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FROST VALLEY YMCA
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Frost Valley Partners with Clarke Schools to Serve Children with Hearing Loss

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CLARYVILLE — Frost Valley YMCA is pleased to announce a partnership with Clarke Schools for Hearing and Speech. This exciting development will allow Frost Valley, a renowned summer camp in the Catskills of New York, to better serve campers with hearing loss and will ensure that every child will have all of the equipment and support necessary so that they are able to enjoy a traditional camp experience alongside their peers with typical hearing.

For 150 years, Clarke Schools for Hearing and Speech has taught children who are deaf or hard of hearing to listen and talk. Children served by Clarke use hearing technology (including cochlear implants or hearing aids) to maximize their access to sound, and with individualized support from Clarke's hearing professionals, many are ready to attend their neighborhood mainstream schools by kindergarten.

Frost Valley's prestigious legacy as a premier outdoor camping center since 1885 makes this partnership a very exciting prospect for families seeking a mainstream camping experience for their child who is deaf or hard of hearing. And with over 30 years' experience running summer camps for students with hearing loss, Clarke is well-poised to help establish a supportive setting at Frost Valley and train the people who will be working with the children— providing continued support to staff and ensuring that the children are having a great camp experience.

"One of the best parts of Frost Valley YMCA's summer camps is campers getting to enjoy being a kid. We value creating a camp community that is inclusive of all. Our new partnership with Clarke will help us serve children with hearing loss who communicate using listening and spoken language," said Dan Weir, Director of Camping Services.

"Frost Valley's values of diversity, inclusiveness and respect are what we strive for when mainstreaming a student with hearing loss," said Claire Troiano, Director of Mainstream Services at Clarke. "So our expertise with hearing loss, coupled with Frost Valley's values, offers kids with hearing loss the opportunity to have a blast at one of the top summer camp programs in the country."

The partnership will take place for Session 3 of Summer Camp (July 30-Augst 11), during which a teacher of the deaf from Clarke will be present on site for the entirety of the session.

Photos and interviews are available upon request. Please contact Director of Marketing and Communications Amanda Hinski at AHinski@FrostValley.org. To learn more about Clarke, please contact Claire Troiano at ctroiano@clarkeschoos.org.

About Frost Valley YMCA
Frost Valley YMCA is a values-driven organization that fosters youth development, healthy living, and social responsibility through outdoor educational and recreational programs for all. Located in the heart of the Catskill Mountains, Frost Valley provides year-round access to nature and fun through programs such as summer camp, adventure trips, farm camp, equestrian programs, group and family retreats, school trips, teambuilding and more. Frost Valley is guided in this pursuit by its core values which serve as pathways for guests as they bond with nature and each other: Caring, Community, Diversity, Honesty, Inclusiveness, Respect, Responsibility, and Stewardship.

About Clarke Schools for Hearing and Speech
Clarke teaches children who are deaf or hard of hearing to listen and talk. Children served by Clarke use advanced technologies, including cochlear implants or hearing aids, to maximize their access to sound. We work with children and their families from infancy through their teen years. Our teachers of the deaf, speech-language pathologists and audiologists have the background, training and experience to prepare children academically and socially for a world of limitless possibilities. Clarke children listen and learn in the classroom, run and laugh with their friends on the playground and have lives filled with music, sports, family and community. Many children who come to Clarke are ready to attend their neighborhood mainstream schools by kindergarten.

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