

You have done and are doing  
a wonderful job with this entire  
camp. We couldn't be happier  
with it! Thank you!!!

A HAPPY PARENT



LAKEVIEW  
MINISTRIES

Spring 2023



## WE LOVE OUR VOLUNTEERS!

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- HOW VOLUNTEERS HELP US
- Q&A WITH LONG-TIME  
VOLUNTEER: DAN KIEL





Dear Lakeview Family,

I can never read the words of Colossian 3:23 without thinking about the countless people who have volunteered and poured so much time and effort into camp over the years. The investment of all these volunteers, working in service for the Lord, is beyond calculation. I can say with complete certainty that camp wouldn't be where it is today without our amazing volunteers!

Take the cabins, lodges, and buildings that spread out across our property. Who can forget that it was an army of willing volunteers that helped transform acres of woods into Lakeview Villages? What some camp ministries take decades to develop, we were able to construct in just a few short years—including the lake!

It's the same with our Amphitheater, cabin remodels, retaining walls, and hiking trails. The list goes on and on. These projects are only possible because so many of you have chosen to invest your time and energy into making these additions and improvements at Lakeview.

This list doesn't even cover all the routine projects we tackle every year. Through events like Word Weekend and volunteer groups and individual volunteers, camp is blessed with thousands of volunteer hours every year. In 2022 alone the help we received from volunteers contributed to over 10,000 hours of service. That's incredible!

As you can imagine, the countless hours invested in camp by volunteers has resulted in tangible savings for our ministry throughout its history. A recent example of this savings is the master site plan for Lakeview Springs. The anticipated volunteer work hours will cut the project cost estimate by nearly a third and eventually result in savings of millions of dollars!

Of course, the impact of our volunteers goes beyond dollars and cents. Thanks to the work of our dedicated volunteers, we are able to move forward with projects that would otherwise take years of saving and fundraising to accomplish.

Without volunteers, we would experience delayed progress and diminished ministry opportunities. Because of our volunteers, more people are able to have deeper and richer experiences at camp. I can't say it enough: **we could never accomplish all that we do without you.**

There's a special kind of unity that occurs when people tackle a project together. The relationships we build as we split firewood, pick up a paintbrush, or clean a cabin form a community united in service to our Lord. It's what makes the Lakeview family so special, and I am forever grateful for it—and for you, my fellow laborers in Christ.

In Christ's love,  
David "DÄV" Vandercar, Executive Director

**"WHATEVER YOU DO, WORK AT IT WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AS WORKING FOR THE LORD..."**  
— COLOSSIANS 3:23 (NIV)







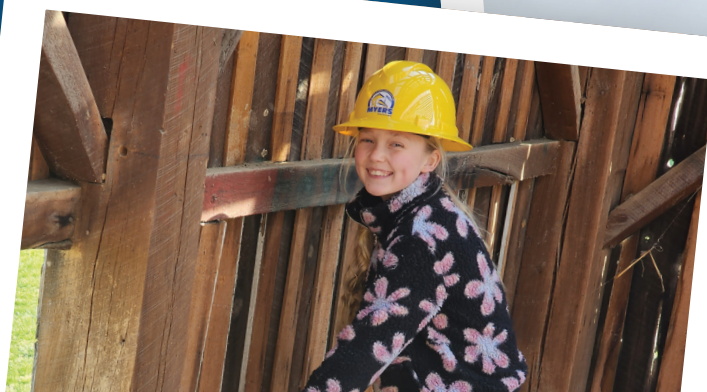
## OUR LATEST VOLUNTEER PROJECT: BARNSTORMING!

If you've been following #lakeviewbarnstorming on social media, you know that with the help of some dedicated volunteers, we recently dismantled two 1900's-era barns, beam by beam, joist by joist. These structures have yielded an amazing supply of timber beams, wooden siding, and lumber for the restoration of our pre-Civil War-era lodge at Lakeview Springs.

Under the direction of Old Man Bailey, our restoration specialist, we were able to guide the more than a dozen volunteers who helped at various points in the projects through the careful and sometimes painstaking process of reclaiming all of this salvaged material. The crews worked tirelessly on various work days from March 7 - 30, clearing out clutter, removing tin roofs, and literally pounding out every nail in preparation for our upcoming restoration project this summer.

Our Facebook page has a series of videos documenting the project from start to finish that you can check out. Many thanks to everyone who braved high winds, snow, and rain to help with this project! And special thanks to Old Man Bailey for his careful coordination of the work process, schedule, and crews.

If you'd like to help with this project moving forward, we are still looking for reclaimed brick, stone, and/or lumber to be donated. This summer, we'll also need volunteers to help with the restoration efforts at Lakeview Springs. If you're interested, you can add your name to our volunteer list at [lakeview.camp/lakeviewsprings](https://lakeview.camp/lakeviewsprings).



# PEOPLE POWER!

## HOW VOLUNTEERS HELP US CHANGE THE LAKEVIEW LANDSCAPE—AND MORE THAN DOUBLE OUR REACH!

It's no exaggeration to say that Lakeview couldn't exist in its current state without a small army of volunteers. Whether it's big projects—such as building or remodeling cabins, forging new mountain bike paths, and pouring concrete for our Amphitheater—or routine maintenance roles, such as picking up a paintbrush, cleaning out a cabin, or spreading mulch, our volunteers have done it all!

Our Facilities Director, John Dobrinski, works hard to match every person or group with a task that suits their interests and skill sets. According to John, the key to a successful volunteer event is offering projects where people can see a difference at the end of the task.

He's worked with just about every age range and ability. "I had a group of preschoolers who could run circles around people four or five times their age," he said. "I gave them a job of spreading mulch, and it was amazing! They got so much done."

And while a group of willing workers might not accomplish what a professional could undertake, Lakeview volunteers do make a significant difference in the workload for our staff. "In hard dollars," said John, "it's easy to figure out the value of our volunteers."

Say that 75 people show up for Work Weekend and provide 4-6 hours of steady work. That's the equivalent of over 40 days of work getting camp ready for summer! "Without those volunteers," said John, "we would have to hire at least three staff people to do that work. In that sense, our volunteers are absolutely necessary."

But there's a spiritual value volunteers bring to Lakeview as well. "We focus on God's gifts and the impact our work has on people who come to



### MEET JOHN DOBRINSKI, FACILITIES DIRECTOR

If you've ever worked on a facilities project at Lakeview, John Dobrinski is a familiar face. He's the man who coordinates all of our volunteers, making sure everyone has a clear role and sense of accomplishment at the end of the day.

What you may not realize is all the work that goes on behind the scenes to keep camp looking beautiful and functioning as it should. For John, a big part of that process is anticipating anything that could go wrong and making sure he has the tools, parts, and people for any possible need. Plumbing, electrical, mechanical...you name it, John's installed it, maintained it, and repaired it!

It's a big job, one that John embraces. "My goal is to address anything that could distract our guests from experiencing God's plan for them," he said. "I want them to focus on all that God has created."

Here are five fun facts about the man who keeps our Lakeview grounds and facilities up and running:

1. Holds a degree in Forestry and Natural Resources from the University of Wisconsin
2. Managed a cranberry farm for over a decade
3. Has worked at Lakeview for 22 years!
4. Built and lived in a log cabin when he was in high school
5. Loves to dream about new projects for camp



camp,” said John. “We are all stewards of God’s gifts to us, and we want to use those wisely.”

In other words, volunteering at camp gives people the opportunity to serve God in real and tangible ways. “A lot of people tell us they come away from a work project with more than they gave,” said John. “Some families look forward to Work Weekend as much or more than any of the other programs we offer.”

If you’re one of those people who has invested time and energy at Lakeview, thank you! And if you’ve never experienced the kind of camaraderie and connection that volunteering offers, we’d love to help plug you in to one of our future volunteer opportunities at camp. It’s truly an incredible experience to come and be a part of all that God is accomplishing through Lakeview Ministries!

## TRAILS



## VILLAGES



## AMPHITHEATER



Did you know that many different groups come volunteer at camp throughout the year? Here are just a few of the groups over the last several years who have given their time and energy to make Lakeview what it is today:

- Toyota Employees
- Cummins Work Groups
- Redeemer Seymour Servant Event
- Trinity Lutheran High School (Seymour) Student Work Days
- Lutheran High School (Indianapolis) Work Days
- Eagle Scout Projects
- Laborers for Christ

# THANK YOU, VOLUNTEERS!



# Q & A WITH DAN KIEL

## LAKEVIEW'S LONGEST-SERVING VOLUNTEER



Dan Kiel, circa 1998 during the construction of the Bathhouse

Meet Dan Kiel, longtime Lakeview volunteer and inspiration for the “Dan Kiel Award,” given every year to a Lakeview Ministries volunteer who goes above and beyond in service to our ministry. We thought it was time to reveal the man behind the award.

### HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN SERVING AT CAMP?

**DK:** Since the mid-1990s. I had worked for 30 years at Cummins, and when they offered a generous retirement package to some of us in 1988, I took it. I remember thinking that I needed to find a way to thank the Lord for letting me retire so well when I was only 50 years old. My kids had gone to Camp Lakeview, and a friend of mine was serving on the board. He was looking for a replacement, and I decided it was a good fit.

After serving on the board for seven years, I served on the foundation board for another five years. When I was on the foundation, I started coming once a week to volunteer at camp. At the end of my term, I thought, “Now what am I going to do?” I realized that I was already working at camp, so why couldn’t I just keep doing that?

### WHAT DO YOU LIKE BEST ABOUT VOLUNTEERING AT LAKEVIEW?

**DK:** I like that there’s always something to do: cutting down trees, mopping floors, setting up tables, clearing trails—whatever is needed. I never know until I get there.

But more than that, Lakeview is a great place to support. I think about one of my granddaughters

## REFLECTIONS ON THE POWER OF A PERSONAL CONNECTION

### HOW DAN KIEL HELPED ME FORGE A NEW PATH

BY DAVID VAMDERCAR, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

My first interaction with Dan Kiel was when I was on Summer Staff over twenty years ago. I was a college kid assisting in maintenance, and I met this guy who came out every week to volunteer. Dan quickly became the icon of camp to me. I had no way of knowing at the time, but he was to have a tremendous impact on my life. Of course, as a college student, it never occurred to me that one day I would be the Executive Director of Camp!

When the job came available in 2013, I was working as the Site Manager for Camp Lakeview. I remember telling my wife that I would be interested in being the Executive Director...someday.



Dan was the first one to come up to me and say, “Are you going to submit your resume?” That question completely set me back on my heels. “What do you see in me? Am I actually qualified for that?” were the first questions that came to my mind.

The respect I had for Dan and the friendship I had built with him made me rethink my timetable. I knew Dan loved camp. The fact that he would think of me as a good fit for the Executive Director position opened the door for God to work in my heart and say, “It doesn’t matter who you are or whether or not you think you are qualified. If I am calling you to that position, I will make you sufficient.”



who was reluctant to come to camp. When we went to pick her up, she didn't want to leave! That tells you the kids are having a good experience, and it's not just the fun things. The experiences kids have at camp often change the direction of their lives. Some choose to pursue full-time ministry. Others become teachers or counselors. I've seen marriages form here. It's just a Christ-centered place.

### WHAT ARE SOME OF YOUR FAVORITE PROJECTS AT LAKEVIEW?

**DK:** We've done so many things. Shortly after I joined the board, we built three new cabins, then a new dining hall and shower house. We've done all kinds of projects: the Welcome Center, the shop, the barn, all the development at Lakeview Villages, even purchasing the property at The Springs.

It's been a fantastic time for me to see how camp has grown. When I first joined the board, there were just eight cabins and the chapel. We had 600 kids that came in the summer. We now serve 2,400 kids in the summer and 10,000 adults throughout

the year. There were 15 buildings when I started volunteering. Now we have 55. How can you explain that growth without the Lord's help?

### WHAT WOULD YOU SAY TO SOMEONE WHO IS THINKING ABOUT VOLUNTEERING AT CAMP?

**DK:** After I get through trying to convince them, they need to offer prayers and ask God what they should be doing. There's a real fellowship of working together. The staff is friendly, gracious, and willing to help. When I go out there on Fridays, we always have a noon meal together. They have fun amongst themselves and enjoy great conversations. It's something you have to experience for yourself.

### YOU TURNED 85 THIS YEAR. HOW LONG DO YOU THINK YOU'LL KEEP VOLUNTEERING AT LAKEVIEW?

**DK:** Until I can't get out there anymore or until they take away my keys.

## VOLUNTEER AT CAMP!

No matter your age, skills, or abilities, there is a place for you to volunteer at camp! Here are some great opportunities to get involved:

#### Work Weekend (May 5-7):

Sign up to help at [lakeview.camp/workweekend](http://lakeview.camp/workweekend).

#### Junior Staff Program:

For high school students to help in the summer. Sign up at [lakeview.camp/juniorstaff](http://lakeview.camp/juniorstaff).

#### Regular Volunteer Rotations:

Email [john@camplakeview.com](mailto:john@camplakeview.com) to volunteer at camp on a weekly, monthly, or a semi-consistent basis.







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Seymour, IN 47274**

**812-342-4815**

**[www.lakeview.camp](http://www.lakeview.camp)  
[office@lakeviewministries.camp](mailto:office@lakeviewministries.camp)**

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

## JOIN US FOR OUR OPEN HOUSE

Lakeview friends (new and old) are invited to kick off the summer at camp at our annual **Open House on Sunday, May 28th**. The event runs from 10:00 am – 1:30 pm and will begin with a worship service at the Camp Lakeview Amphitheatre, where we will commission our 50 Summer Staff for the summer, as well as new Village Program Director, Hannah Mielke.

Following the service there will be a barbecue lunch available and a variety of fun camp activities to enjoy, including:

- Swimming at the Village Lake
- Hatchet Throwing
- Mini Golfing
- Slip 'n Sliding
- Kayaking and Canoeing
- Horse Barn Visits and More!

We would love to have you join us for this Open House. Each summer we are reminded that this ministry only exists because of the people that have participated and volunteered and supported camp throughout the years, and that includes YOU!

Be sure to mark your calendars for this special day as we welcome all that God has in store for us at camp this year!

**HOPE TO SEE  
YOU THERE!**

