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Skagit County, Skagit Community Foundation, Camp Korey Work together to support our first responders

Camp Korey property to become a temporary COVID-19 quarantine site

Mount Vernon, WA, April 20, 2020 - Skagit County, Skagit Community Foundation and Camp Korey today announced a partnership to support first responders who are at risk of exposure to COVID-19 and slow its spread.

Camp Korey, located in Mount Vernon, will make its 200-acre property available to first responders who want to self-isolate and quarantine to help prevent the spread of the Coronavirus.

Camp Korey serves children living with life-altering medical conditions, providing year-round programming to reduce camper isolation, build confidence and friendships. With the suspension of its summer residential camp due to COVID-19 virus, this became the perfect opportunity to support the community that has so generously embraced Camp Korey.

"Camp Korey is happy to support Skagit County's efforts to respond to the COVID-19 outbreak. Our programming relies heavily on medical providers and volunteers, and we look forward to making our first responders happy campers – especially during these difficult times," expresses Jay Henningsen, Camp Korey, CEO.

Skagit County will provide protective equipment and other support to the program, ensuring all first responders and their families can stay safe.

"If our first responders need to separate from their families, Camp Korey is a peaceful place to self-isolate. The 200-acre property is self-contained and can comfortably accommodate our first responders so they can protect their families and continue to serve the community," said Lisa Janicki, Skagit County Commissioner.

Initial grant funding from the Skagit Community Foundation will establish housing for nurses, fire fighters, police, EMTs and other first responders. The Foundation has created an emergency relief fund to support this effort and other emergency response.

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“The Skagit Community Foundation is pleased to support this partnership with an emergency grant from our disaster relief fund. This program was established specifically to support rapid respond to community emergencies,” says Michael Stark, Executive Director for the Skagit Community Foundation.

“We couldn’t be more pleased and grateful for the community’s support as we respond to COVID-19,” said Bryan Brice, Mount Vernon Fire Chief and Skagit County Unified Command representative. *“Having the support of Camp Korey and the Skagit Community Foundation is peace of mind. It means our first responders have a safe place to stay if they need to self-isolate away from their families.”*

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Camp Korey is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization that provides year-round programming and transformational experiences for children living with life-altering medical conditions in a fun, safe camp environment with specialized medical support. Located in Mount Vernon, Washington, Camp Korey annually serves more than 2,500 youth (ages 7-16) with over 35 medical conditions, along with their families. Camp is always 100% free of charge, made possible through the generosity of community support. Camp Korey is a member of the SeriousFun Children’s Network, founded by Paul Newman.

Skagit Community Foundation is a nonprofit organization that provides localized philanthropy to Skagit County. We help the people who care most about this place realize their charitable intent through grantmaking, endowed funds, donor advised funds, scholarships, and working with community partners on special projects. Our purpose is to connect people who care with causes that matter.