Camp Care-A-Lot doesn’t stop caring about its campers when the summer ends.

The long-time Central Illinois residential camp also offers scholarships to former campers to further educational opportunities. Recently, after working with the Community Foundation, a scholarship fund was established to continue to grow this effort. Camp Care-A-Lot’s mission is to teach children to deal with anger, aggression and despair, and to care about themselves, others, their country, community, and environment.

The camp was founded in 1993 and operates a week-long residential summer camp for children 6-10 years of age from no or low-income families.
Providing opportunities for students to grow in higher education

“Camp Care-A-Lot is a unique blend of traditional residential camp activities and educational opportunities for success,” camp founder Eydee Schultz said.

“Campers thrive when surrounded by adults who share their caring and who role model respect, responsibility, kindness, and leadership. Getting a good education and being a good citizen is stressed in all activities each day.”

The activities let the campers know that adults care about them, and campers are given a safe, nurturing environment with meals and opportunities for new experiences.

“People ask me what motivates me to continue my education, and I tell them it all started when I attended Camp Care-A-Lot. It shaped me into the caring person I am today,” said former camper Kelsea Currie.

The camp began awarding scholarships to former campers almost 15 years ago. The scholarships are for students to attend an accredited college, university or trade school as a full-time student. To be eligible, students must obtain at least a 2.0 GPA on a 4.0 scale in high school or any post-secondary education already completed, show financial need and be former campers.

“Camp Care-A-Lot has always been important to me, because it taught me that I could do great things despite the struggles I was facing,” said 2019 scholarship winner and current Illinois College student Mackenzie Prewitt.

“It gave me the confidence to do something with my life and help others, which is why I’m now in college working toward that goal.”

In 2017, Camp Care-A-Lot merged with Compass for Kids, which now operates the Camp Care-A-Lot summer camp in addition to its summer learning program, Camp Compass.

“When Compass for Kids added Camp Care-A-Lot as a program, we wanted to honor its tradition of awarding scholarships to former campers, and we are grateful that the Community Foundation made it so easy to establish the Camp Care-A-Lot Scholarship Fund,” said Brooke Thomas, president of the board of directors for Compass for Kids, Inc.

For more information on how to contribute to the Camp Care-A-Lot Scholarship Fund, please contact the Community Foundation at 217.789.4431 or visit CFLL.org.