

CAMP LAKE LOUISE Michelle Hauch & Kathi Oom

What an honor it is to share with you a small glimpse of what God is doing at Camp Lake Louise. We had the privilege to work with over 500 campers this summer and we hope you get to see into some of the lives that were changed during this 2017 Annual Report. We are so grateful for the ABC-MI churches as you pray, serve, and financially support the work God is doing.

Camp Lake Louise continues to be a Christian summer camp for kids and adults of all ages who long for fun and peace. We create tailored and Christ-centered experiences that awaken wonder and cause growth. This is possible because of the beautiful environment, the care of the staff, and of course unique surprise encounters with the Father heart of God. We have been creating adventures and memories for over 80 years, and believe the greatest harvest is yet to come.

We heard from one mom who said, "My son loves (Camp Lake Louise) and has given up prestigious sports opportunities just to go each year. This camp strengthened his faith and gave him new friends. As a fatherless child, it has given him male role models. He has a blast with all the activities!" We heard from the parents of one of our John 9 campers who said having the time together as a couple blessed them and allowed them to focus on their marriage which is helping them to stay married. Sometimes it is the smallest of things that reaches a camper and allows them to see the Father heart of God. We had one camper come who has been homeless most of his life and life on the streets is incredibly unpredictable. Eating and sleeping are largely dependent on your day to day circumstances. When asked what his favorite part of camp was he said, "I like the structure. We got up at a certain time. We ate at a certain time. We did activities at a certain time." This same camper commented to the cook the first day, "Wow, we get to eat three meals today! Are we going to get to do this every day?" What a joy to be able to give this boy his basic needs for the week and also share with him how loved he is by the Father!

This year we are updating the barn roof and adding some fun items to the waterfront. We made a few upgrades in the kitchen as well. We are researching a new dock, playground equipment, and a few other facility updates. We continue to raise funds for the barrier free path around camp. We are looking at several projects for the upcoming year including an updated men's bathhouse and new welcome center and health office.

We long to partner with churches around the state. We know camp is a tool that can be used by the church to help plant seeds of the Father's heart in campers, but we need a place for them to plug in weekly to help those seeds grow. It is our desire to partner with churches and help each camper grow while at camp, but have a faith community surrounding them and their family when they return home. Our prayer is that by working together we can awaken wonder and cause growth. We saw great growth in our programs this year and pray we can partner with churches to see this growth continue throughout the year.