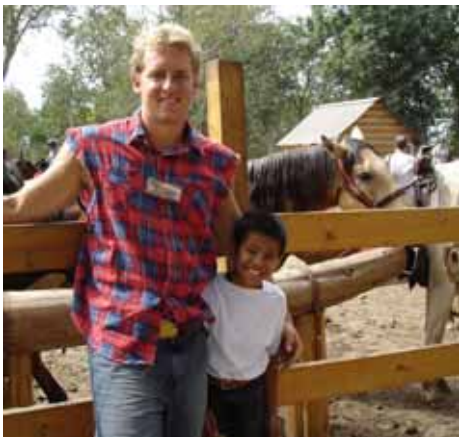


## CAMP ODAYIN—A CAMP FOR CHILDREN WITH HEART DISEASE

By Sara Meslow, Executive Director



In the Midwestern United States, there was no camp for children with heart disease until Camp Odayin was formed in 2001. Unfortunately, children with special medical needs often go through childhood without experiencing the magic of summer camp because most camps are not equipped to handle their unique needs. Camp Odayin is working hard to change that. In an atmosphere designed to enhance self-esteem and



### My Favorite Place in the World by Allie, Camp Odayin Camper

Everyone has a favorite place,  
Yours is not like mine at all,  
We sing songs when together,  
We have lots of fun when together,  
And no tears shed at all.

Everyone has a favorite place,  
Yours is not like mine at all,  
We go swimming, fishing and banana  
boat riding,  
We do activities during the day and at  
night,  
In the morning we wake up early, and  
go to bed late.

Everyone has a favorite place,  
Yours is not like mine at all,  
We sing our cheers to Mr. Sprit, and  
earn the spirit beads,  
And have different themes during the  
night,  
Some may have games outside; other  
may be inside.

Everyone has a favorite place,  
Yours is not like mine at all,  
We don't worry about what we have,  
This is our lucky week!

Everyone has a favorite place,  
Yours is not like mine at all,  
When the week is over we give friends  
a last call,  
And say see you back here next year,  
At our favorite place Camp Odayin!

acceptance of themselves and others, campers have the opportunity to "come alive" emotionally and physically in ways they never dreamed possible.

Camp Odayin provides athletic, creative, and outdoor activities in a safe and medically supervised environment with highly trained pediatric cardiologists, cardiac nurses, and camp counselors. Participation in Camp Odayin's residen-

tial camps (ages 8-17), day camp (ages 6-7), and family camp (all ages) – costs only a \$25 registration fee, thanks to the support from generous donors, fundraisers and grants from many companies and foundations.



"Children who have heart conditions often feel isolated," said Dr. Charles Baker, Pediatric Cardiologist at Minneapolis Children's Heart Clinic and Medical Director for camp. "Camp Odayin allows these children to meet other kids with diseases similar to their own. They feel a true sense of belonging at camp and make lifelong friends. I am thrilled to be a part of such a special organization."

To learn more about Camp Odayin, visit [www.campodayin.org](http://www.campodayin.org) or call 1.866.9.ODAYIN (1-866-962-2946).

~CCT~

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