



Barton County Board of Trustees  
Barton County Community College  
245 NE 30 RD  
Great Bend, KS 67530

Dear Sirs:

For the past 28 years, Camp Aldrich has been the home of the American Cancer Society's Camp Hope, a week-long camp for children who have, or have had, cancer. Initially the Camp Hope committee viewed Camp Aldrich as the perfect facility to host camp because it was centrally located, easy to find and the college and Barton County community felt pride in hosting this special camp. Over time, the needs of our camp have changed, and fortunately for Camp Hope and Barton County Community College, donors have stepped in to make the enhancements that were necessary for us to continue to stay at Camp Aldrich. These enhancements include:

Bath house  
Basketball court and goals  
Melani's Garden  
Trees  
Air conditioning  
Playground equipment  
Fire pit

These enhancements – with the dollar value of well over \$100,000-- were made to Camp Aldrich only because of its relationship to Camp Hope. Donors provided funds for the enhancements so Camp Hope would benefit; however, the fact is that many, many other camps and groups have benefitted from these enhancements as well.

The face of cancer has changed and the needs of children with cancer have changed. Camp Hope is growing and with that growth brings capacity issues. The American Cancer Society Camp Hope has never had to turn a child away because of camp capacity or the condition of the facilities. However, unless there are changes made to Camp Aldrich, we may be facing the reality of denying campers the opportunities that are associated with Camp Hope. We also may be facing the need to consider other camp sites.

The condition of the facilities is an issue. Based on infection control requirements, it is not acceptable to have immune-compromised children using outdoor restroom facilities. Two of the cabins used to house campers at Camp Aldrich do not have restrooms. In addition, the overall cleanliness of the cabins, kitchen, pool house and dining hall has drastically deteriorated over the past few years.

All in all, Camp Aldrich is showing its age. If a significant investment is not made in the facility, the Camp Hope committee will be forced to find another location to host Camp Hope. Camp Hope has its roots and identity linked to Camp Aldrich. The campers and volunteers would have difficulty even imagining Camp Hope located at any place other than Camp Aldrich.

Representatives from the American Cancer Society and Camp Hope are willing to discuss the issues with the Barton County Board of Trustees. However, the American Cancer Society cannot provide the funding associated with necessary changes.

It is our desire to stay at Camp Aldrich. It is our hope that these changes can be addressed in order to provide an adequate and safe environment for Camp Hope.

I can be reached at 620.343.6800, ext. 5640.

Sincerely,



Judith Calhoun, PhD, ARNP  
Camp Hope Committee Chair