

Great Oaks News

Camping & Urban Youth Ministries

Jan-Mar 2019 Report

Right now, it is an exciting time of year at Great Oaks Camp. This spring, we are hosting three events; we would love for you to be a part of them.



Work Day

On Saturday, April 27th, we will be hosting our Annual Volunteer Work Day. It will run from 9AM-4PM; you are more than welcome to join us anytime during the day. We will be spreading mulch, building shelves, painting, splitting wood, etc. No matter your skill set, we have a place for you! If you plan to attend, please let Jim know. You can either call the camp office at (309) 246-4005 or email him at ropes@greatoakscamp.org



Annual Banquet

On Tuesday, April 30th, we will have our Annual Banquet at Peoria Civic Center. The doors open at 5:30PM, and the program will begin at 6:00PM. This year, our keynote speaker is Dr. Raleigh Washington, the newest member of the Great Oaks Camp board. Recently retired from Promise Keepers, Dr. Washington is the founder and Pastor Emeritus of Rock of our Salvation Evangelical Free Church in Chicago, as well as a published author. If you would like to buy tickets, please visit our website or call the camp office at (309) 246-4005.

Director's
Desk

Open House:

On Sunday May 19th, we will be hosting an Open House at camp from 2PM-6PM. God has blessed us immensely over the years, and we want to take this opportunity to share that with you and say thank you for your support. You are more than welcome to come join us anytime between 2PM-6PM. Most of our activities will be open, including our Zipline; we will also be dedicating the new camp office this day, as well as the new maintenance shop.

TRAIL Retreat

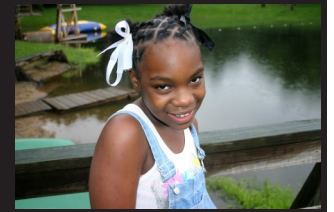
Over Presidents' Day weekend, Great Oaks hosted a Winter Retreat for about 20 of our at-risk campers (from this past summer). When planning the retreat, we had two goals in mind: train (possible) future counselors and show the campers the love of Jesus. Even though they were only at camp for about 24 hours, we did a lot of activities: Bible study, snow tubing, and sledding, as well as playing games on the frozen pond, playing carpetball, Uno, and a host of other board games.



At the same time we were hosting our Winter Retreat, Trinity Lutheran was at Great Oaks with their youth group, hosting their own retreat. It worked out really well to have both groups at camp at the same time because we were able to collaborate together on some activities, as well as do some teambuilding together. It was great to see them playing together and witnessing the benefits of diversity in the body of Christ.



During our Bible Study time, we talked about different ways to live out Christ-like love. Our Program Director, Paul, used the story of the paralytic man being lowered through the roof (by his friends) as a call for all of us to look out for ways to help others the way those friends helped the paralytic man. As we continue to train our campers to become counselors, we hope to provide them the support they need to realize and understand that their lives can be changed by Christ, and we, at Great Oaks, want to be a catalyst to help make that change. We know the Spirit moves and works at camp, and we look forward to what He has in store for this coming summer.

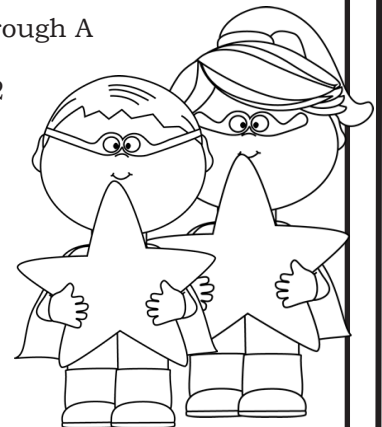


Thank you so much for your prayers and your support. God is working here and that evidence can be seen because of your encouragement and partnership. It truly does have eternal value.

Summer Camp 2019

This year, the theme for Summer Camp is STAR Heroes. STAR stands for Saved Through A Redeemer. In order to help our campers understand what this means, we will be focusing on two specific passages of Scripture: 1 Peter 1:18-19 and Philippians 2:12-16.

1 Peter 1:18-19 says, "For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your ancestors, but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect." Using this Scripture as a reference, our campers will learn how valuable they are to God, as well as how precious they are in His sight, precious enough to send His own Son to redeem them from their sin.



This summer, we will also be focusing on how we should live out the knowledge that we are not our own but rather bought with a price. Philippians 2:12-16 states, "Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed—not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence—continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose. Do everything without grumbling or arguing, so that you may become blameless and pure, children of God without fault in a warped and crooked generation. *Then you will shine among them like stars in the sky, as you hold firmly to the word of life.* And then I will be able to boast on the day of Christ that I did not run or labor in vain." (emphasis mine) We will learn what it means to shine like stars in the heavens and how we can continue to do that even when camp is over. As always, camp will be filled with fun and games, exciting opportunities, and new adventures for our campers.

Please pray for us we recruit counselors for the summer! We need a dedicated Summer Staff to ensure our campers have a great summer! If you know someone who would be interested in working at camp, please send them our way!