

Hey, Camp friends!

"So, how is Camp Lebanon doing? I mean, really?" For eight months, it's been the most frequently asked question. And we are so thankful!

In these uncertain days of COVID and social unrest, this question comes to us like a BIG HUG from friends and guests who deeply care about Camp's ministry. What's more, sharing the honest answer leads to encouraging conversations about Camp's vision and God's provision.

Before addressing the question, your friends at Camp Lebanon would like to extend our love and best wishes to <u>YOU</u> and your family. The pandemic's

disruptions no doubt have touched your world, too. We pray over you the blessing from Numbers 6 that we've shared with guests all fall: "May the LORD bless you and keep you; The LORD make His face shine on you and be gracious to you; The LORD turn His face toward you and give you peace!" May God's favor and blessing be on you.

**So, how is Camp doing?** The full answer has three parts.

We are *stressed*. Shutting down for three months was frightening. Cancelling summer youth events was heart-breaking. Planning for winter and beyond is unnerving. Financially, Camp took a hit and our team is down two FT staff. While thankful to do ministry, fall capacity was reduced and cancellations (especially the last two quilt retreats!) left big holes.

We are *blessed*. Initially faced with a \$600,000 crater, Camp continues to receive "manna from Heaven." First, Camp was allowed to reopen as a Summer Family Resort for 400+ families. Second, a forgivable Payroll Protection Program loan provided \$205K. Third, Camp's loss of revenue insurance policy paid out \$140K. Fourth, the Wiffleball "Swing for Summer!" HR Derby in June (see photo) amassed 4104 (wow!) homers and \$18,000 for ministry. And more, in August friends shouted, "I LOVE CAMP!" in a campaign that raised \$90,000! All year we've seen amazing friends do amazing things to advance this amazing work. With a strong year-end response Camp will finish a wild 2020 on solid footing.

We are *focused*. Our team of staff, leaders, and partners earnestly seeks God's way forward through this crisis, trusting Him for the wisdom and resources to build a strong financial, organizational, and emotional **BRIDGE TO SUMMER 2021**. Without the PPP and insurance funding, 2021 looks to be a financially negative year. Thankfully, Camp has emergency reserves, no debt, and more importantly, partners who care enough to ask important questions.

And now two questions for you. First, <u>would you kindly consider a generous year-end gift</u> to help Camp launch winter and spring ministries? Lord willing, we hope to serve 1000 guests in January and February, mostly teenagers! Gifts of all sizes make a huge difference. Secondly, <u>would you pray</u>? Dreams are still alive at Camp Lebanon! In fact, we are seriously contemplating a couple of spring projects that will propel the ministry forward, even in the midst of COVID.

Thanks in advance for helping Camp shine a bright light for the Gospel of Jesus Christ!

## Bie Aben

## I/We want to help Camp build the bridge to Summer 2021!

To give online, simply go to www.camplebanon.org/donate

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