

Legacy Summary – Camp New Hope

We chose Camp New Hope for our legacy project, located in Neoga, IL. Camp New Hope is a respite care campus designated for family members and caregivers to bring their loved ones with unique physical and intellectual needs. This camp is run voluntarily by Debra, who has an intellectually disabled daughter herself. She gains extra help from volunteers who assist with toileting, bathing, grooming, feeding, and participating in fun activities with the campers.

During our visit to Camp New Hope, I was able to care directly for a camper who needed full assistance with toileting, one-to-one observation, and feedings. Upon our arrival, we assisted Debra with making the beds & greeting the campers as they arrived. I prepared scrambled eggs for breakfast and enjoyed eating breakfast with the campers. Debra gave us a tour around the entire campus and explained her vision for Camp New Hope. I learned a lot over two days because I realized the importance for Camp New Hope to remain open if possible. The effort and time that made Camp New Hope a safe and fun environment were unmatched. It also gives the family and caregivers opportunities to enjoy a small weekend break and tend to themselves from time to time.