

Hubert and Muriel Humphrey were longtime friends of Camp Courage. In 1955 they had donated \$283 won on the television game show “Masquerade Party” to the camp. They dressed as Minnehaha and Hiawatha and stumped the panel trying to guess their identities. Humphrey did it again in 1958, dressed as a University of Minnesota football player, donating \$500 to the camp.

In 1959 Humphrey helped to acquire a 17-acre island adjacent to Camp Courage from the Department of the Interior. Funds donated by the Humphreys were used to buy the property, originally known as Mink Island, later named Humphrey Island. The island was developed into an overnight camping and nature study site, as described by Melvin P. Vollhaber, St. Paul, longtime board member, volunteer, and member of the Minnesota Moose Association:

The Moose Association gave the Society \$10,000 to develop the island. Volunteers came from many different chapters, and we hauled lumber over on an old pontoon boat in the summer and by truck on the ice in the winter. We worked on weekends, and my wife said, “There must be something to this program you’re involved in—you’ve missed two summers of golf!”

Well, we built the shelter using hand tools and makeshift hoists. Then we had to build a cement floor. I went to Buffalo and said to the cement man, “I need some cement for Camp Courage for the island project.” And he agreed, so I said, “Follow me.” So we drive and drive and drive, and stop in a farmer’s yard and look at the shore of the island, and he says, “Where is it going?” And I point to the island and say, “Over there.” Then he said to me, “You must be insane.” You see, there was a sandbar, and we knew he could drive on it to the island—we had been driving it with an old army duck. We put stakes along the sandbar to show him where to drive and he said, “Well, okay. I’m just as crazy as you.” So he got the cement over there and drove the truck back. I say, “Thanks a lot, pal.” He looks at me and says, “Don’t call me. I’ll call you.”

It has been a great experience, being involved with Camp Courage. We all had such faith that it would work out, and it did. The early clubs provided the motivation for others to follow.