



Summer Camp

Every year Camp Fire provides kids from across the state with an unforgettable outdoor camping experience. Each year the Waco-McLennan County United Way, gives money to Camp Fire that funds 30 scholarships to local children and families who could otherwise not afford this once in a lifetime experience. Thanks to United Way, this year Camp Fire gave a scholarship to a most deserving young lady, Lacey Nichols.

For the last couple of years, life for the Nichols family has been difficult. Ms. Nichols has terminal illness that enables her from working. As a single mother, she struggles to provide for herself and her daughter. Her young daughter, Lacey, has taken on many adult responsibilities to help her mother. For Lacey's mom, the hardest part of the situation was that her little girl was losing some of the most precious days of her childhood, days she would never get back. It was heart breaking for her mother. When Lacey came home excited one day with the Camp Fire flyer for summer camp, her mother knew she would never be able to afford it. When she saw there was help with the cost she immediately began to fill out a financial aid request. Lacey was so excited that she decided to write a letter to the committee to let them know that she would be the best behaved child at camp and would help with any chores that may need to be done.

Touched by Lacey's letter, the Camp Fire staff all pitched in to make sure she had everything she needed for a wonderful camp experience. One of those key items was a camera. Several months after camp, the office received another letter, this time from Lacey's mother. Inside was a self portrait that Lacey took one day at camp. Of all the pictures Lacey took, this one meant the most to her mother. As she explained in her letter, in the picture she saw something she thought was lost forever, a smiling *little girl*.