

REPORT OF DIRECTOR OF CAMPING MINISTRIES

Summer Camp 2017

This summer we were able to share the camping experience with 280 young people.

We were blessed to have the opportunity to open Canonicus to another group from Hasbro Children's Hospital. I was approached last September about providing a camping experience, much as we have been doing for the Take a Breath Camp for 20 years. This time it is with a research group, they brought 32 youth and 33 research staff for a week of day camp, including two meals. For some of these kids, it is the only time they get to run around in the fresh air and play. The week went very well; the campers, our staff and their staff all had a great time. Plans are in the works for continuing and possibly expanding the program to include overnight campers, as well.

Some highlights from the summer:

- We certified eight staff in Lifeguard/First aide/CPR.
- We had our accreditation review with American Camping Association. We are happy to announce we passed and remain an accredited camp.
- The majority of the staff this summer were returning staff from last summer—some into new roles and some into leadership.
- We, through funding from RIBES, introduced a mentorship program; two staff participated. The staff spent time during the summer talking with camp pastors as a starting point to help discern if they may feel called to ministry and what that may look like in God's plan for them. The program was insightful and beneficial for the staff; we are excited to continue it for the 2018 summer.
- We reintroduced fellowship builders as a program this past summer. The campers spend the week doing service projects on camp. This summer the group worked in collaboration with one of the Canonicus rental groups, BoldRdash, that was hosting a Color Run on the property. Together they cleared trails and improved footbridges. (There are now several continuous trails throughout the property.)
- We did NOT have to call for an ambulance at all. 😊
- The greatest highlight is seeing the joy on the faces of staff and campers as they are able to enjoy the property, learn more about God and his love, and grow into who they are without judgement or worry.

Plans for summer 2018 are well underway. We are looking forward to some new offerings and expanding on some trusted favorites.

Thank you for the continued opportunity and blessing to be able to serve as the director of this wonderful and life-changing ministry.

Deborah Guilmain,
Director of Camping Ministries