

# Great Oaks News

Camping & Urban Youth Ministries

Jan-Mar 2016 Report

As hard as it is to imagine, Summer Camp at Great Oaks is only four months away. We are working hard, preparing for another great summer of ministering to at-risk teens and children. I am very excited for this year's theme, *Everyday Heroes*. Each one of the Bible Studies and Chapel Talks will be based on Old and New Testament heroes.

## Summer 2016

If you look at today's society, our children are inundated with heroes portrayed in multi-million dollar movies, comic books, toys, and video games. These heroes are usually imbued with "super powers," which they use to solve problems, usually resulting in violence and destruction. In contrast, at Great Oaks, our campers will learn about heroes overcoming evil with good, allowing God to work in each of their situations.

**EVERYDAY  
HEROES**

Our theme verse this year is Romans 12:21, "Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good." The challenge for each of us will be to act in such a way that we join God in bringing good into the world each day, thus becoming *Everyday Heroes*.



During this past summer, we were able to see a 33% increase in the number of campers who came to Great Oaks. For every camper that has set foot on the grounds of Great Oaks Camp, we have been (and will continue to be) committed to our mission statement: *Connecting people to Jesus through life changing experiences.*

## Director's Desk

This coming year is projected to be a busy year, filled with some great ministry opportunities. We will have the privilege of sharing God's love with our usual guest groups: churches, businesses and school groups, as well as our at-risk youth this summer during summer camp. With increasing ministry opportunities comes increasing needs for donations, volunteer services, and additional staff. There are many different opportunities listed on the back, if you are interested in helping Great Oaks Camp. Please call the Great Oaks Camp office at (309) 246-4005 or e-mail me: [tyler@greatoakscamp.org](mailto:tyler@greatoakscamp.org)

## Donation Opportunities:

**-A new *used* truck:** Our 1996 Chevy truck recently died. A truck at camp is an essential tool, and we are currently without one. Would you consider donating money towards the purchase of a new *used* truck or do you have a truck you could donate?

**-Send an at-risk youth to camp:** As many of you know, Great Oaks provides a week of camp to over 200 at-risk youth each summer. The cost to them is free, but a week of camp is costly to us, as a whole. Would you consider donating \$50 for a weekend at camp (for an inner city retreat), \$230 for one youth to attend camp for a week, or \$1,150 for a cabin of six at-risk youth to attend camp for a week?

## Volunteer Opportunities

**-Maintenance Help:** As the calendar continues to fill up with guest group reservations, it can be hard to keep up with our maintenance needs. As we have discovered, many camps rely on retired volunteers to help them with maintenance. So, Great Oaks is looking for those individuals who might be willing to come to camp and help with general maintenance and continue the upkeep of our campgrounds and buildings.

**-Small groups (one-time) projects:** As a whole, Great Oaks lacks areas outside where small groups can gather to study God's Word in a comfortable, relaxed setting. We would love to be able to build some *ministry circles* at camp, such as small gazebos or porch swing circles. In order for that to happen, we would like to see a few small groups of people commit to raising money for that project and help us carry it out by building those *ministry circles*. We have various options available, costing between \$500-\$1,000.

**-Adventure Challenge Course Facilitators:** The Adventure Challenge Course is a great opportunity for both young and retired people to serve the Lord through serving our guest groups and our campers. Our Adventure Challenge Course is not just a fun experience, but it is also an opportunity to challenge people to grow in their walks with Christ. As a facilitator on the Adventure Challenge Course, you are a paid employee of Great Oaks. We have training coming up on April 2<sup>nd</sup>. Please let us know if you are interested in allowing God to use you on our Adventure Challenge Course.

**Summer Staff:** We are looking for counselors, lifeguards, and kitchen staff. Being a part of the summer staff at Great Oaks is a wonderful opportunity to grow in your faith, share your faith, and have a lot of fun while transforming your life, as well as impacting the lives of others. You can look for more information on our website: [www.greatoakscamp.org](http://www.greatoakscamp.org), as well as fill out an application!