Center for Courageous Kids

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It’s been ten years since the Center for Courageous Kids began offering a camping experience to kids suffering from one hundred different illnesses.

WKU has a strong presence at the medical camping facility as Amy Bingham explains in this week’s View from the Hill.

More than thirty thousand campers from 45 states and ten foreign countries have visited the Center for Courageous kids at no cost since 2008. And WKU has played a big role at the camp from the beginning.

It’s time for messy games at CCK.

 “It is basically one big outdoor food fight.”

Wheelchairs don’t slow these kids down.

 “Our kids will come out and ever single child will paint faces in war paint, you walk out onto that courtyard at your own risk because it does get messy.”

“Like my new outfit?”

Even WKU football players come to join in the fun.

 “When they come and they start playing with the kids they see themselves become a kid again right there in the midst of it.”

WKU President Tim Caboni recently kicked off his Big Red Caravan by touring the entire facility. He heard first hand about the presence WKU has had at the Center for Courageous Kids since it opened.

 “To have a college of that magnitude right next door to CCK to have that support and to have kids come and learn who we are it really is wonderful.”

No matter the activity, kids dealing with any type of illness get a chance to have an authentic camping experience.

 “A lot of our campers, what’s so unique is going to spend the night at a friends house isn’t common so a lot of times when they come to camp they haven’t even had that experience.”

With medical staff that gives parents peace of mind.

 “We have the ability, if there were to be anything that occurred while they’re here at camp, we can safely take care of them and administer any type of treatment immediately.”

The experience has also changed the future for many WKU volunteers who have passed through.

 “They see what the difference they are making in these kids lives so they do go back and we hear from department heads saying they’re switching majors because they came to CCK.”

CCK averages about 350 WKU students a year volunteering in different capacities. To find out how you can support the Center for Courageous Kids, log onto [www-dot- courageous](http://www.courageous) kids dot org.

With this week’s View from the Hill, I’m Amy Bingham.

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