

# Great Oaks News

Camping & Urban Youth Ministries

Oct—Dec 2018 Report

## Our New Building:

The best part about working at Great Oaks Camp is seeing God bring people and resources together to accomplish His purposes. Our new building is the latest example of God's provision. A few

years ago, Dr. William Washington reconnected with Great Oaks Camp, and eventually, he became our Board President. From the moment he joined our board, he has always challenged us to dream bigger. Therefore, as a group, we began to think about the future of Great Oaks Camp. About a year after Dr. Washington joined the board, Martin Collier, a local architect, was brought on board. He insisted that dreaming big, in terms of future facilities, meant constructing buildings with materials which allow for longevity, have minimal upkeep costs, and that are energy efficient.

As many of you know, last December God used an anonymous donor to provide the funds needed to build a new Maintenance Shop and Office. Because God has gifted Great Oaks with some awesome staff members, like Jim Klingbiel and Graham League, I knew my role, in planning this building project, was just to sit back and listen. Dr. Washington and Martin Collier,

along with Jim, Graham, and the local contractor we hired, began to make this dream a reality. I cannot go

on, though, without mentioning the rest of the Great Oaks Staff and Board Members: Paul Tanner, Dr. Robert Stine, Scott Rauch, Pastor Joe Horn, Pastor Martin Johnson, Kathy Porter, and Roger Meyer. Without their contributions during this project, it would not have been a success. It is great to be part of a team whose sole agenda is to serve the Lord by making Great Oaks Camp the best it can be and continue the ministry Jerry Stafford started so long ago. I am excited to see what God has in store for our future and how He will continue using the above team members, as well as our newest Board Member, Dr. Raleigh Washington.



### From the Desk of the Executive Director



## Ways to Contribute:

As a camp, we are so grateful God uses so many of you to bless us. As 2018 quickly comes to a close, your donations to the General Fund, Staff Ministerial Support, and Camper Scholarships are much appreciated and do not go unnoticed. We thank you for that. However, if you would like to give *above and beyond*, here are a couple of ways you can further bless Great Oaks Camp and its ministry:

- \$4,000-This would cover the cost of a used RV for one of our Staff Members, Jared Smith. Jared has been a part of Great Oaks Camp since 1992! Typically, when Jared works at camp, he stays with Graham in the camp apartment. However, Graham is getting married, so that will no longer be an option for Jared. Would you be willing to donate \$4,000 to help Great Oaks have a place for Jared to stay?
- \$2,500-Because we are building a new Maintenance Shop and Office, we would love to have new shelving in the Office and new work benches in the Maintenance Shop, rather than moving some of our present items.
- \$2,000-We would love to host a Winter Retreat for some of our at-risk campers. In order to do that, we have to cover the cost of supplies and food.

## Summer Staff & Winter Retreats

As you may know, one of the major challenges for all camps, regardless of size, is finding quality staff (*or really finding any staff at all*). Throughout the seven years I have been at Great Oaks, I have seen God's faithfulness portrayed over and over again as He always brings people to camp who are able to serve and minister to our campers; it just sometimes takes longer than I would like! One of the ways *you* can help is by praying for us as we seek out God's will in our staff recruiting efforts. However, more than anything, we need people, who love and support Great Oaks Camp, to spread the word about the opportunity that is available to serve at Great Oaks during the summer. Those interested in working at camp can find out more by visiting our website and applying online!



We believe another way to address our staffing needs is by working with our older campers. We have been hard at work creating a Counselor In Training program which will include opportunities for our veteran campers to learn what it takes to be a counselor and help them understand the responsibilities it takes to be on Summer Staff. Our first CIT retreat will be in February. We are excited about expanding this program throughout the summer, into the following year.