



## Together

Psalm 133:1 states “Behold how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together”. What a truth. Families we come in contact with through the ministry of camp are overwhelmingly hoping they can come to this goodness and pleasantness. They are oftentimes experiencing the total opposite. Conflict, tension, dread, frustration, distrust and anger are typical words that would describe their homes and relationships. Girls come to camp by choice, but out of necessity, because the family is not able to “dwell together.”

Our girls make good advances in academic knowledge and skills while at camp. We have tutors that help to supplement the learning that takes place. However, we recently had a discussion after a meal regarding the importance of tutoring. A camper proclaimed that tutoring was the most important part of camp. Well, pickiness and disrespect during the meal had led to the group stepping out of the dining hall four times just prior to this conversation. We decided that learning to promote a good attitude would get us further and more prepared for home. Academics are important, but living together in harmony has to come first. That is why we are here at camp rather than at home.

Now most of our staff live on property here at camp when they are not on duty. Although staff are further ahead of campers in how to dwell together, there are always challenges and opportunities to apply the things that make for goodness and pleasantness. Sometimes we, too, must remind ourselves of our responsibility to dwell together.

Bill Collins, Executive Director

## Turkey In The Hole

**Once again** we are looking to host a COVID era Thanksgiving celebration. Please come join us. We will supply all the food and the girls will once again have displays and activities of camp life along our drive. This year we will have more to see. Dinners will be served from 11:00 to 1:00 on Saturday November 20.....If we grow well beyond the current conditions, this could change for the better :)

# All God's Critters

## Through Dante's Eyes

Hi! I'm Dante, the black rat snake that slithers around camp. The girls here rarely see me, but I see, and hear, them. They sound like a parade when they march into camp. When the group is in a huddle, I slither around in the leaves, just feet away from them. They like to think they sing beautifully, but I just roll my eyes and head further into the forest. To be honest, I really enjoy hearing their squeals and "oohs" and "ahhs".

There seems to be a mutual respect between me and the campers. We deeply appreciate each other. They occasionally pick me up or follow me. It makes me cringe. In their minds, I keep a tight handle on the mice population. They give me a nice home to stay in (it's under one of their tents, though they suppose that it's really under the wood pile). I can't exactly say I appreciate having so many people around, but their settlement encourages the rodents to make this place their home.

But the relationship between man and snake can be friendly and beneficial. Each party just has to carry out their duty, and leave the other alone—that's all. Then there will be peace.

--Briana H, PF

## Critters

I have been seeing many critters walking around campsite for a while. But due to the coolness and all of the rain, the lizards have not been popping out yet. I have been seeing many toads around the area. A whole colony is living under Beehive (a sleeping tent). Since Chief Lena learned how to feed them, one big toad, called Max, now follows her where ever she goes. She is now the Queen of toads.

--Rosa P, PF

## Baby Birds!

We have a nest of five baby birds in one of our small pots hanging on our dish rack. Their names are Shadrach, Meshach, Abednego, Fernando, and Tortilla. They are really cute. We have not given the mama a name yet. I was trying to figure out what type of bird it is. I want to say it is a Carolina Wren. I looked at them today Tuesday August 10th. They are full of feathers. I think they are getting ready to leave the nest soon. I am really glad they have not gotten eaten by a snake yet. I think that is because the mama put the nest where we are at all the time so snakes are scared to come around them. I am glad I got to be a part of the baby birds' lives. I named all of them, but one. Abby named Tortilla. She names everything Tortilla and it is kind of funny. I want more than anything to see the babies get to fly away. This is the second set of birds we have not lost. I am excited to see how many more sets of babies we can see grow up and fly away to go live a happy life.

--Rebecca S, TB



## Snake Adventures

After siesta on Saturday we found a copperhead snake in the craft tent. Chief Susan came down and used the shovel to chop off its head.. Chief Susan put it in a plastic bag and put it in the camp refrigerator. Next morning it scared Miss Emily, our cook, half to death! We dissected it Sunday morning before chapel. It was a girl copperhead and she had baby snakes forming inside. We got the skin off the snake and nailed it to a wooden board. It was waxy at first, then dried.

I hope we don't have any more copperheads in our campsite, because we have baby birds that need to live! - - Alexis V, TB

## VOLUNTEERS BUNKHOUSE COMING in 2022



Over the past two years we have hosted **seven** youth work groups on week long trips. We thrive on this volunteer help, especially in our thrift stores. Fair Play Community Chapel has graciously provided their facilities for lodging for many of those weeks, but logistics for showering and meals takes much time from the week. Next year we plan to construct a basic three room, 2300 square foot bunkhouse on property to meet these needs. We will need help with construction, materials, and funding, so look for more mailings.

**Right now our need is \$22,000** for the concrete foundation slab with embedded plumbing - less with volunteer labor and at cost materials!



### Welcome, Nikki Barron

In June Nikki Barron volunteered with her Ohio church work group at a boys' camp near to us. She soon discovered that our camp was close by. Seeking to help, Nikki has joined our staff and is volunteering here and at one of our thrift stores.

Need a challenge? Come join Nikki and help our ministry!

## Would you like to join our team?

We are currently seeking the LORD for help in these areas:

**Cooking, Thrift Stores, Group Chiefs, Maintenance, Bunkhouse Construction!**



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Laura Faye sporting Clemson orange while writing an article on the Lumber River trip.

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## Dear Readers:

As a past camper from the Pathfinders group, I wish to share some of the many ways camp has helped me. A big one is they will stick with you through thick and thin and never give up. For me that helped a lot, because if I felt like junk about myself, they always surrounded me with hope. Eventually I began to see some good worth in myself. No matter what my past was I was still loved by camp. Greater yet, I was loved by God. For me, also allowing them to help me. I had to make that choice in order to move that junk and begin growing. It was not easy, but in the end, I have and still am greatly benefitting from it.

Also, trusting people, especially men, was a tough one for me. I eventually learned that the men at camp are to be trusted and want to help you for your own good. They did not force it on me, but left me to gradually feel my way.

I had a rather sudden ending of my camp stay due to a medical issue, forcing me to go home and have surgery. I really struggled with "Why God?", but through it all they encouraged and felt for me, and I have learned a lot from that guidance, and want to pass it on to others.

Laura Faye Zimmerman

**Laura's mom, Rachel, writes** " Through Laura Faye's journey I have learned to trust God at all times. He wants us to take today and praise him for each moment. The strength and determination all the staff has shown and practiced tells me a lot. I've learned to make the best of my circumstances. You really teach the girls that!"