

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

My Home Furniture & Décor Hosts May 13-14 Family-Oriented Fundraiser for Camp Korey

'Bring in Spring at the Kirkland Home Show' combines animal-related activities and information about free camp programs for children with life-threatening illnesses.

KIRKLAND, Wash. – April 25, 2011 – My Home Furniture & Décor is hosting a pet-themed, family-oriented fundraising event, May 13 -14, for Carnation, Wash.-based Camp Korey, which provides free, year-round recreational activities with full medical support for children 7 and older, who have life-threatening illnesses.

"Bring in Spring at the Kirkland Home Show," (www.kirklandhomeshow.com) runs from 10 am. to 7 p.m., both days, at the Kirkland furniture and decorating center, 11700 N.E. 118 St., the location of the former Costco Home Store. It will feature animal-related entertainment, therapy dogs, trainers, photographers, food booths and a variety of pet-related exhibitors — including a llama named "Maurisco," who will plant big kisses on children's cheeks, for a cash donation to Camp Korey.

Store owner Merlin Smith says My Home Furniture & Décor conducts two major philanthropic events each year. When he learned about the impressive work local dog therapy teams were doing at Camp Korey, Smith decided to dedicate a large portion of the store's 100,000-square-foot building and outdoor areas to the event. "What better way to honor the work animal therapy teams are doing at Camp Korey and other places throughout the region," Smith says, "and what way to better raise funds for the exceptional programs at Camp Korey, than to combine both into a celebration of spring?"

More than 30 businesses have already signed up to showcase their products and services inside the sprawling showroom and the parking lot. Food, demonstrations, prize give-aways and entertainment will take place throughout both days. Area businesses, entertainers and food purveyors, who are willing to donate a portion of proceeds from the event to Camp Korey, can obtain free booth space at the event. To apply for a booth, please contact Layla Reyes, event manager at My Home Furniture & Décor, 425.242.4555.

On Friday, the University of Washington mascot's trainer, Diane Rich of www.SpokesDog.com, will be on hand to answer questions about Camp Korey's pet therapy program, which she manages. Saturday, Niki Kuklenski, owner of JNK Lamas of Bellingham, Wash., <http://home.nas.com/jnklamas>, will be on hand from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. to introduce children and their families to Maurisco. Niki and her llamas are part of the Camp Korey therapy program.

"Bring in Spring is an unusual event because it involves local businesses, community members and our customers in an event dedicated completely to helping a local non-profit," says Barbara Jelly, Kirkland Home Show sales Manager. "Our event last year with Habitat for Humanity was met with such enthusiasm we couldn't wait to do it again, and we're excited to be associated with Camp Korey."

Camp Korey was founded in 2005 by Tim Rose, in memory of his son, who lost his battle with bone cancer at 18. The Paul Newman Foundation's Hole in the Wall Camps inspired Rose to extend the privilege of "raising a little hell" to kids in the Northwest. For more information please visit: www.campkorey.org.

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