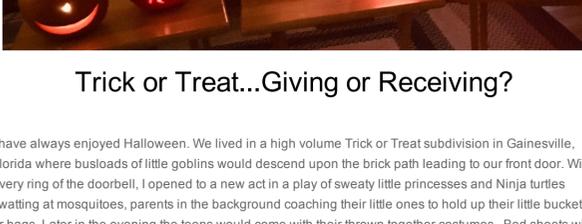




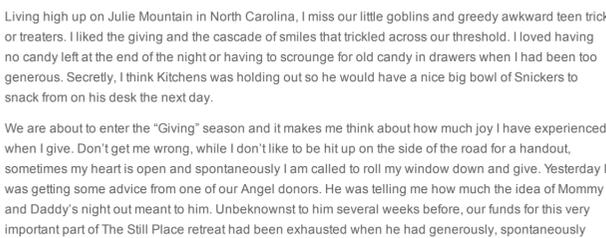
The Still Place

FOR FAMILIES WITH SERIOUSLY ILL CHILDREN



Trick or Treat...Giving or Receiving?

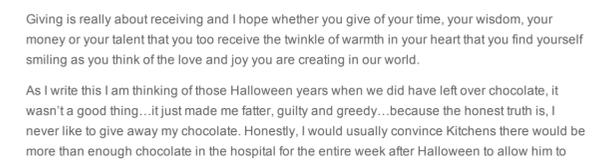
I have always enjoyed Halloween. We lived in a high volume Trick or Treat subdivision in Gainesville, Florida where busloads of little goblins would descend upon the brick path leading to our front door. With every ring of the doorbell, I opened to a new act in a play of sweaty little princesses and Ninja turtles swatting at mosquitoes, parents in the background coaching their little ones to hold up their little buckets or bags. Later in the evening the teens would come with their thrown together costumes. Bed sheets with eyeholes or lipstick and mascara Freddie Kruegers...not ready to totally give up the candy and acting awkward with a healthy tinge of greed. Dr. Craig was not amused and usually would blow out the jack-o-lantern, turn out the lights and hide out in the back of the house. I'd hear him grumbling about hoping not to find a yard full of toilet paper or worse, a window sloshed with eggs in the morning.



Living high up on Julie Mountain in North Carolina, I miss our little goblins and greedy awkward teen trick or treaters. I liked the giving and the cascade of smiles that tickled across our threshold. I loved having no candy left at the end of the night or having to scrounge for old candy in drawers when I had been too generous. Secretly, I think Kitchens was holding out so he would have a nice big bowl of Snickers to snack from on his desk the next day.

We are about to enter the "Giving" season and it makes me think about how much joy I have experienced when I give. Don't get me wrong, while I don't like to be hit up on the side of the road for a handout, sometimes my heart is open and spontaneously I am called to roll my window down and give. Yesterday I was getting some advice from one of our Angel donors. He was telling me how much the idea of Mommy and Daddy's night out meant to him. Unbeknownst to him several weeks before, our funds for this very important part of The Still Place retreat had been exhausted when he had generously, spontaneously provided a gift specifically for this purpose. As we were discussing TSP plans one day, and mentioned this particular activity, I could see an unnamed joy in his eyes and a smile that I recognized as the same joy I feel when I have given with an open heart out of spontaneous love and not obligation. This is the joy of The Still Place for me.

The Still Place is growing and, of course, we need more financial resources to serve the increasing number of families we are serving. When we come to your door trick or treating asking for your support, my prayer is that you only give to The Still Place if your heart is filled with a twinkle and a smile for our families. Imagining our TSP families on your doorstep as you open the threshold of your heart, I hope you get a glimpse into the joy of brothers splashing in the Creek, a dad holding his daughter on his lap roasting marshmallows or parents all dressed up in anticipation of a date night with one another.



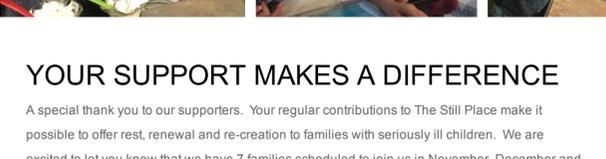
Giving is really about receiving and I hope whether you give of your time, your wisdom, your money or your talent that you too receive the twinkle of warmth in your heart that you find yourself smiling as you think of the love and joy you are creating in our world.

As I write this I am thinking of those Halloween years when we did have left over chocolate, it wasn't a good thing...it just made me fatter, guilty and greedy...because the honest truth is, I never like to give away my chocolate. Honestly, I would usually convince Kitchens there would be more than enough chocolate in the hospital for the entire week after Halloween to allow him to scrounge the wards.

If The Still Place isn't bringing that giving spirit to your heart, I hope that you will look around at another non-profit or neighbor in need and give where your love grows. You will be amazed at the gift you will have given yourself in the process. Giving is good medicine.

-Dr. Dawn

GIVE WHERE YOUR LOVE GROWS



YOUR SUPPORT MAKES A DIFFERENCE

A special thank you to our supporters. Your regular contributions to The Still Place make it possible to offer rest, renewal and re-creation to families with seriously ill children. We are excited to let you know that we have 7 families scheduled to join us in November, December and January. We are receiving new retreat application requests through our website weekly! Much of this excitement is because of you. Thank you so much for telling people about The Still Place. You are our best advertisement!

EASY WAYS TO CONTINUE YOUR SUPPORT

QUALIFIED CHARITABLE DISTRIBUTIONS

As you plan your year-end giving, we'd like to make you aware of a tax free option. This option is for those who are 70 1/2 or older. If you haven't reached your 70th birthday yet, please share this information with someone who has.

Charitable IRA One Time Withdrawal: If you are 70 1/2 or older, consider making charitable donations through a QCD. For more information click [here](#). Click [here](#) for registration form. Share this information with others who may be interested.

SOCIAL MEDIA

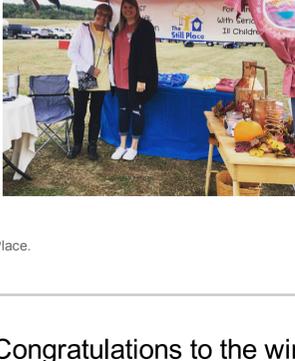
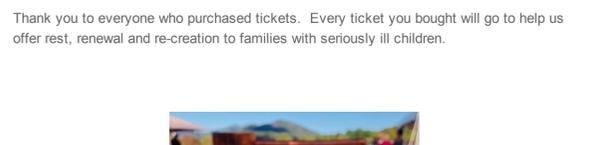
AMAZON SMILE: If you shop through Amazon, use Amazon Smile. It is the same site with the same items available. The difference is Amazon makes a donation to The Still Place for everything eligible that you buy. Sign up for Amazon Smile today. Any shopping you do through Amazon, if you enter through Amazon Smile, will benefit The Still Place when you choose us for your charity. For more information about how to set up Amazon Smile click [here](#).

FACEBOOK BIRTHDAY FUNDRAISER. Do you have a Facebook page? On your birthday do you get 100s of "happy birthday" messages from your Facebook friends? Invite them to wish you a happy birthday by supporting The Still Place for your birthday gift. To learn how click [here](#).

VISIT OUR ONLINE STORE

If you haven't had an opportunity to visit The Still Place online store you'll want to check it out. We have new t-shirt designs, bracelets, hats and more.

Visit The Still Place online store



PUNKIN CHUNKIN

Thank you to all who supported us at Punkin Chunkin. It was a fun day and we raised over \$700.00 for The Still Place by selling raffle tickets and items from our online store. We also talked to many people who could think of a family they will tell about The Still Place.

Congratulations to the winner of The Still

This years winners are Mike and Barbara Holloway. Mike purchased his tickets online and they live in Florida! Barbara and her amazing special family were our very first visitors to The Still Place when it was still a twinkle in Dr. Dawn's eye.

Thank you to everyone who purchased tickets. Every ticket you bought will go to help us offer rest, renewal and re-creation to families with seriously ill children.



Series: Day 2 of The Still Place Retreat

Day 2 of the retreat is Water Excursion Day. Many of these days are spent floating down beautiful Fires Creek.

Our amazing volunteers begin the afternoon by setting up a picnic, and all the fun water toys, before the family's arrival. When the family arrives, the car is barely in park before the kids start running to the water with their huge smiles giving from ear to ear. Within minutes, little toes are hitting the ice cold water and laughter echos through the woods.

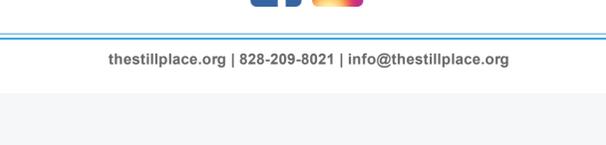
After everyone is used to the water, or as used to it as you can be, we like to bring out the tubes. Tubing is definitely a hit with all of our families! There's nothing sweeter than seeing a tube piled high with joy filled kiddos! The parents also have to get in on the fun, though sometimes it takes some persuasion from the kids with blue lips and chattering teeth.

Eventually we will pause for a picnic lunch, but mostly so our volunteers who so graciously stand in the frigid water can warm up. Then the fun begins all over again, until it's time to leave.

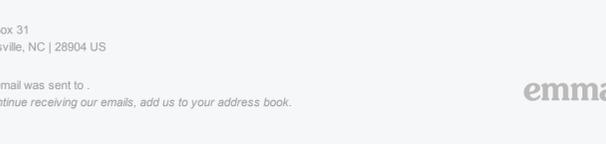
It can take some bribing to get the kids out of the water, so we always like to offer ice cream at Chinquapins, or a yummy snoball from Carlotta's as leverage to leave Fire's Creek. That way the fun doesn't end just yet! Then we all say our goodbyes, go home and take a nap, and get ready for the fun that's yet to come the rest of the week!

Unfortunately for some of our kiddos, the disease or treatment they are undergoing doesn't allow them to get into most types of water. But we don't let that stop them from the fun! We always come up with safe ways that adapt to the specific needs of the child, so that they can experience the same fun as any other kid. It can't even be put into words how special it is to see a child, who is constantly told what they can't do, be free from their illness for an afternoon.

Fires Creek is definitely a Still Place tradition, however it goes deeper than just the fun on the water. Fires Creek gives our families experiences they may have never had, or thought they ever could have. It gives them a time to forget about the daily burdens of their life, and just have fun. It gives them a time to be normal. And of course, it gives memories that will last a lifetime.



WE LOVE OUR VOLUNTEER TEAM!



Visit our website for more information

thestillplace.org | 828-209-8021 | info@thestillplace.org

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