

# Treasures of Heaven Family Camp



7<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> July 2015  
Camberg, Germany  
Participants and staff: 38

**Main staff and educators**  
**1st Gen:** Lisa Janssen,  
Maria Pammer, David Hanna,  
Burgy Celi  
**2nd Gen:** Kleemens  
Hoffman, Grace Barata

***The Treasures of Heaven Ministry in the European Blessed Family Department was created to provide a care and support network for families with children with mental and physical disabilities.***

This unique summer camp was the third of its kind in Europe, designed to support 2<sup>nd</sup> generation with physical or mental special needs, which would inhibit them from joining in with other activities independently. Our TOH participants were therefore supported by both their parents and 2<sup>nd</sup> generation volunteers, which brought a wonderful family dimension to the workshop. We were able to enjoy at least one session all together each day, whilst also giving space for parents and children to follow separate programs that catered to their specific needs.

## **Basic schedule and main activities**

The Second Generation (TOH participants and their buddies) enjoyed a varied and flexible program of art therapy, music therapy, dance and games. One afternoon was spent swimming and playing beach volleyball at the pool. Time was also set aside for more internal content, including talks from the second generation staff about the summer motto, an introduction to the prayer room, as well as small group discussions about the blessing (with those for whom it was appropriate).

The first generation (parents and staff) participated in sessions focusing on strategies to help cope with some of the challenges that might be faced, took time out to share and receive guidance, and also participated in art therapy sessions, which connected to the work of some of their children.

Amongst the highlights of the workshop were the sessions that were spent all together. These included a camp fire and family evening which featured excellent entertainment from our talented parents (former Go World Brass Band members) and the TOH participants themselves!



## **Overall feeling and conclusions**

Overall, the workshop was a great success; so much so that it has inspired the organisers to run it every year instead of every 2 years. It was wonderful for the TOH participants to be able to participate and express themselves in a workshop environment. It was eye opening for the second generation volunteers, who were given a unique opportunity to get to know our vibrant participants, and who very naturally helped to create a free and accepting family atmosphere. It was necessary for the parents as it created an environment where they could take time out of the stresses of daily life to relax, whilst simultaneously creating a stronger support network. Many thanks to all the staff and generous financial contributions, which made this important workshop possible!