDS. Cultural outings designed especially for immigrant families increase their safety and comfort in their new neighborhoods.

Surveys completed by parents and children as well as feedback from teachers and group leaders consistently demonstrate the effectiveness of Green Country Council's approach. New resources, coordinated through the Oklahoma Afterschool Network, the Tulsa Area Community Schools Initiatives and StepUp Tulsa, promise to support Community Building Clubs in engaging even more parents, children and families.

Henderson looks forward to this growth: "The Clubs have proven their effectiveness in reinforcing family success. We look forward to providing more parents with opportunities to work with their children toward positive outcomes. It's the most important work we do."

## FAMILIES COUNT FAMILY STRENGTHENING AWARDS

Through a joint venture of the Annie E. Casey Foundation and Camp Fire USA, the FAMILIES COUNT Family Strengthening Awards recognize Camp Fire USA councils with outstanding programs that work to give children what they need most—strong, capable and economically successful families. Responding to the varied needs of the families they serve, these organizations improve the economic prospects of working men and women and create the services and networks of support that all families need to realize their aspirations for themselves and their children.

Camp Fire USA serves more than 750,000 young people and their families each year in hundreds of neighborhoods, towns and rural communities nationwide. To realize its mission of developing caring and self-confident youth, Camp Fire places a high priority on strengthening families so they can help their children succeed. Family-based programs complement an approach that involves families in the full range of Camp Fire activities. "In our councils, families share a respite from life's demands and gain other families' support to move forward," says Jill Pasewalk, Camp Fire's National CEO and President. "We give them a place where they can connect with each other and their communities in a meaningful and lasting way."

## CAMP FIRE USA GREEN COUNTRY COUNCIL

Award-winning Program: Community Building Clubs

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