

Great Oaks News

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www.greatoakscamp.org

Peoria Office: 710 E. Archer Avenue • Peoria, IL 61603 • (309) 688-3745

Camp: 1380 County Rd. 900N • Lacon, IL 61540 • (309) 246-4005

Great Oaks Camp Update:



As 2009 draws to an end, I cannot help but feel amazed at what God has done at Great Oaks Camp this year! Last March, I became aware that we not only lost some of our regular guest groups, but other guest groups were shorting their stay with us, along with bringing fewer people. This all meant that our guest group income would be down 1/3 from the previous year. However over the last several months God has added both new guest groups and new donors. Not only has God provided financially for us, but most importantly he has used Great Oaks to impact peoples' lives. Consequently as I review 2009 and plan for 2010 I cannot help but feel blessed, amazed, and excited about the future here at Great Oaks Camp. With that said, let me tell you how God has both used and blessed Great Oaks Camp this year, while also concluding with a look toward 2010.

How has God impacted lives through Great Oaks Camp?

-God has impacted the lives of campers: this summer seventeen children made Jesus the Lord of their lives. Also, this year at Central High School "See You at the Pole" was led by a former Great Oaks camper. On the back page of this newsletter you can read about God's impact on Sarah.

-God has impacted the lives of the summer staff: one summer staff member wrote, "If it wasn't for this camp and the amazing people in it, I would have maintained a direction in life that was not representing God or the real me. As a result of Great Oaks, I have chosen a different path in life and one that solely reflects God."

-God has impacted the lives of our guest groups: one guest group leader wrote "A couple of students trusted Christ with their lives; thanks for letting us come."



How has God Blessed Great Oaks Camp?

-In case you have not heard, we started and finished a new staff house.

-We have had money donated to fix up camp. This year we have purchased a new lawn mower, put new flooring into three buildings, replaced aging kitchen equipment, updated our Adventure Challenge Course equipment, replaced 75 aging mattress covers, added and replaced pressure tanks to both the dining hall and Poplar, all while accomplishing many other small projects. All of this was done thanks to God's great provision.

- Thanks to God's great provision we have made it this entire year without having to take out an operational loan; this is the first time in three years. Praise God for His provision!

After looking back at 2009, I am excited to begin planning for 2010. If God can accomplish so much in just one year, what does he have in store for 2010? As I look ahead, one glaring need immediately comes into focus. The camp road needs more gravel. The road at camp is obviously one of the most important areas of camp. Every inner city child, guest group, summer staff, and full time staff depends on the road to enter camp. Without the road, ministry at camp would be limited, if not impossible. When considering that, we must take care of our road, and it needs new gravel. As you consider where to give, please prayerfully consider Great Oaks Camp and our road.



Tyler Keene
Executive Director