



ELLIJAY LIONS CLUB

P.O. Box 746 • Ellijay, Georgia 30540 • (706) 635-5900

July 13, 2017

Mike Williams
Executive Director
Georgia Lions Camp, Inc.
5626 Laura Walker Road
Waycross, GA. 31503-6488

Dear Mike,

This past Tuesday evening, June 11th, the Ellijay Lions Club of Ellijay, Georgia was privileged to have one Owen Mann and his immediate family as our dinner guests during our regular meeting in the Lions Den. Owen was our principal speaker for the evening program.

It was our privilege to sponsor Owen Mann, age seven for a week at the Lions Camp June 11 through June 16, 2017. He was accompanied by his grandmother, Kathy Mann. We have now learned that his grandfather, Darrell also was involved. Seems he took a room in Waycross, but came to camp each day and helped wherever he was needed.

As you know, Owen completely lost his eye sight at the age of six. He eagerly wished to experience spending days and evenings with other blind children. A family friend actually instituted the request for our financial help in making this desire come true.

Last Tuesday evening, the family made a power-point presentation of their experiences at the Lions Camp; and detailed the various activities in which Owen was actively involved. One activity that drew everyone's attention was the fire safety program which instructed blind children to evacuate a burning home or other building.

The key point that we wish to make regards the administration and staff of the Georgia Lions Camp. Owen's grandfather said it best: "I cannot find adequate words to praise the Camp Staff for their daily devotion and caring attitude exhibited toward the campers." That says a bunch!!!

Owen Mann will enter the first grade this coming Fall semester. He will be the only totally blind student in the Fannin County School System. He is diligent in his quest to master Braille. The school system is gearing up with the Braille system and scrambling to obtain the teaching staff and acquiring the necessary tools to properly manage Owen's handicap now and for the future.

Owen Mann is so young; but he seems committed to accept his blindness and undertake whatever is necessary to be an active and intelligent student and, one day, become a responsible adult citizen of his community.

After spending an evening with Owen Mann, we Lions feel that his week at Georgia Lions Camp fortified him with additional confidence in his quest to be "just like everybody else" in every regard.

I asked Owen if he would like to go to camp next year. His response was a resounding "YES!!!

Well, if he wishes to return, and he is welcome, the Ellijay Lions Club is committed to making his return to the Georgia Lions Camp a reality.

Mike, we wish to express our profound gratitude to you and all of the staff members involved in making Owen Mann's visit to camp a pleasant and memorable event. Thank you!!!!!!!!!!

Respectfully,



W.T. (Bill) Leinmiller

Treasurer

Ellijay Lions Club Charities, Inc.

✓cc: PCC Olin C. Newby / Camp Chairman
cc: Peg Densmore / President / Ellijay Lions Club, Inc.
cc: Teri Chambers Rice / District Governor 18-L