

Expanding The Perimeter Of Living
For Stroke Victims And Their Families

Edward C. Hutchinson
Leonard L. LaPonte

University of Florida

and

Veterans Administration Hospital
Gainesville, Florida

The purpose of this presentation was to outline a suggested model for short-term, intensive residential guidance for stroke victims and their families. Camp Challenge, located in the orange groves of rural Central Florida is a complete residential camping facility designed for use by the handicapped and provides the setting for a unique annual week-long counselling experience for stroke victims and their families. This program has existed for 10 years and has been funded by the Florida Easter Seal Society, Heart Association, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation and the voluntary services of a variety of professionals from more than a half dozen disciplines.

Approximately 25 families attend annually and receive the professional attention of speech pathologists, occupational and physical therapists, dieticians, neurologists, physiatrists, vocational counsellors, recreational therapists, water safety and swimming instructors and others.

The stroke week at Camp Challenge has two primary and relatively equal goals: 1) to provide intensive counselling and cross-disciplinary appraisal and diagnostic information; and 2) to provide a unique opportunity for socialization and recreation for families who have had limited social experiences since the onset of stroke.

To convey the flavor of the camp, the primary medium of this presentation was narrated video tape of the facilities and services at Camp Challenge. The presentation was descriptive, rather than data-based.

The intent of this tape was to convey information on the benefits and unique rewards of this camping experience and to stimulate others to generate similar programs in states where camping facilities for the handicapped may already exist.