

Donations Boost Camp COCO Fund

Camp COCO (Children's Oncology Camp Organization) recently received \$11,740.95 from the Illinois Ladies Auxiliary, Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW). Camp COCO is a summer camp for children with cancer and blood disorders sponsored by SIU School of Medicine Department of Pediatrics.

Campers Alexa and Miles Horton accepted the check on behalf of Camp COCO from VFW Ladies Auxiliary President Mary Ann Coffee.

Coffee made Camp COCO her "special project" for this year, and the 36,000 members of the Illinois Ladies Auxiliary organized dinners, raffles and cookbooks to raise the funds.

"I've always had an interest in doing things for children," says Coffee, a two-time cancer survivor. "I want to give children with cancer some great memories of camp."

Although VFW Ladies Auxiliary is a new Camp COCO donor, on a national level, the Auxiliary has raised approximately three million dollars for cancer research over 14 consecutive years.

Numerous other donations are helping the Camp's endowment grow, including two \$10,000 gifts, one from The John Mueth, Jr. Trust and the other from The Midwest Charity Horse Show, both regular donors to the Camp.

Donations entirely fund Camp COCO, includ-



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ing costs for the nearly 80 children ages 6-16 who attend camp each year. This year's camp will be held July 13-19 at Timber Pointe Outdoor Center on Lake Bloomington. ■

Fall Alumni Campaign Raises \$40,000

An impressive \$40,000 was pledged last fall through the School of Medicine's alumni campaign. Approximately \$25,700 was designated for the alumni scholarship fund, while other gifts were targeted for the Student Resource Fund, the medical school library, the Medical/Dental Education Preparatory Program (MED-PREP) and other areas.

Student scholarships will be awarded beginning this summer and will be based on students' financial need.

The spring alumni campaign will begin in early April. Funds raised through this campaign are geared toward further supporting the scholarship fund. ■