

FOR RELEASE 10/5/09

Contact: Eva Dankanics, Camp Korey
206-799-8285, edankanics@campkorey.org

Tom Parker, Camp Korey
tparker@campkorey.org

CAMP KOREY ACHIEVES PROVISIONAL MEMBERSHIP WITHIN THE ASSOCIATION OF HOLE IN THE WALL CAMPS

CARNATION, WA (October 5, 2009) – Camp Korey was approved as the newest Provisional Member of the Association of Hole in the Wall Camps on September 24, 2009, after meeting a strict set of guidelines and complying with a rigorous set of medical and program criteria. The Association of Hole in the Wall Camps, founded by Paul Newman, is comprised of eleven full member camps, three Provisional camps, and five global partnership initiatives in Africa and Asia.

“Provisional Membership in the Association is an important milestone for us—it validates our growth and program development these last few years,” comments Tom Parker, Camp Korey’s Executive Director. “Having the experience and knowledge of the Association of Hole in the Wall Camps to draw on helps us provide the highest quality programming possible to our campers.” The Association of Hole in the Wall Camps, whose first camp launched in 1988, has served nearly 165,000 children worldwide. Member camps benefit from best practices and shared resources, including fundraising through athletic events with the four-year-old Team Hole in the Wall.

Camp Korey recently completed its second full summer of operation at Carnation Farm in the Snoqualmie Valley, serving over 170 children with serious and life-threatening illnesses during five weeklong camper sessions. Children with Mitochondrial Disease—a rare metabolic cell disorder—were among those attending camp for the very first time, thanks to specialized programs and round-the-clock medical support provided by staff and volunteers.

Seattle Children’s also pledged its support recently to Camp Korey’s growing efforts. The two organizations now share a “Participating Hospital Agreement,” indicating that Seattle Children’s will assist Camp Korey with camper referral and resources wherever possible. Camp Korey’s Camp Director, Hillary Carey, notes that, “Seattle Children’s has been an amazing partner. So many of our camper families rely on them for care, so having that extend to Camp Korey feels very natural.”

In 2010, Camp Korey will host seven camper sessions, serving children with conditions ranging from facial differences to Juvenile Diabetes. Rapid growth is thanks in part to support from the Association of Hole in the Wall Camps, hospitals such as Seattle Children’s and Evergreen Healthcare, and a strong Northwest community of volunteers and donors.

Camp Korey founder and board chairman Tim Rose notes, “It feels like everything is coming together for us with these growing partnerships. Parents, doctors, and friends are all telling us that they already feel that Camp Korey’s presence is making a difference in our region. I am happy to know that even one family finds relief and joy at Camp Korey, but to hear from so many is wonderful...and I know that Paul Newman would have been pleased to see how far we have come.”

Camp Korey serves children and their families with serious and life-threatening illnesses at no cost to them, offering summer camps, family weekends, and outreach for those in the Pacific Northwest and beyond.

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For more information or to schedule an interview, please contact Eva Dankanics at 206-799-8285 or email edankanics@campkorey.org.

Alternate Contacts:

Tim Rose, Founder/President/Board Chairman
425-313-8248, trose@campkorey.org

Hillary Carey, Camp Director (Program)
425-844-3225, hcarey@campkorey.org

Alicia Wettenstein, Director of New Camp Services, Association of Hole in the Wall Camps
203-562-1203x13, awettenstein@holeinthewallcamps.org

Lynel Westby, Director of Patient and Family Support Services
PHONE, lynel.westby@seattlechildrens.org