



Helen Muniz is a retired teacher and reading specialist with a Masters degree from Rutgers. She has a particular interest in helping disadvantaged youth and has spent countless hours volunteering in this area. She currently lives at Winchester Gardens in Maplewood, New Jersey and is an active member of the beautiful Morrow Memorial United Methodist Church. She is pictured here with one of her four great-grandchildren, Christian.

In the 1990s, a homeless young man living in New Jersey was found guilty of a horrendous crime. The act was so vicious that virtually everyone was calling for the death penalty ... everyone, that is, except for me.

You see, I knew this young man personally. When he was just a boy he was one of my precious little students. I knew things about his past that few others were aware of: the heartless way in which he was raised, the torments he suffered, the extreme poverty which he endured. It was enough to break anyone's heart. And I would have given anything to be able to protect him from the influences that so horribly scarred his soul.

This is the primary reason I endorse The Camp*aign for American Kids. The Camp*aign exists to raise awareness of the important work of our nation's network of **Joey**s (Joint Outdoor-Ecumenical Youth programs).

You see, the **Joey** experience provides children with a brand new level of hope. Above all, and regardless of a child's background, the **Joey** experience equips a child with an idyllic point of reference that they will never, ever forget.

No matter how difficult life may become, **Joey** kids know from personal experience that there is indeed something better out there for them. They have witnessed adults and youngsters interacting with genuine care. They have been immersed in the tranquility of God's creation. They have been surrounded with peace, beauty, and security. These early impressions become deeply imbedded in their souls ... and remain with them throughout their lifetime.

Furthermore, because our nation's network of **Joey**s has the capacity to help prepare *hundreds of thousands* of children at a time, they are our nation's best hope for instilling America's young people with key survival values, such as, kindness, moderation, faith, teamwork and responsibility.

As a mother, grandmother, great-grandmother and teacher of hundreds of children, most of whom had many problems, I've fought for children all of my life. The battle for the minds and hearts of America's youth is now more critical than ever. That's why I support The Camp*aign for American Kids. Won't you please join us? For more information please visit www.ForAmericanKids.org or, call 804-266-7130 today! Thank you.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Helen L. Muniz
Maplewood, New Jersey