

# Stone Soup Holiday Camp @ Christmas 2008

## 7 Questions & 7 Answers for Church Leaders

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You are encouraged to contact Dr. Gene Mims, Senior Pastor, Judson Baptist Church, Nashville, TN for a pastor with experience with Stone Soup.

Church Office: 615.833.6600 Belinda Cook, Executive Assistant to Dr. Mims or

Dr. Tom McCoy, Senior Pastor, Thompson Station Church, Thompson Station, TN, Church Office: 615.791.8319.

### 1. Do we have enough time to start now and have a successful HC@C?

A: *Yes, if your church already has a person interested in ministry to families of children and young adults with special needs and who has leadership skills – a 4 week time frame is sufficient to have a very successful Holiday Camp @ Christmas.*

### 2. How much will HC@C cost?

A: *The Stone Soup material and information is provided without charge.*

*You should budget \$25 per camper or more in immediate program costs which will easily be secured through the “Sponsor-a-Camper” effort.*

*This budget includes funds for promotional posters, a banner, music CD, craft materials, sandwich meal for volunteers, name tags, large project materials.*

*Many churches have costumes for a nativity scene drama – every camper will have a costume – you may need to make or borrow simple costumes, if necessary.*

*The Sponsor-a-Camper material provided is effective to find sponsors for this cost. Individuals will be moved to sponsor a camper when asked – both within the congregation and in the community. Most communities do not have any such effort for families at Christmas and local businesses will readily sponsor your effort. Allowing others in the community to assist does build community*

*awareness to help reach the families. You may or may not need or want outside sponsorships the second year HC@C is hosted by your church.*

*Each year the big box national stores, grocery stores, and others anticipate being a sponsor of materials needed for Holiday Camp @ Christmas.*

*Churches are surprised at how responsive their community is to provide materials and funds for Holiday Camp @ Christmas. We have provided a SAMPLE letter in the Media Kit to use with securing corporate community sponsors.*

*If your church has AWANA, Upward, or a Recreation ministry you will likely have all of the sports equipment needed.*

### **3. How soon can we get started?**

- A. *Immediately! Complete the Registration form and submit on-line. All requests are reviewed and responded to within hours. After your church is approved, you can start action immediately. We provide an "Action Agenda" to give you direction and you can download all the material immediately. **Submitting an application does NOT obligate your church to hosting Stone Soup – it does allow you access to review all program materials needed to conduct a Holiday Camp @ Christmas 2008.***

### **4. How many people will it take to staff this effort?**

- A. *We recommend a ratio of 1 Camper to 1.6 Volunteers or more.*
- For example: Flagship Stone Soup Holiday Camp @ Christmas 2007 at Judson Baptist Church in Nashville had 60 campers and 102 volunteers; We had 70 Volunteer Counselors who worked one or two – on – one for the day. The other 32 fulfilled a variety of roles, including Director, Assistant Director, Coordinators, Assistants to the Coordinators, Photography, and more Floaters for tasks demanded by the schedule through-out the day.*

*Once you have an idea of how many volunteers your church will have then set a “limited registration” number of campers to accept.*

*Flagship Stone Soup at Judson always has such community volunteers, generally between 15 to 20% of the volunteer total. We screen and they must come to a training session – either before or early on the day of the camp.*

*The Camper Application process is designed to give your Director control over the number of campers accepted to participate so as not to overextend beyond the number of volunteers available.*

**5. What are the roles of the 7 primary leaders?**

- A.
  1. Director
  2. Check-in Coordinator / Phone Coordinator
  3. Free Time Coordinator
  4. Craft Coordinator
  5. Music Movement / Circle Game Coordinator
  6. Drama / Music Coordinator
  7. Large Project Coordinator

**6. What does Stone Soup provide to make this a success?**

- A. All materials are downloadable. Here is a list of what you will receive – once approved.

*Introduction to Stone Soup’s unique and highly effective approach*

*A Director’s Manual – Oversight Responsibilities and Tasks*

*Your church name & location, information, and Director’s Contact information will be listed on the web-site.*

*Task description and material list for each Coordinator*

*Media Kit includes Media Kit Guide, the Press Release and “5 Questions” for reporters, and information on how to reach families and campers.*

*Promo Kit includes 5 prepared templates for 11x 17 posters to be printed locally, promo video for use in host church or with supporting churches or organizations, Sponsor-a-Camper envelope template, Power Point promo slides for volunteers and sponsors, and information on how to reach families and campers.*

*Application Forms for Families/Campers and Volunteers*

*Team Instructions for Volunteers for training volunteers*

*Complete curriculum including training videos for crafts, free time, music movement and a general video.*

*Sample Facility Set-up Chart*

*Schedule of the Day*

*Free limited use of the Stone Soup Holiday Camp @ Christmas logos*

*Signs and Banners templates including Restroom Rules, Banner/Sign, Signs for Check-in Area*

*The "What Next" Guide for continuing Stone Soup in your church and community as a regular outreach effort.*

**7. What kind of response can we anticipate?**

A. *It largely depends on the size of your church and your connections to the community of friends with special needs.*

*In 2007 one church had a month's lead time. For Holiday Camp @ Christmas 2007 they had 25 volunteers and 11 campers and had well over \$500 come in for sponsorships. They had over 25 campers and over 40 volunteers for their first regular Stone Soup Friday Night outreach in February and it has grown steadily every month, including Stone Soup on Sunday.*

**Contact the National Director's Office if you have additional questions you need answered to decide to utilize this gift to your community for Christmas 2008.**

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Hours: 9:00 AM to 3:00PM CT