

The Farm
51 South Stage Road
Medford, OR 97501

July 20, 2007

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing this letter to inform you of how my daughter, Sophia Larive, fell in love with your organization, primarily through her experience at Summer Camp this year.

I was initially leery of sending my 8 year old to a "farm camp", fearing that perhaps the experience would not be stimulating enough for her. Boy, was I ever wrong! Sophia took to the counselors, Julie and Cheri, and the farm environment from the very moment we first arrived. What's more, she had a special request to adopt the smallest, youngest livestock available for the week. (My daughter is quite maternal) Julie obliged and Sophia took on a small goat. My daughter adored that goat, and went on to adopt an even younger pygmy goat the following 2 weeks.

Every day I picked Sophia up she gushed about her day at The Farm. She loved "working the earth", making biscuits and making new friends. As a matter of fact, she was originally signed up for only 2 weeks of camp, but a situation changed that to 3 weeks. The situation I am referring to is when I inquired about possible scholarships for children who could not afford The Farm experience. You see my daughter has a good friend whose family is referred to as "the working poor". After some discussion with Julie and some behind the scenes negotiations, I was informed that indeed, Sophia's friend could attend on a scholarship. With that news, I instantly signed Sophia up for yet another week. I can assure you that this other child who received the scholarship will never forget her experience on The Farm. She loved it as much as my daughter did.

Now that you have the knowledge about the sheer delight my daughter encountered at The Farm, I want to share with you how important this experience could be for many other children who cannot possibly afford the summer camp tuition. If more monies could be raised and set aside for the economically dis-advantaged children of Jackson County to attend summer camp at The Farm, I believe that those children's lives would be enriched ten-fold. I also believe that in doing so, The Farm's reputation for being a "champion for children" would show other such non-profits, the importance of building community.

Professionally, I am an independent Child and Family Advocate. I am currently contracted to work for Jackson County Mental Health as a coordinator, putting together a program for Families Mentoring Families In Crisis. I also have a 15- year background in Early Childhood Education and am vastly aware that these kinds of opportunities for children are few and far between. So, thank you to all of you who have made not only my child a more compassionate animal lover, but to the hundreds of children, whose lives you have touched.

If I can be of any further assistance, whether it be in person or by phone, please don't hesitate to contact me. 541. 482.4252 or

With Great Fondness,

Hattie Larive