

"Finding a Special Need and Filling it"



"Mr. Bumbles" "Marty" "Purple Rose" "Pooli" and Campers

Clown Camping at Camp ReCreation

Since 1985 Camp Re-Creation sponsored by the Sacramento Catholic Diocese has been frequented by "camp clowns" led by our friend Mr. Bumbles and Klown Alley of Sacramento, CA (KAOS). Most of the campers are Down Syndrome, MS, or autistic. All campers experience being a clown. Each of the forty campers is able to design their own face makeup, pick a costume and learn to perform individually or teams.

Gene introduces the clown class in regular clothes. The campers call out clown features and "dress" Mr. Bumbles, the Kamp Klown. After three days when the campers were running around with their makeup and red noses, Mr. Bumbles was approached by a counselor -- "Stevie's parents just called and warned us that he's deathly afraid of clowns!" "Now they tell us!" Stevie had watched the metamorphosis of Gene-to-Clown and was fully made up when the counselor "warned" them. That afternoon, when 3 other clowns visited, a photo was taken of Stevie in his wheel chair with his red nose and four clowns. Five years later Steve still rolls into camp asking for the clowns and requesting quick "nose job!" Then there is Bobby, smiling ear to ear, he points to his nose. Bobby does not speak, but the message is clear -- he is always a clown!

By Gene Luttreli "Mr. Bumbles"

Why not take clown friends from your alley and visit one of the many camps for disabled and oncology children. Now is a good time to approach a camp and set up a fair or show for the kids, or just do walkabouts, balloons or face painting. Many clowns would like to do hospital clowning, but feel they lack experience. Here's your experience -- Just do it!