



Camping & Urban Youth Ministries

Jul-Sept 2019 Report

Summer Camp 2019:

Great Oaks had another successful, fun-filled summer! Great Oaks ran seven weeks of camp this summer, and during that time, we saw almost 165 campers from Peoria and the surrounding areas! Our older campers enjoyed the Adventure Challenge Course this year, as well as playing paintball. Tuesday nights at camp are always memorable with campfires, hot dogs, even s'mores! Of course, to top the week on Thursday, we provide ice cream, along with an "end of the week" dance party, complete with a DJ from Peoria!

The theme for the summer was Stars. Every week, our campers learned about God's love, Jesus' sacrifice, and the gift of Eternal Life. All our Bible Studies and Chapel services centered around the how Jesus changed the lives of His disciples. During those times, our campers studied and learned about the book of Acts and what it means to follow God and *continue* to follow Him, even when it's hard. Every Thursday night, our campers heard a Gospel presentation and were given the chance to respond to that call. Our campers were challenged to shine like stars in their homes, schools, and neighborhoods.

Donation Request:

About a month ago, in the middle of Summer Camp, the air conditioning unit in Stafford Chapel died. Throughout the summer months, Stafford Chapel is used daily by our campers, as well as by most of our retreat groups. Obviously, we want our campers and our retreat groups to be comfortable in the chapel while they are using the space to play games, have bible studies, and hold chapel services; therefore, keeping that building cool is a priority.

After realizing the air conditioning unit could not be repaired, we had to replace it. The new self-contained unit cost about \$4,000. I believe, over the past few years, Great Oaks has done a good job of looking ahead and ensuring we are prepared for unexpected expenses. Unfortunately, we were not prepared for this one; therefore, we had to take money out of our emergency fund. I do have to admit I personally overlooked the air conditioning unit in the chapel, but I am very grateful we had emergency funds to replace the unit. However, I also recognize we need to be prepared for the next emergency. Would you be willing to help?

As many of you know, each summer, for eight weeks, Great Oaks runs a summer camp for at-risk youth from Peoria. Would you be willing to donate \$500 and help reimburse us for one week of air conditioning? If covering a full week is not in your budget, would you be willing to donate \$250 (which covers half of a week)? Any and every amount helps! Thank you for your willingness to help but most of all, thank you for your support of Great Oaks Camp.



I learned...

- God loves me, even when I don't love myself
- God knows everything, and He still loves me.
- God forgives us, even when we don't deserve to be forgiven.
- God is our Savior, and He will love you, no matter what.
- Even though Saul did some wrong things, God still loved and forgave him.
- Jesus is in my heart!
- Not to be so selfish and to treat others the way I want to be treated.
- Peter healed a lame in Jesus' Name
- God only cares about the inside, not the outside.

Campers Perspectives