

Camp Lebanon News



FEBRUARY 2021

The Official Newsletter of Camp Lebanon

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www.camplebanon.org

MINISTRIES REPORT

Record Year-End Donations Launch New Year!



After a wild, challenging 2020, what does 2021 hold? Thankfully, that question can be left at throne of the Sovereign King. One known fact: Camp is starting the year on **solid financial footing** thanks to Almighty God's provision through the incredible generosity of friends and church partners. In December alone, 321 donors contributed over **\$142,000** in donations, including \$8818 from an estate gift and \$114,544.50 from over 200 special year-end donations. Contributions ranged from \$5 to \$25,000, the average topping \$440. "It's both humbling and inspiring," reflects Executive Director Bill Abeler. "Back in April, we were staring at a \$600,000 crater and, thanks be to God, Camp finished in the black. The goal was to build a bridge to next summer and we're half way there!" In reflecting back over 2020, three truths stand out. First, **God continues to have big plans** for advancing His kingdom through the ministries of Camp Lebanon. Second, **Camp's friends desperately want to see the ministry continue**. And third, **leadership is encouraged to move forward** with planning for spring, summer, and beyond! In fact, plans are coming together to build the North 40 gym, Lord willing, in 2021. *Stay tuned!*

Camp Reopens for Winter Ministry

The Governor's mid-November mandate to close public accommodations like Camp Lebanon was devastating - for guests and staff! Sadly, that ruling shut down the last two sessions of Fall Quilt, which featured six retreats and the 30th Anniversary Celebration of an amazing ministry. Fall ministries had already been reduced in size and several groups cancelled altogether. With the winter in doubt, annual favorites, like Mega Fun, YAR Winter, and Women's Winter Warm Up, were taken off the schedule. Such was the end of a difficult and faith-stretching year. Ah, but did you hear the big **"WOO HOO!"** that boomed from Camp later in December? Local health officials reopened Camp for winter retreat ministries, albeit in a modified format involving changes in food service, guest groupings (called "pods") and large group gatherings. The New Year opened with two small but super fun Winter Family Resort weekends with youth retreats soon to follow. However big the opening, Camp strives to shine the brightest light possible for the Gospel. Thanks for praying us onward and upward!



PRAISE & PRAY!

- **PRAISE! JANUARY GIFTS ADD TO THE YEAR END BLESSING!**
- **PRAISE! REVENUE HELP:** \$205K PPP loan 100% forgiven! 2nd opportunity pending.
- **PRAISE! QUILT & SCRAPBOOK:** Celebrating 30 years! March sessions almost full.
- **PRAISE! WINTER FAMILY RESORT:** Super fun start to the New Year for 15 families.
- **PRAY! Coronavirus:** Wisdom, protection, and grace to serve whomever God sends.
- **PRAY! Future Planning:** Winter season challenges; spring and summer events.
- **PRAY! Annual Meeting of the Membership on 2/27:** Unity, confident steps forward.

INBOX Blessings

NOTES FROM OUR FRIENDS

"We're excited to get back to Camp some time soon, but for now we wanted to share this gift hoping it's a blessing in these hard COVID times. Keep Jesus first as you lead the ministry. Praying for you!"

"We LOVE Camp!" D & L, donors

"Thanks for taking care to follow CDC guidelines. In a time when our church is going through a difficult time with COVID restrictions, the Winter Family Resort has been a time of worship and refreshment. Thank you!!!"

STAFF UPDATE

Unto Us...Children!

It's a boy...and a girl! Facilities Mngr. **Shane Hollenbeck** and wife Melinda welcomed **Caleb James** on 11/9. The "little" guy weighed in at 9 pounds 5 ounces and 21.5." Six weeks later on 12/18, Sous Chef **Tony Cluka** and wife, Shelly, were blessed with a 9 pound 10 ounce, 20.5" **Hazel Freyja**. PTL for four healthy staff babies!



Camp's Christmas Gift Warms Hearts & Toes

Camp's "Christmas present" arrived in a BIG box! Thanks to many generous memorial gifts honoring beloved family members PLUS the timely help of several skilled volunteers, the new Warming House is ready for Hazzard Tubing Hill! The 9' x 18' trailer features a pine interior, LP heat, and many windows. Post-winter the "Club House on Wheels" will be rolled to Sunset Cove for three-season use as a mini Creation Center and cabin destination. So much fun! *Thank you!!!*



FALL HIGHLIGHTS

Sept. 11-13	Mother- Daughter	135 guests (FULL!)
Sept. 14-17	Young at Heart	29 guests. So sweet!
Sept. 15	Fall Senior Day	Cancelled due to COVID
Sept. 18-20	Dads N Lads	99 campers. Super Fun!
	Dads N Daughters	Cancelled due to COVID
	Men's Retreat	Cancelled due to COVID
	Women's Retreats	Cancelled due to COVID
Sept. 24-27	Women's RESTORE	115 guests, 10 churches
Oct. 2-4	Fall Fire! (gr. 9-12)	69 teens/leaders
Oct. 15-20	MEA Quilt Retreat	60 quilters! Great time.
Oct. 29 - Nov. 3	Quilt A	82 women
Nov. 5-10	Quilt B	89 women
Nov. 12-17	Quilt C	53 women
Nov. 19-24	Quilt & Scrapbook D	CANCELLED
Dec. 3-8	Quilt E	CANCELLED



2021 WINTER SCHEDULE UPDATE

Dec. 31 - Jan. 3	New Year's Family Resort	7 families
January 8-10	Winter Family Resort 2	8 families
February 5-7	Arctic Blast (grades 7-12)	
February 12-14	Winter Family Resort 3	
February 27	Annual Meeting of the Membership	
Quilt & Scrap Retreats	Four sessions: March 4-30	HURRY!

For details and to register, visit Camp's new and improved website!