

## **KEEPING CAMP HEALTHY AND STRONG FOR THE FUTURE**

Dear Friends and Families of Miracle Camp and Retreat Center,

As we look back at the last eight months, our team has been so encouraged by the prayers and support of loyal friends of camp. We are so thankful for the Lord's provision and protection over camp and we give Him praise for how He has used Miracle Camp to share the gospel to so many kids and guests throughout 2020.

We have been amazed by the financial generosity and support of our devoted constituency through our Build the Bridge campaign. Since this campaign launched in early April, we have raised over \$200,000 which has helped us continue to stay financially stable and "bridge the gap" through a trying spring, summer, and early fall season. This past summer we were able to successfully run five weeks of summer camp and serve over 1,000 campers, guests, summer staff, and volunteers without a single positive case of COVID-19. Our team has loved serving campers and guests and providing a safe place for both kids and adults to get away from the craziness of life and spend time connecting with God and with others.

While we are so thankful to have been able to host guests and retreats on campus, Miracle Camp has still been financially impacted by the current health crisis as we have needed to lower our guest capacity by 50% throughout most of 2020. This has affected our summer and fall events, and will continue to impact future events as we head into 2021.

In order to keep camp healthy and strong as we head into the new year, we are excited to launch the "Camp Strong" one-fund campaign. This campaign will have three main objectives/components:

- 1.COVID impact support.
- 2. Camper/family scholarships.
- 3. Camp physical improvements.

Please check out the enclosed information and prayerfully consider how you might join us to keep "Camp Strong!"

Blessings and thank you for continuing to support Miracle Camp!

-Ross Adams, Executive Director

### **PRIORITY 1**

## **COVID IMPACT SUPPORT - \$100,000**

See "Matching Challenge" on Page 7

As you can probably guess, even with beginning to open some of our events this fall and winter, the COVID-19 pandemic continues to affect us at Miracle Camp. We will be required to run all of our fall and winter events at lower capacity, and the capacity of our future events, like Ice Camp, may also be affected. This reduced capacity has had a direct impact on our overall revenue throughout 2020 and projected 2021. We greatly desire to keep a strong staff team in place so we can continue to serve our guests well when our economy begins to open up again.

CAPACITY PRE-COVID

CURRENT CAPACITY

= 30 people

PRIORITY 2

**CAMPER SCHOLARSHIPS - \$20,000** 

Our mission here at Miracle Camp is the same today as it was 55 years ago: to present the good news of Jesus Christ to campers and guests and facilitate life change by helping people draw closer to God. We never want finances to be the reason a camper/family is unable to come to camp. We understand that many of our families have been impacted by the pandemic. Our Camper Scholarships provide funds for students and families to be able to enjoy a week of camp. Each year we are able to provide just under \$10,000 in scholarships, and we would love to see that amount double to give more people the opportunity to come to camp!



## PRIORITY 3

## **CAMP IMPROVEMENTS -** \$100,000

While we are of course saddened by the reduced numbers of campers and guests we have been able to serve, the pandemic has actually provided a unique opportunity to complete some needed facility improvements and remodels (normally we are so busy it is difficult to fit major renovations into the schedule). We have been blessed to begin some improvements but our goal is to keep the ball rolling. Camp Improvements will also include adding more recreation and activities for campers and guests. Our goal is to keep camp as updated and as excellent as possible. Ministering to young people and families through excellent camping and retreat experiences (in Christ) is our top priority!





### **ICE CAMP**

JH/SH	JAN 1-3
JH 1	JAN 8-10
SH 1	JAN 15-17
JH/SH 2	JAN 22-24
SH 2	JAN 29-31
JH 2	FEB 5-7
SH 3	FEB 12-14
JH/SH 3	FEB 19-21
MS/JH 1	FEB 26-28
JH/SH 4	MAR 5-7

## **MAN CAMP**

MC 1	MAR 19-21
MC 2	MAR 26-28
MC 3	APR 9-11
MC 4	APR 16-18
MC 5	SEP 24-16

## **WOMEN'S RETREAT**

WR 1	APR 23-25
WR 2	APR 30- MAY 2
WR3	OCT 1-3

## **SUMMER CAMP**

JH 1	JUN 6-12
MS1	JUN 13-19
SH 1	JUN 20-26
JH 2	JUL 4-10
SH 2	JUL 11-17
SH 3	JUL 18-24
GS 1	JUL 25-31
GS 2	JUL 25-28
GS 3	JUL 28-31
MS/JH 1	AUG 1-7

## **CAMP AIDE**

CA 1	JUN 6-19
CA 2	JUN 27- JUL 10
CA3	JUL 25- AUG 7

## **SENIOR'S RETREAT**

#### **COMING 2021**

Retreat for 55+ year old guests!

## **FAMILY CAMP**

FC 1	JUN 27-30
FC 2	JUN 30- JUL 3
FC 3	SEP 3-6

## **PARENT/CHILD**

PC	OCT 22-24
PC	UCT 22-24

## **PASTOR'S RETREAT**

PR OCT 4-6

## **YOUNG ADULT**

**YAR** OCT 29-31

## **V.I.P. EXPERIENCES**

#### **COMING 2021**

Take a "deep dive" into our camp programs





## **CAMP TESTIMONY - Mickey Byrne**

Past camper, camp aide, summer staff, and current intern

Miracle Camp and Retreat Center has had a huge impact all throughout my life. I first came as a camper in 3rd grade. I remember at the end of camp I was in tears because I had the best week ever and wasn't ready to leave and I couldn't wait to come back next year! In the summers I came to camp, I began to understand the Gospel, that I am loved by the Creator of the universe, and what it looks like to pursue a relationship with God. One of the most impactful experiences was having incredible counselors to look up to that poured into me, made me feel loved and valued, guided me in my faith, and taught me how to take my relationship with God seriously. It was during a week of camp that I made the decision to fully follow and pursue a relationship with Him.

Miracle Camp's ministry continued to impact me as I participated in the Camp Aide program and eventually worked on summer staff. My time working at camp has shown me the power of prayer, the goodness and

strength of God, how well He provides for us, and how He is constant through everything. Something great that I've experienced as a camper, Camp Aide, and on summer staff is how Gospel-centered and biblically based it is. I've learned how to read and study the Word, and the importance of fellowship. The relationships built are rooted in the Gospel, and they're some of the strongest, most life-giving friendships that I've ever experienced.

The ministry happening at Miracle Camp has continued to impact so many people. Working on summer staff, and now as an intern, I've seen God use Miracle Camp to change lives. I've seen campers open up to try new experiences, make deep, genuine friendships, experience God in life-changing ways, and commit to following Him. God is using Miracle Camp and Retreat Center to further His kingdom, to encourage people in their faith, and to draw them closer to Him!

My time working at camp has shown me the power of prayer, the goodness and strength of God, how well He provides for us, and how He is constant through everything.



"My daughter had such an awesome time at Summer Camp! What a blessing to have her be able to get away from being at home in a safe place, be able to grow in her relationship with the Lord, and just be a kid when the world around us has been so full of craziness this year. Thank you Miracle Camp!"

#### Abby H.

Summer Camp Parent

"As being a youth group leader for the first time, this place has given me an amazing opportunity to reach out to the students and create a deeper connection with them. Thank you for all that you do and making Miracle Camp so genuinely unique and welcome to each and every one of the students."

#### Lacie H.

Ice Camp Leader

"Family Camp at Miracle Camp has been a tradition for our family as long as our kids can remember. And even with Covid, this year was no exception. The staff at miracle camp went out of their way to find creative solutions for dealing with the restrictions. We never felt uncomfortable. With all the other stressful things in the world right now, it was great to be able to get away as a family and get closer to God at Miracle Camp."

"I feel that it was miraculous (no pun intended) that Camp was able to happen in this crazy year. I am so grateful for the prayer and discernment that went into moving forward with plans and making them happen. The extra effort was exponentially worthwhile for the kids who so deserve to be around others, have fun and grow in Christ. Thank you so much for making the creative adjustments necessary that allowed camp to occur. My camper enjoyed many of the changes saying that she liked outdoor chapel, the lines were shorter in the dining hall and she liked having "assigned" activities for her cabin group because they got to do more with less waiting in lines. I think it also caused her cabin to bond in a different way as they spent more time together. These are unexpected blessings from the changes this year. Thanks again!"

#### Megan U.

Summer Camp Parent

"The highlight of the event for me was being able to hangout with my friends and making new ones. The memories I made at camp this year will be unforgettable. It was my first time at Ice Camp and I felt so welcome... I am usually very shy, but I wanted an opportunity to socialize with others before I go on a 6 day mission trip. Thank you for the incredible experience that I got to be involved in."

**Dana D.**Family Camp

**Leah P.** Ice Camp Student



# DOUBLE YOUR GIFT

## **MATCHING CHALLENGE**

We are excited to announce that we have been blessed with a "Matching Challenge!" Friends of camp have generously pledged to match "dollar for dollar" all donations that are received by December 31, 2020 up to \$45,000!

## **DOUBLE THE IMPACT!**

This generous matching gifts has given Miracle Camp a great boost as we trust God to help us reach our Camp Strong Campaign of **\$220,000**. As a token of our appreciation, every family that makes a donation by December 15th will receive a special "Candy Cane" gift (donated by a friend of camp.)



CHECK OUT MORE INFORMATION AND UPDATES ON OUR WEBSITE.

## HOW TO HELP

**PRAY!** We believe there is great power in prayer, and our team first and foremost covets your prayers. Pray that God will continue to provide for camp and allow us to keep sharing the good news of the gospel with our guests and with our campers!

There are many ways that you can financially give to the CampStrong Campaign. Here are some ways you can help:

#### **CASH**

You can give directly to the CampStrong Campaign by giving online with a credit card or by sending in a check!

#### **STOCKS & BONDS**

By giving of your stocks and bonds, you can avoid paying capital gains tax that would otherwise be due.

#### **NON-CASH**

Have a vehicle or boat that you think could be useful to camp? Receive a charitable deduction by giving to camp!

#### **OTHER**

There are many other ways you can give to camp, such as a real estate gift, will or trust bequest, and more!

For more ways to give, or to talk more about giving options, please contact our Executive Director, Ross Adams

Phone: (269) 624-6161 Email: ross.adams@miraclecamp.com

## WHY GIVE?

Giving to the CampStrong Campaign is about more than just money in the bank for us; it's about life change. We want to continue to be a place where kids hear the Gospel preached, where families are able to get away and connect with one another, and a place where we see campers and guests give their lives to Christ for the first time or grow in their walk with Him. This campaign will keep us financially stable and will allow us to come out of the current health crisis healthy and strong as we provide a refreshing, restful, and Gospel-filled retreat for our guests. We would love to have you come alongside us as we continue our mission of faciliating life change by helping other grow closer to God.

You can give now through our giving page on our website!

**GIVE ONLINE NOW** 

