

"We hadn't finished backing out of our parking spot to go home before they were begging to go back next year."

SUZANNE



LAKEVIEW  
MINISTRIES

September 2021

## MEMORIES LAST FOREVER

### IN THIS ISSUE:

- **PAST:** KICKING COVID, HOW CAMP RESPONDED TO THE PANDEMIC.
- **PRESENT:** SUMMER 2021 BRINGS BACK A LITTLE NORMALCY.
- **FUTURE:** LAKEVIEW PARTNERS ALLOW CAMP TO CONTINUE ON GOD'S PATH.







Dear friends of Lakeview,

The year 2020 was a time of unexpected challenges for many of you—challenges that were unwelcome and uncertain, filled with questions about the future. Here at Lakeview Ministries, the impact of the pandemic was just as devastating — but at the same time, incredible!

As the COVID-19 pandemic unfolded in the early days of 2020, we were hardly surprised by the cancellations of our guest group rentals. As summer neared, however, the growing realization that we would have to cancel our normal summer camp programs was a different story altogether.

As many of you know, our summer camps are the heart of our ministry. Not only were we mourning the loss of seeing lives changed and hearts transformed; we were also faced with a rather bleak financial picture, having lost a full 80% of our expected budgeted income for the year.

But as you also know, we serve an awesome God, one who always provides. Our amazing staff worked within the constraints we were facing to create a whole new type of summer experience, launching a series of day camps and individual family retreats to still provide camp to as many kids and families as possible. And in the fall, when we pivoted to communicate our financial need through the “Weathering the Storm” initiative, our camp family stepped up in an amazing way! The budgeted shortfall, nearly \$400,000, was completely erased by individuals donating to camp to ensure that this place would continue to be here for future generations.

Because of this overwhelming support and commitment of the Lakeview family, we were able to enter into the summer of 2021 without hesitation or pause, bringing over 1,900 kids and families back to camp! Out of all the summers camp has had over the years, this one was especially sweet.

So while 2020 was definitely unexpected, it certainly wasn't without its blessings. To everyone who trusted us with their children, who gave generously without expectation of receiving anything in return, who continued to believe in our ministry, thank you. I am honored, humbled, and blessed to serve you, and I can't wait to see what God does next!

In Christ's Love,  
David Vandercar, Executive Director



Don't Forget...  
**DINNER AUCTION**  
**NOVEMBER 20TH**  
[LAKEVIEW.CAMP/AUCTION](http://LAKEVIEW.CAMP/AUCTION)  
**SEE YOU THEN!**



# HOW WE KICKED COVID AT CAMP



WHAT IT LOOKED LIKE TO KEEP SERVING OUR CAMP FAMILY IN 2020

Here at Lakeview Ministries, we pride ourselves on running programs that are creative, innovative, and well organized. During the pandemic, however, we had to develop a whole new way of “doing” camp—and iron out potential problems very quickly.

Deciding to offer day camps for the summer meant creating a brand new program from scratch, and it came with so many questions. Just thinking through new processes was quite the challenge. How should we handle a drive-through check-in? What should we do if it rains? How does that change our activity schedules?

“WHEN I WAS A BOY AND I WOULD SEE SCARY THINGS IN THE NEWS, MY MOTHER WOULD SAY TO ME, ‘LOOK FOR THE HELPERS. YOU WILL ALWAYS FIND PEOPLE WHO ARE HELPING.’”  
MR. ROGERS



Another issue we faced was our food service. We have always provided buffet-style meals, where we serve food from large containers and trays. Needless to say, providing individually packaged meals was quite the challenge—one we had to figure out with little time to prepare.

In the middle of all these challenges, our staff stepped up in a big way. The day camps were a huge success, and we are so thankful to everyone who trusted us with their children in what could only be called “uncertain times.” Your faith and trust in us is both humbling and deeply rewarding.

In addition to the day camps, we also launched Lakeview TV, a video series people could access from home. The new series included everything from campfire devotions to baking shows. Everyone got involved, even John, our Director of Facilities, who used his background in forestry to record a nature walk for kids. (You can still check out all the episodes at [lakeview.camp/TV!](http://lakeview.camp/TV!))

We also opened up our village clusters for families to rent throughout the summer, which gave people the chance to come together and experience community during a time when most people were experiencing loneliness and isolation.

So while ministry at Lakeview was definitely different last year, it was amazing to see new faces in our day camps, witness new talents in our staff, and once again step back in awe of our loving Heavenly Father, who continued to provide for us in what was truly an unforgettable year.



WHEN WE ALL PULL TOGETHER

## TIM, NO WORDS CAN EXPRESS OUR THANKS.

It is with heartfelt emotion that we announce Tim Stair, director of operations, is stepping away from our staff team after serving camp faithfully for 16 years. Even as we celebrate his decision to spend more consistent time with his wife and children, we know that he will be greatly missed.

We have all witnessed Tim’s heart for others, his integrity and steadfast leadership, and his willingness to humbly serve for the glory of God, and we know he will continue to be a tremendous blessing to the children and families in our community in his new position as a program director for the Boys and Girls Club of Seymour.

We are so grateful to Tim for his tremendous legacy. Lakeview Ministries is a better, richer place because of all that he has done here, and his impact will carry on in the untold number of staff, campers, and guests he has poured into over the years.

Please join us in thanking Tim for all that he has done for camp over these past 16 years and in praying for him as he starts this next chapter of his life. We’re going to miss you Tim. Go with God!

***The Entire Lakeview family and staff***



PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SEARCH COMMITTEE AS WE DETERMINE WHO GOD IS LEADING INTO THIS OPEN POSITION







Novah

**Novah came to camp for the first time this summer.** He was nervous at first because so many things were new for him. However, he conquered those fears and had a blast. One of Novah's most memorable firsts this summer was his first s'more. He was goofy, optimistic, and was always laughing when anything out of the ordinary happened. Throughout the week, he became universally loved by the staff for just being who he is. By the end of the week, you could find him doing song actions like a mad man up on the amphitheater steps at electric campfire, and talking me into letting him introduce himself as a staff member at the Friday closing. Novah had a great time at camp, making lots of new friends both in his cabin, and on staff.



**BRANDON HALL,** CAMP LAKEVIEW PROGRAM DIRECTOR

**NOTORIOUS FOR:** A MID-DAY MELLO YELLO, AN OUTRAGEOUS FRENCH ACCENT, AND MESSING WITH THE SUMMER STAFF.



**SOME OF BOB'S FAVORITE ACTIVITIES!**



"Yaking!"



milkcrate challenge!







Horseback riding!



Crafts



Zip line!

**Our Senior High Week is always special and my favorite week of the summer.** This summer we had close to 100 students for Senior High Week — many for their last time as campers. And while it is always very emotional as they head home at the end of the week, you know the tears they shed are because of the joy this place has brought to their lives. I think of Dakota, a big, strong, tough young man. And indeed Dakota is tough! So tough, that even though he accidentally broke a tooth while here at camp, he insisted on staying for the rest of the week because it was his last year at Lakeview. And when you see campers like Dakota [strong young men] get emotional when the week is over, you know that Jesus is using this place to impact their lives, not just now, but for years to come!



Dakota



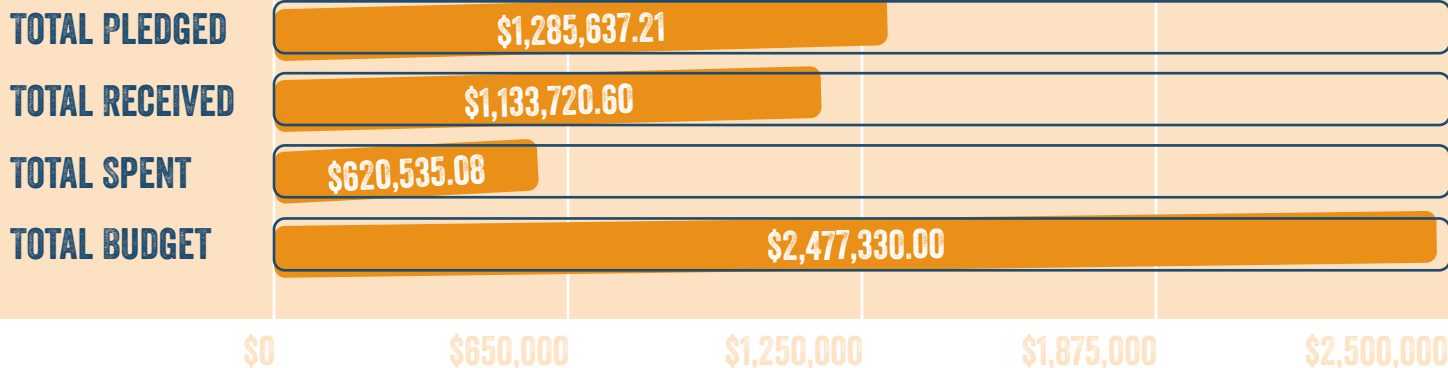
**DANNY FRASTACI,** LAKEVIEW VILLAGES PROGRAM DIRECTOR

**NOTORIOUS FOR:** ENJOYING A 3 O'CLOCK SODA POP, SINGING DA MOOSE SONG, AND LAUNCHING WATER BALLOONS OFF THE CLIMBING TOWER






# CAMPAIGN TRACKER



## GOD IS TRULY ABLE TO DO MORE THAN WE CAN ASK OR IMAGINE.



Last year, the realities of the global pandemic required us to put the Lakeview capital campaign, "A Place For You," into a holding pattern and focus 100% of our efforts on "weathering the storm." Yet, even as we dealt with the urgent challenges presented by COVID-19, we continued to receive campaign pledge contributions from our faithful Lakeview family. We have been overwhelmed by your generous support — both during the immediate crisis of the pandemic and for the long-term development of Lakeview Ministries.

In 2020, donors responded to our "Weathering the Storm" initiative with \$386,717.21 in special gifts to help us overcome pandemic losses. In addition, camper parents generously donated \$123,965.50 of prepaid registrations —after summer camp was canceled— to help Lakeview survive and thrive. Altogether, more than 1,000 households made contributions to Lakeview in 2020, nearly three times more than in a typical year. We are so grateful for the faithful response and incredible generosity of the Lakeview family.

Momentum continues to build. Already this year, we have received nearly \$350,000 in general contributions for 2021 from over 300 households — a substantial increase over previous years.

God is doing something remarkable here, and we are amazed and astonished to see how He is working through the Lakeview family to ensure that this ministry continues to impact children, teens, and families for years to come.

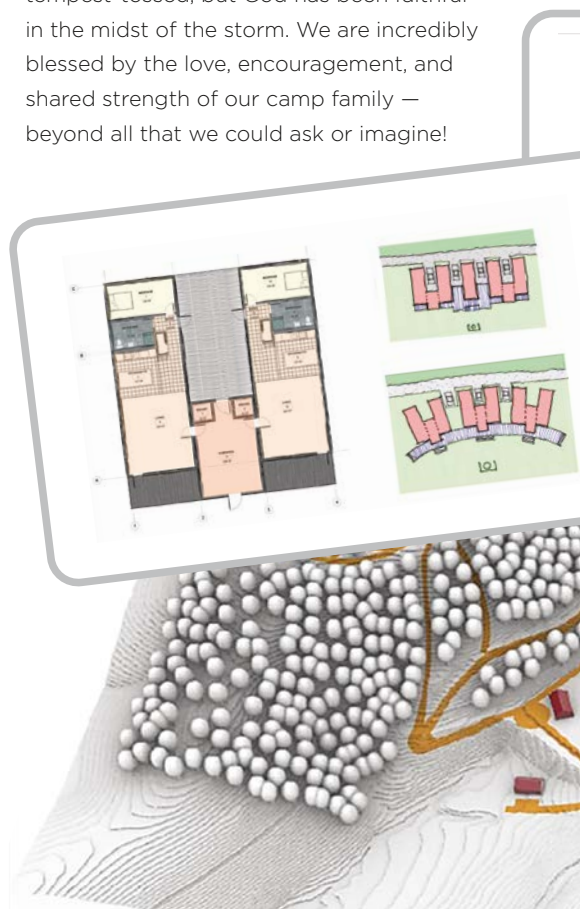
As we regain stable ground after the pandemic year, we will relaunch our capital campaign, "A Place for You." This final phase will raise funds primarily for developing Lakeview Springs and building the new Rec Center at Camp Lakeview. The Campaign Tracker (above) provides a snapshot of the progress we've made on these important initiatives.

Already, we've seen great things happen with the funding we've received:

- Entry gates were completed in the spring of 2021, to make our properties more secure and keep our guests safe.
- Work continues on the Lakeview Springs sewer connection. Once necessary permits and easements are in place, we can begin actual construction of the sewer line.
- We have contracted with engineers to complete the needed site engineering designs for the main valley at Lakeview Springs (see illustrations). We hope to kick off this project sometime next spring.

- Loan repayments continue ahead of schedule. With the completed pledges made this year, we will be able to retire most of the debt that was scheduled to be repaid by the campaign.

All of this is made possible by the amazing support we have received over the last year and a half. Lakeview Ministries has been tempest-tossed, but God has been faithful in the midst of the storm. We are incredibly blessed by the love, encouragement, and shared strength of our camp family — beyond all that we could ask or imagine!





## LAKEVIEW SPRINGS MASTER PLAN

# THE STRENGTH OF THE WILLOW TREE

What is the strongest tree in the forest? Is it the mighty oak — thick-limbed, strong and sturdy? Or is it the willow — deeply rooted, supple, and flexible?

Oak trees can withstand punishing gales. Oaks will grow for decades, even centuries, by standing strong against the winds. However, in the most violent of storms, oaks will snap.

On the other hand, willow trees were designed by God to bend and sway. Although terrible storms might push willows to the ground, when the winds subside, willows will spring back up and keep growing.

This past year, we at Lakeview have been inspired by the image of the willow tree. Though wave after wave of life's storms have washed over us, we have been able to draw resources from our deep-rooted community, and spring back to life.

In gratitude for the extraordinary support we've received in 2020 and 2021, we will celebrate our Lakeview Family by commemorating the "Strength of the Willow" that has been displayed by our community throughout this time. We will begin this celebration at the Dinner Auction event in November and continue it with a special commemoration to be revealed soon.

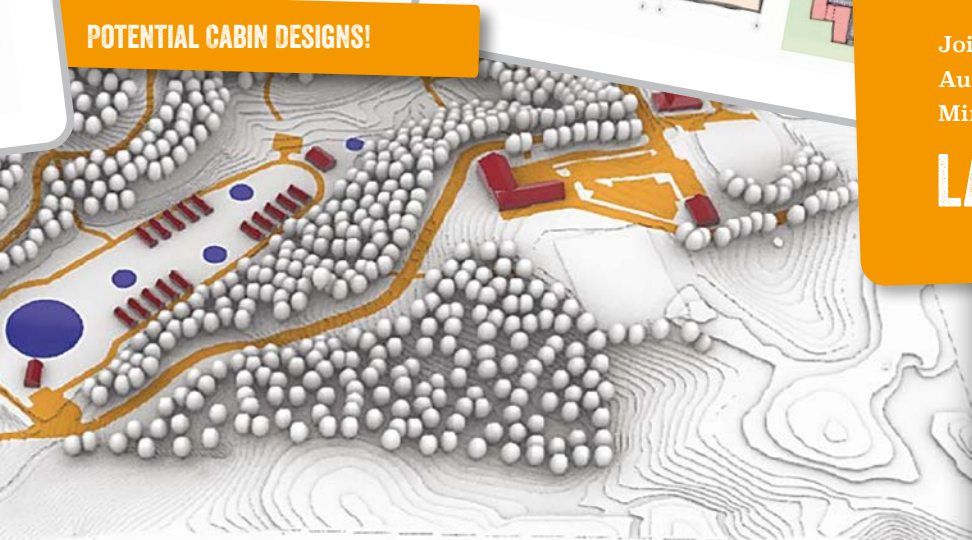
Join us on November 20 at our Dinner Auction to hear more about Lakeview Ministries' willow-tree resilience.



[LAKEVIEW.CAMP/AUCTION](https://www.lakeviewcamp.com/auktion)



POTENTIAL CABIN DESIGNS!





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**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

## **BOB SAYS SAVE THE DATE!**

This year's event on November 20 at Primo in Indianapolis will be great fun as Lakeview supporters gather together again to support camp. Mark your calendar and plan to join us!

**LAKEVIEW.CAMP/AUCTION**

