

Great Oaks News

Camping & Urban Youth Ministries

Oct—Dec 2019 Report

2019 in Review and Requests:

After 15 years of ministry, I continue to be amazed at how God blesses Great Oaks in different ways. Even though every year comes with both celebrations and trials, it is always so encouraging to look back, at the end of the year, and see God's overall blessings throughout the year. In 2019:

We served 165 at-risk youth.

We served just over 5,000 people in our Guest Services ministry.

We completed our new maintenance shop/office building.

We added two new board members: Rick Zumwalt and Karla Losey.

We continue to grow our ministry into the Lacon community.

We have replaced many of our old camp mattresses with new ones.

We have started construction on a new playground.



From the Desk of the Executive Director

As you can see, 2019 has been yet another wonderful year at Great Oaks Camp. If you would like to continue blessing us, here are a few needs beyond our normal general fund needs:

- Even though 2019 is not quite over, we are already starting to raise sponsorships for next summer's campers.
 - To sponsor a camper for a week, it is \$250
 - To sponsor an entire cabin (5 campers) for a week, it is \$1,250
- Over the last couple of years, the trend at Great Oaks has been to hire former campers as counselors. Although we believe it is a great ministry opportunity for us and a growth opportunity for them, it does come with some challenges. Many of our campers are not able to raise their own financial support. Because of this, would you be willing to sponsor a counselor for the 2020 camp season? To sponsor a counselor, it is \$200 a week or \$1,400 for the summer
- We would like to continue replacing mattresses. We are in need of 60 more mattresses. Each mattress costs \$125; therefore, we need \$7,500 to complete this upgrade.
- In order to be more efficient in plowing snow during the summer, we would like to add a plow to our camp truck. The cost for the plow would be around \$6,000.

Update from a Former Camper

This summer Chelsea Armstrong, a former camper at Great Oaks, sent us some old camp photos she had saved. As I was looking through the pictures, I instantly thought, “Wow, these pictures are old! Along with Shannon (my wife) and Chelsea, I look so young! They almost look like they were taken decades ago.” As I thought back, I realized the pictures were almost 15 years old! It was very encouraging to me to not only see the pictures but to read Chelsea’s message that came with them:



“You all don’t know how dearly and closely I hold camp in my heart. Great Oaks changed my life drastically.”

I feel very blessed to have had the privilege to be at Great Oaks Camp for so long and to continue serving the Lord here. It is a joy to hear stories like Chelsea’s and know that God continues to change the lives of youth at Great Oaks Camp.

—Tyler Keene

Merry Christmas from the Great Oaks Staff

