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Out of options and desperate for help, the Lamberts turned to Wilderness Way as one last "Hail Mary"—***discover how your generosity helped turn their desperation into hope.***



The Wilderness Way

Wilderness Way Camp School Newsletter

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From Hopelessness to Hope

A Family's Last Hail Mary. Your Generosity Made Hope Possible.

Prior to camp, the Lambert family was running out of options. They had tried so many ways to help their daughter, Caroline, but nothing seemed to be working. Their family was hurting, and they were desperate for help.



Caroline's mom, Rebecca, described their situation this way: ***"We were hopeless when she moved there and this was a Hail Mary after so many other attempts to help her had failed."***

That first evening after Caroline graduated from WWGC, Rebecca experienced something she could never have imagined when Caroline first came to camp.

"While she is happy to be home, I sat with her last night as she cried and grieved leaving camp. It was real, and a moment with her that I never could have imagined her being capable of 3 years ago. The love and kindness of the staff has been a gift in our life as well as my daughter's."

For a family that had once felt hopeless, this was a meaningful moment. Caroline wasn't just leaving camp. She was leaving a place where she had built relationships with people who had invested deeply in her life.

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So what made Caroline's time at camp different?

Rebecca explained why the unique environment at Wilderness Way was so important for Caroline and other girls who come to camp. ***"Yes, this camp provides an atypical environment to reach kids that are unreachable in a typical environment. They go back to the basics to cut out all the distractions because that is what most of these girls need to make any progress in healing."***

Life at Wilderness Way is intentionally simple. Girls live together in a campsite, away from many of the distractions of everyday life. They cook, work, play, and solve problems together. And when conflict arises, they learn to work through it rather than walking away.



Caroline helping to make Apple Cider during camp's Apple Day.

Rebecca continued:

"Yes, they have to work together to face conflict no matter what time of day because most of these girls enter camp being driven to create conflict and chaos, and most enter camp with a mindset that denies taking responsibility for their behavior."

This kind of growth doesn't happen overnight. It requires time, patience, and people who are willing to keep loving a girl through her hardest moments. And this is what stood out most to Rebecca.

"The love and kindness that the staff shows these girls day in and day out is beyond words. They have the biggest hearts and the staff choose to receive all the verbal and emotional chaos of these girls hoping to plant seeds of truth and love with consistency, firm boundaries, and lots of fun."

Those seeds are planted in the ordinary moments of life—around the chuckwagon table, while working together, during difficult conversations, and through shared adventures. Rebecca shared a glimpse into the experiences Caroline enjoyed:

"Yesterday morning before we got there for our daughter's graduation, the girls had gone to play with baby pigs. They slept next to sharks at the Georgia aquarium, went snorkeling, planned a trip to Charleston, and saw a show at the Brooks Center in Clemson. This is normal life at camp."



WWGC trip to the Georgia Aquarium.



Caroline and her group preparing for Turkey in the Hole

"They work hard in a 'back to the basics' way to build confidence, esteem, and interpersonal skills. But they also have lots of fun together daily and my daughter has experienced things in life I wish all my kids could have experienced."

Caroline lived this daily rhythm of working through struggles, learning responsibility, building relationships, and experiencing the joy of healthy relationships. And then came graduation day.

Caroline returned home to the family who had once wondered whether anything could help her. That evening, the impact of camp through those relationships became clear.

Rebecca said, "We are beyond grateful".

Helping the Next Family Find Hope

Caroline's story reminds us why this work matters. Families come to Wilderness Way exhausted and desperate for help, often after trying everything they know to do. **And it's because of faithful supporters like you that we can continue offering them hope.** Your generosity helps make the everyday work of camp possible—from problems solved down trail and fires burning in campsite woodstoves to adventures that build confidence and caring staff who faithfully invest in each girl.

As we approach the end of the year, there are still families like the Lamberts searching for answers, wondering: can Wilderness Way help my daughter? **Because of you, we can say yes.** *Would you prayerfully consider making a year-end gift to Wilderness Way Girls' Camp?*

Your generosity allows us to continue providing the time, relationships, and care that girls like Caroline need. It enables us to walk alongside hurting families, planting seeds of truth and love, and trusting God for the growth.

When you say yes to supporting Wilderness Way, you are saying yes to the next family desperately searching for hope.