

Creation Vacation strengthens families in the out of doors to build hope in their lives back home.

A Portland State University study has demonstrated that this opportunity for recreation in the outdoors, for developing relationships with neighbors, for improving family bonds and for temporary relief from the overwhelming stresses and pressures of everyday life continues to reap benefits once families return home.



Most of the parents we serve are women, many of whom are single-parenting. Many of the families we serve are Native American, African American or Latina. Our focus is both to empower families and to change churches through new friendships with people who live in poverty. Camp experiences develop leadership and create caring communities with benefits that continue back home.

More than one child or parent participating in **Creation Vacation** has been out of their city or town for the first time, has seen the ocean and the stars, or has hiked along a pine needle-strewn path and felt safe for the first time.

Please help us help more families have these first-time-ever experiences, and more churches be transformed through reaching their neighbors.

Individuals, organizations and church groups are invited to make a donation or to become a sustaining donor. For more information or to make your donation:

Creation Vacation Camps

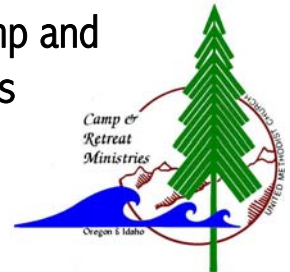
Camp and Retreat Ministries,
Oregon-Idaho Annual Conference
1505 SW 18th Ave, Portland OR 97201
donate@gocamping.org
1-800-592-7539 x 43

Creation Vacation

United Methodists
Creating Community with
Children and the Poor



A Mission of Camp and
Retreat Ministries



Creation Vacation is a unique mission program providing a respite experience in a nurturing and stimulating environment for extremely low-income families lacking the financial means for even a modest vacation together.



"We are closer now, more like a family. We are connected once again. We still sing the silly camp songs, share the memories, enjoy the pictures, and keep a watchful eye on the bird house now in our backyard, hoping that, [the birds] will make a family just like ours."

Creation Vacation has been offering families a respite for renewal since 1997. Each year we serve as many as 120 parents and 340 children – that's 460 in all! Families come from Salem, Portland, Ontario, Tillamook, Nampa and Pocatello. Each family was supported by a Family Friend – 64 great volunteers donating over 4,000 volunteer hours!



All families participating in **Creation Vacation** are extremely low-income. Even though most are employed, they don't have enough income to meet their basic needs - even for food. With no extra funds for recreation, many families have never enjoyed a vacation together.



"It brings my family together. We smile more and the time just flies by without EVER being bored. It's also beautiful and peaceful."