Camp Wakonda's Quarterly Newsletter July-Sept 2022

THE BEAM

We Had a Great Summer!

The 2022 summer program focused on "God's Boundless Nature" as summarized in Ephesians 3:18-19: "I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God." Over the week, counselors taught campers about God's boundless goodness, love, welcome, forgiveness, and generosity.

Additionally, thanks to a Matthew 25 grant from the Synod of the Covenant, our "Senior Sacred: Around the Campfire" program dove deep into conversations around racial reconciliation and economic injustices.

One of the delights of this summer was welcoming our international staff from Mexico, Colombia, and Brazil (four of these returned from last year!), as well as twelve staff members from the United States. We also had a wonderful group of seven staff assistants who gave of their time to volunteer at Wakonda. Overall, we had an incredible staff to serve and care for campers and guests. We also were blessed to welcome five campers through the Angel Tree program, which makes camp possible for children of incarcerated parents.

We continue to have amazing guest groups utilizing Camp Wakonda: Jackson Cross Country, Lake Cross Country, Northwest Band, Royal Family Kids Camp, Faith United Methodist Church, Malone Chorale, Boy Scout Troop 265, Rick Angeli's Scouts & Cubscouts, Lee Lavery family, and the CPC Women's Retreat.

And even though we had two camp weeks impacted by COVID (one canceled and one ending early), we still welcomed 590 guests since last year (and we anticipate more!). The real joy of Wakonda is the children, including one camper, who (even though her week ended after three days because of COVID) said: "that was the best week of my whole life." Thanks be to God!

Camp Wakonda, a ministry of Christ Presbyterian Church in Canton, OH
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Shalom!

Task Force UPDATE

Camp Wakonda has done a lot this past year! The Wakonda Task Force finished its work on a new strategic plan (available at http://wakondacamp.org/a-place-of-play-and-prayer.html). This team also created a new Wakonda Board that will oversee the implementation of this plan; this board started meeting over Zoom this summer.

Simultaneously, camp has begun planning for a three-year capital campaign, "Pass It On," to be launched this fall. This campaign seeks:

- to improve our buildings and outdoor spaces to be more welcoming and reflective of Wakonda's five practices of Praying Daily, Experiencing Scripture, Playing, Finding Quiet, and Working Together;
- to upgrade and add innovations that are environmentally friendly and allow us to be better stewards of creation;
- to expand our impact and reach in sharing the Kingdom of God with the wider community and world

Look for information about this campaign starting in October!

How to Help Wakonda:

- **Pray** for our board by name! Jennifer Souers Chevraux (chair), Courtney Wallace (vice-chair), Julia Frankland (treasurer), Carol Boeryd (secretary), Romy Anderson, Lakisha Cundiff, Stevan Patterson, Janet Ziol, Craig Joseph, Kaity Kline, Rev. Ben George (ex-officio)
- Check out Wakonda's **Amazon wish list** here!
- Become a one-time or monthly donor to Wakonda!

THANK YOU!