

1989 SUMMER PROGRAM AWARD WINNERS

Summer camp programs provide unique social, recreational and learning experiences. Our winners offer fine programs which include opportunities for interaction with peers without disabilities, parental participation and community involvement.

HANDI-CAMP

Founded in 1987 by parents of children with multiple disabilities and sponsored by the Avon Lake United Church of Christ in Avon Lake, Ohio, Handi-Camp's key to success is community involvement. Local citizens and organizations — from the Girl Scouts, Knights of Columbus and local churches to the fire department, library and even some veterinarians — provide tremendous support and involvement by taking them into their workplaces and into their lives. Campers with multiple disabilities, ranging in ages from 4 to 16, are invited to a variety of activities and outings, such as carnivals, outdoor lunches and a puppet show. Since most campers are involved during the school year in special out-of-town programs, Handi-Camp offers them a special opportunity to spend time with and befriend people they don't normally come in contact with throughout the year. Along with Handi-Camp's many other programs and activities provided by their highly-qualified and enthusiastic staff, campers are able to spend the summer having a wonderful time that they will cherish for the rest of the year.

NOTE: VACC Camp has been held during the month of April since 1991.



Campers enjoy playing a game together at Handi-Camp.

VACC CAMP (VENTILATOR ASSISTED CHILDREN'S CENTER)

For this unique camp, children bring along their bathing suit, shorts and toothbrush, not to mention their mother, father, sister and brother! The VAAC Camp in Miami, Florida, which is staffed by and provided through the Miami Children's Hospital, offers a unique family experience, as parents and siblings stay in communal cabins with other families and participate together in all activities. (In cases where a parent cannot attend, the family has the option of sending a responsible person to assist with the camper's care.) While spending special time together as a family, everyone also gets to make important new acquaintances of his or her own. Campers, all of whom have a tracheostomy and require ventilator assistance to maintain life, are able to make new friends with people who have the same disability, while parents and siblings get to share

time and gain support from others in a similar situation. Through daily field trips, sing-a-longs, group games, discovering the wonders of a nature trail, swimming in an adaptive public pool, enjoying visits from local celebrities (such as super-hero Captain Crimestopper) and Parents' Night, everyone gets to have fun with others who truly share the joys and trials of their lives. Families may arrive at the VACC Camp from all over the country, but they soon meet people who know exactly where they're coming from!



New friends are made quickly at the VACC Camp.