

# PRAIRIE TRAIL FEDERATION

## The Giving Tree

### 2017 - 2018

Federation Families, as part of our philanthropic commitment to the community we are asking that you and/or your tribe consider sending a kid to summer camp this summer. The process starts now. The Federation Board is asking that all tribes consider sponsoring at least one child for a week of the program. **The cost of each summer camp scholarship for 1 week of camp is \$233.** Please speak to others in your tribe about sponsoring a child for a week or two or perhaps longer if the size of your tribe permits. This money can be raised by taking up a collection; by running a bake sale at a big event; by getting proceeds from a restaurant benefit. These are just some ideas. We are sure that you can all put your thinking caps on and be creative with this.

As you consider the Giving Tree this year, give some thought to ways you can engage your young braves in helping raise money for your contribution. In the past there have been over 40 tribes contributing to the program with many tribes sponsoring multiple weeks. This allowed us to sponsor just less than 63 weeks of Summer Camp. Even if your tribe can't sponsor an entire week, please know that any contribution will help and is appreciated.

Children are enrolled in the program for a variety of reasons. Some kids participate for a one-week session to give them something different to do while giving their mom or dad a break during the summer. For other children, camp replaces the day care component of school. Often the parent or parents are working and cannot afford to stay home when their children are not in school and the Greater LaGrange YMCA summer camp program provides a positive environment for children to spend their time.

About 30% of the kids in the program come from homes that cannot afford to pay for summer day care. These are not kids from the inner city; these are kids from right here in our community!

In 2017 the YMCA provided approximately \$15,000 in financial assistance used so all children could go to summer camp, stay active and learn healthy eating habits, while their parents had peace of mind that their children were engaged and safe during the work day. The Prairie Trail Federation sponsors its annual Giving Tree program to raise money for this important program. As a Federation, we have raised just over \$250,700 over the last eleven years. As you can see, this is a good portion of the financial assistance given to summer campers. Our contributions have allowed the YMCA to accept more children than would have otherwise been possible. It is a worthwhile program that helps families living right in our own neighborhoods.

**As an incentive for our participation, the Greater LaGrange YMCA has again generously agreed to donate two parties for the two tribes that bring in the most money. These top two donors will receive a free Pool Party pool at the Indian Boundary YMCA at an agreed upon date.**

Additionally, sponsoring a Camper qualifies as a "Civic Activity" and will earn your tribe 100 honor points.

Thank you for your consideration to donate to our Giving Tree program that supports the kids in our community at Greater LaGrange YMCA's Summer Camp.

Mark Frantz  
Giving Tree Chairperson  
312-533-1781

**Checks should be made payable to: Greater LaGrange YMCA**  
Checks should be mailed to Keith Radeke:

Wampum.chief@yigp.org

