



## HISTORY & MISSION STATEMENT

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### Camp Okawehna

#### *Fun-Growth-Community-Independence-Teamwork*

#### A History and Mission Statement

Dialysis Clinic, Incorporated sponsors a summer camp, "Camp Okawehna", in Lyles, Tennessee for the benefit of pediatric patients. Hemodialysis services, as well as support for peritoneal dialysis patients, are available on-site for the campers. The camp was established in 1975 to enable these children an opportunity to share in a camp experience. Since that time, the camp has grown to include children from all across the country. The camp is open to individuals 6 to 16 years of age for transplant and Pre-End Stage Renal Disease patients and 6 to 18 years of age for dialysis patients (Hemo and PD), who are receiving dialysis treatment for their renal failure.

The camp is staffed by volunteers from various dialysis centers, as well as the general public. Initially established by Dr. Keith Johnson and his wife, Nancy, along with a group of dedicated Nephrology nurses, Camp Okawehna has given many pediatric patients a taste of summer camp that would otherwise not be possible. Not only does the camp provide a normalizing experience for the campers, but it also provides a much-needed respite for parents.

Camp activities throughout the week include a ropes challenge course, canoeing, swimming, daily crafts projects, "themed" dances (including a prom), concerts on the lawn, a pine-wood derby car race, a hay ride, a pig roast luau and the traditional Camp Okawehna Talent Show. Special events that have taken place in previous years include an on-site carnival as well as other corporate sponsored activities.

Campers are expected to participate in activities as much as physically possible. Camp activities are geared to be fun but totally wholesome and to promote independence and growth on the part of the individual camper. This helps the camper develop a trusting relationship in a new environment, explore their full potential, and learn more about themselves.

The philosophy of DCI is to be of service to and to exist for the benefit of the ESRD patient. DCI promotes the overall well being of its patients and their families by supporting them in developing lives that are as normal as possible under the circumstances. Camp Okawehna is an integral part of the plan for the pediatric renal patient.