Camp Wakonda's Quarterly Newsletter July-Sept 2023

THE BEAM

Joyful Noises at Camp Wakonda

Shrieks of delight... Ludicrously loud silly songs... Beautiful acapella praise choruses... Buzzing bugs... The clattering of dishes being cleaned up... Melodious tones of the wind chime... Breaking of bread... Heartfelt prayers... These are a few of the sounds I heard at Camp Wakonda this July.

As a board member, I saw a hard-working staff serving a lively constituency of children and their families. I witnessed happy reunions of longtime camp families as well as the nervous excitement of first-time campers. I had the pleasure of witnessing Zack White, our new Assistant Director, working hard and joining right in to support and lead the staff. His passion for people and camp ministry is apparent.

As a parent, I was delighted to see my children lavished with love and friendship. Their counselors took good care of them, and their days were filled with fun activities and meaningful spiritual lessons.

For myself, I cherished the time to read the Bible and pray at Vesper Point, looking at the lush green trees and tall wooden cross, accompanied by the music of the wind chime. God gave me a sense of deep peace. I found my soul further refreshed by conversations with the amazing camp staff and visitors. Friendship and connections abound at Camp Wakonda.

I pray that your soul finds refreshment as well, wherever you are. May God's peace and wholeness--His shalom--fill you up.

In Christ's love,
Courtney Wallace

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Shalom!

Camp Connects People

In starting at Wakonda this summer, I realized that it never felt as though I was leaving home to come here. I felt like I was coming home. This has been even more that way for my wife Liz. She worked here for about seven summers. This summer I had the opportunity many times to see her approach someone dropping off their kids for a week at camp. Liz and the parent would have this moment of recognition, the eruption of smiles on their faces, strange noises came out and then turned into words. Arms were extended and wrapped into bear hugs for friends long unseen.

I have worked in camps in different ways for over twenty years, and yet it always amazes me how camp connects people. It's hard to explain what camp is to people who have never experienced it. Yet, I have gone to conferences and sat down at tables with other camp staffers I have never met and quickly realized that we all knew the same songs and blessings. Sometimes the words or motions were a little different, but the connection was the same. We had similar stories with different names. Camp connects people.

Camp Wakonda has amazed me more than any other camp I've seen in its level of connection. The length of time that connections have been maintained with this place are amazing. I have spoken with individuals who worked here in the first years of camp. I have seen how the connections with this camp intertwine. I have had conversations where people tell me that they worked here or were campers, their kids came here, and their grandkids came here as well. Wakonda also seems to connect the world. You only need to step into the lodge here at camp to see the flags of countries represented by former staff members. If I'm correct, the total now stands around thirty.

I am glad to be able to join this community, this camp, this family. If you haven't been reconnected in a while, come by and see us. Step out of your car and take a breath of air here at camp and remember. Think back to how camp shaped you into the person you are today.

Zack White

“Pass It On” Pictures!

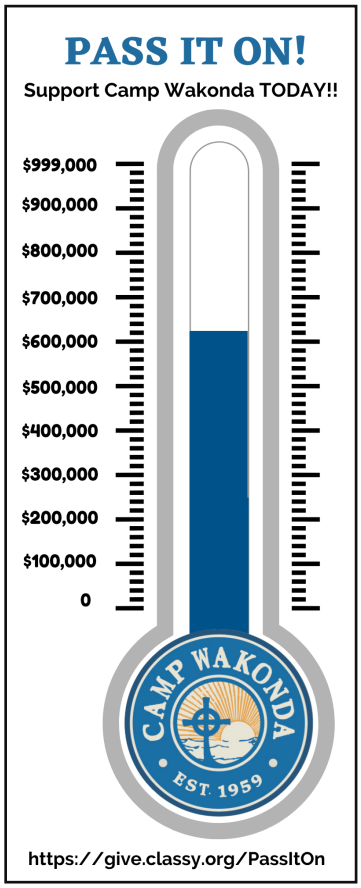
Support Wakonda With Our Amazon Wish List!

A great way to support Wakonda is to send us items from our Amazon Wish List. There’s no need to guess what camp might need or want to make the campers’ experience great—we’ve done all that for you!

CHECK IT OUT!

amazon

2023 Camp Wakonda Report



Greetings from Camp Wakonda! Wakonda has been very active and seen many changes over the last year!

Carrying forward from our Strategic Plan, developed over the last few years, we kicked off our "Pass It On" capital campaign in the fall of last year (now over 60% of its way to its goal of $999,000). Our newly formed board has lived through one full year of service and brought on a new class of members. Recognizing Pastor Ben's wider role at CPC, the board hired Zack White to serve as Assistant Director/Site Director. Zack and his wife, Liz, and their three kids now live in the camp house, and he has been running camp this summer in consultation with Pastor Ben & Program Director, Bonnie Wiggins.

In the coming year, the capital campaign will promote a second wave of pledging and giving, as well as connect with a grant writer to help us accomplish our fundraising and project goals. The Wakonda board will be working with Zack to develop the 2024 season, utilizing some of his gifts in outdoor education. They will also continue to live out the goals envisioned in the Strategic Plan.

Please continue to pray for Wakonda. Shalom, my friends!

Rev. Benjamin D. George, Pastor & Director of Camp Wakonda

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, Janet Ziol, Kaity Kline, Ben Chenevey, Carl Mangun, Sebastian Vallejo Rios, Pablo Pena, Zack White (Asst. Director)
- Pray for the "Pass it On" capital campaign—team members: Steve Stocker, chair; Larry Wiggins; David Moss; John Baker; Julia Frankland; Suzie Thomas
- Check out Wakonda's **Amazon wish list** here!
- Become a one-time or monthly donor to Wakonda!
- Or "Pass It On" through our capital campaign!

THANK YOU!