



CREATION VACATION

Creation Vacation has been offering families a respite for renewal since 1997. Each year we serve as many as 130 parents and 360 children - that's 490 in all! *Creation Vacation* events are now held at Sawtooth, Wallowa Lake, Suttle Lake, Latgawa, & Magruder. Families come from Salem, Portland, Ontario, Tillamook, Nampa and Pocatello. Each family is supported by a Family Friend - 120 great volunteers donating over 6,000 volunteer hours!

"It brings my family together. We smile more and the time just flies by without EVER being bored. It's also beautiful and peaceful."

All families participating in *Creation Vacation* are extremely low-income. Even though most are employed, they don't have enough income to meet their basic needs - even for food. With no extra funds for recreation, many families have never enjoyed a vacation together.

"We are closer now, more like a family. We are connected once again. We still sing the silly camp songs, share the memories, enjoy the pictures, and keep a watchful eye on the bird house we built at camp."

Creation Vacation strengthens families with positive experiences outdoors.

Creation Vacation changes churches through friendships that create new spaces for new people.





Creation Vacation

- ♦ Families have a respite from the stresses of daily living in poverty. Most of these women make heroic daily efforts to preserve their families. However, because of their inadequate financial resources, this can result in extraordinary stress. The change of scene and benefits of the Creation Vacation program are critical to reflecting and making decisions to improve their family life back home.
- ♦ Parents and their children have unstructured time together with relatively few demands. Families get quality family time. There are no TVs, no phones and no worries about meeting their needs for that day. Families get the chance to be at their best with each other and to rediscover their common worth and the reasons they love and value each other. Parents and children both experience improved self-esteem.
- ♦ Parents get extraordinary support and positive modeling for relationship building. They benefit from the unconditional acceptance of their Family Friends. Family Friends listen well and provide helpful insights. Children play in an environment where respect, kindness and fun are the norms.
- ♦ Parents and their children build positive memories which can provide hope and direction back home. Throughout the year, parents and children draw from the benefits of these few days of vacation. Family routines change to provide more time together. Family attitudes change to expect loving and caring behavior from each other. Family schedules change to make it possible to get some refreshing time out together.