

**Friends of the Southborough Youth Commission**  
**17 Common Street**  
**Southborough, MA 01772**

**Why help send a child in need to Summer Camp?**

*Swimming, boating, wilderness exploration, crafts, music, socialization... Children attending camp benefit from the opportunity to learn new skills, build lifelong friendships, and challenge expectations of themselves and others. Camp provides a safe, supervised, and structured experience for children and adolescents. They become confident in their ability to succeed and play an important role in the community, while enjoying and creating irreplaceable summer memories.*

Dear Neighbor,

February 2013

Southborough Youth and Family Services (SYFS), in cooperation with residents and businesses of our local community, has been able to consistently support camperships for the children of Southborough families who otherwise do not have the financial means to send them. For nearly 30 years, they were able to operate and support a Summer Camp program exclusively for middle-school age children. Due to increased budgetary constraints and uncertainty, the decision was recently made to discontinue the camp this coming summer. Therefore, in recognition of the innumerable benefits a camp experience offers school-age children and adolescents, SYFS hopes to be able to continue to meet the needs of Southborough families through strengthening of the Campership Program.

The Campership Program is funded by donations from local residents, businesses and organizations, together with camperships provided by locally affiliated camps. In 2012, they provided 33 complete or partial camperships to Southborough children. As the number of camps donating full camperships has decreased, the cost has subsequently increased. Currently, a two-week day camp costs at least \$250, while an overnight camp geared towards middle-school children can easily exceed \$1,000. It is expected that in order to successfully fund expenses associated with summer camperships for Southborough children, approximately \$10,000 will need to be raised.

Given that the town budget does not designate any funds towards camperships, SYFS is asking that you please consider making a donation to support this invaluable program. Contributions of any amount will be gratefully received, and all are encouraged to explore matching gift programs offered by their employers. Friends of the Southborough Youth Commission, the group that raises funds to help support SYFS programs, has 501(c)(3) status as a charitable organization, allowing gifts to be tax deductible. Donations can be made securely online through the Friends of the Southborough Youth Commission website, [www.southboroughfriends.wordpress.com](http://www.southboroughfriends.wordpress.com), or by sending a check **made payable to Friends of the Southborough Youth Commission** to Friends of SYC, 17 Common Street, Southborough, MA 01772. You can also donate by attending any of their “*Send a Kid to Camp*” fundraising events sponsored by Friends of the Southborough Youth Commission and SYFS. These are great opportunities for you to spend time with your family while supporting other families in your community.

You can find out more about SYFS and Friends of the Southborough Youth Commission by visiting [www.southboroughtown.com/YouthFamily/youthfam.htm](http://www.southboroughtown.com/YouthFamily/youthfam.htm), or contact Laurie Sugarman-Whittier at 508.481.5676 ext. 3. Thank you in advance for your support of the Campership Program.

With kind regards,  
**Friends of the Southborough Youth Commission**