

My favorite part about working on year-round staff is having a great team to work with and also having some quiet time during the winter season.

KIM WRIGHT



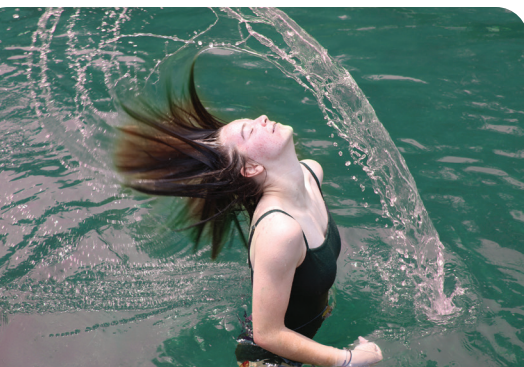
Winter 2023



## FOUNDATIONS FOR THE FUTURE

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*"In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life." – I Timothy 6:19 (NIV)*

Dear Lakeview Family,

Here at camp, we're in the middle of a massive building project. While we have many exciting projects in the works at camp, and this issue talks about many of them (including the ongoing restoration of the lodge at Lakeview Springs, exciting projects in store at the Villages that will be funded by a massive grant from the Lilly Endowment Inc, and even the continued "project" of building a strong team here at Lakeview Ministries), the project I'm thinking of is even bigger, and has nothing to do with brick and mortar.

That's because the massive building project I'm referencing is something even more eternal—a firm foundation for this ministry. The Apostle Paul describes this kind of foundation in I Timothy 6:9, where he encourages his fellow believers to put their hope in God and to find their treasure in doing good. A life spent hoping in God and living for others is a life worth building. And in this type of life, our foundation is built on Christ.

We have many exciting foundational things happening at camp that will help provide strength for the ministry for years to come. But ultimately our foundation rests on Christ. Every project we complete, every staff member we hire, and every retreat we host flows from our mission to help people experience the "life that is truly life" found in Jesus.

I am so grateful for your help in laying a firm foundation for the ministry of camp, and hope that you join me in eagerly anticipating what God is building here at Lakeview!

In Christ's love,  
David Vandercar, Executive Director





# LAKEVIEW LIFTED UP

DINNER AUCTION 2023

1 PETER 5:6-7



One of the strongest parts of camp's foundation is the Lakeview family, made up of all the people who love, support, and pray for this place. Never is that more visible than at our annual Dinner Auction, where hundreds of supporters come together to celebrate camp and raise money for its future.

This year we gathered once again on November 18th at the Primo Banquet Hall in Indianapolis and spent a night focusing on all the ways God has "lifted up" the ministry of camp over the past year.

We definitely felt "lifted up" by all your support! We set a new record for number of people in attendance, with 437 camp supporters joining us for the auction. Our special auction item was raising

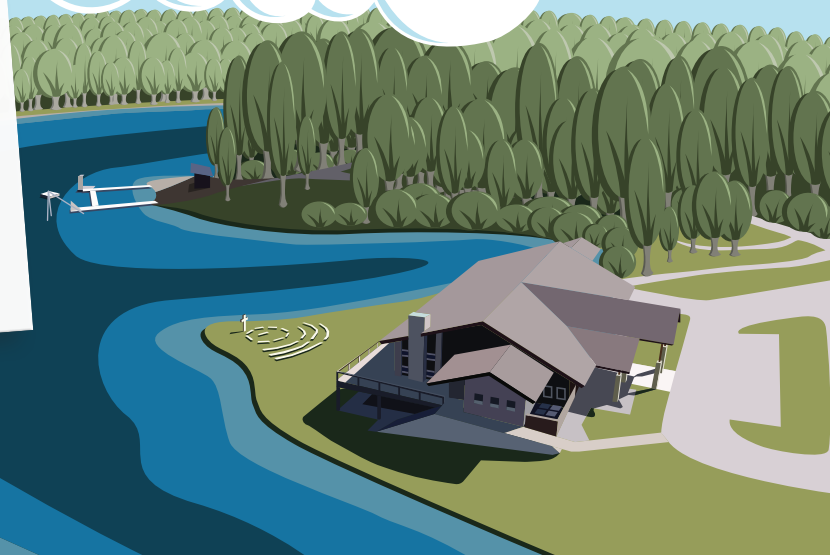
money to replace the 25-year-old roof on the Dining Hall building, and we raised over \$22,405 to help make this project possible.

Overall, we raised over \$125,000 throughout the course of the evening, a truly incredible amount. Camp could not exist without your donations at the Dinner Auction and throughout the year.

Your support creates a firm foundation for this ministry and paves the way for camp to continue to grow and impact the lives of campers into the future. Truly, you are our greatest asset, and we are forever grateful for the ways you have laid a foundation for the future here at Lakeview Ministries.

## BY THE NUMBERS

	2021	2022	2023
People attending in person	273	383	437
Total Amount Raised	\$71,843	\$98,034	OVER \$125,000





# HERE FOR THE LONG HAUL

## HOW STABILITY IN STAFFING STRENGTHENS LAKEVIEW

Here at Lakeview Ministries, God has blessed us with something really special—our staff. We always say that our staff is the heart and soul of our ministry. Whether it's our junior staff, summer staff, or the folks who work this job year-round, God has brought us some pretty amazing people.

The leadership at Lakeview has made staff retention a priority. Unlike the industry standard, where program directors usually burn out and leave an organization after 3 - 5 years, our team of directors has racked up a combined 60-plus years of service!

That's something to celebrate! Stability in our staffing means we can build relationships with our campers that extend year over year. It also means we can invest in

trainings and certifications for our staff, such as EMT and lifeguard instructor training and certifications in high ropes course management, that strengthen our value as an organization.

Our hope is that this kind of investment in our team sends a message loud and clear that we love them and value them as individuals as well.

Over the last 5 years at camp, a big focus has been on creating better practices and policies to allow our staff a sustainable work-life balance, even in the midst of the intensity of summer and other high-stress times at camp. We've also expanded our year-round staff team to meet

the workload demands of this growing ministry.

"We make this investment," said David Vandercar, executive director, "because the main focus of our ministry is the relationships we build. We can't do that with high staff turnover. Knowing that our staff will be here long term is an amazing resource for us as an organization. As we invest in them, we invest in God's kingdom."

*One of my favorite parts about working on the year-round team at Lakeview is the amount of people that I can get advice from as I evaluate the value and/or best methods of beginning a new project.*

- Brandon Hall





# A BEAUTIFUL PARTNERSHIP

## HOW LAKEVIEW JOINS FORCES WITH THE LCMS DISTRICT OFFICE TO STRENGTHEN GOD'S KINGDOM

A key piece of Lakeview's foundation is the strong partnership we enjoy with the Indiana LCMS District and Lutheran churches within our area. We are truly blessed in how much our District and churches view camp as a resource.

For instance, Lakeview has been privileged to host Dr. Richard Stuckwisch, LCMS Indiana District President, while he's been traveling in our area. "To me," said David Vandercar, executive director, "that just shows his willingness and support of what we're doing."

Dr. Stuckwisch agrees. "Lakeview provides a nice setting for our people to gather for conferences and retreats," he said. "It's a wonderful partnership to work with people who share the same Confession."

As part of that partnership, Lakeview hosts several district events at camp each year, including the Indiana District Youth Rally (for middle school students), the Indiana District Youth Gathering (for high school students), and the Southern Region Pastor's Conference (for pastors in the southern half of the Indiana District). In addition, dozens of Lutheran churches and schools bring groups out to camp each year, ranging from Outdoor Education to confirmation groups and youth group retreats.

Ephesians 4:16 says "From [Christ] the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work." This description of the body of Christ beautifully captures the way that the ministry of camp and the ministry of the church intertwine.

"We aren't trying to do church at camp," said David Vandercar, executive director. "We do camp at camp." The unique aspects of camp ministry, where people can come to retreat, rest, and form temporary community, lead to incredible opportunities for change and growth. In that way, camp can deliver a huge boost to the year-round ministry churches already are doing.

The love and support shown to camp by the District and our Lutheran churches and schools is a privilege we do not take lightly, and we pray that camp continues to be a place where people of the church can go to be supported and encouraged in return. To God be the glory!





# AWARDED GRANTS PAVE WAY FOR EXPANDED MINISTRY

In the last six months, Lakeview Ministries (South Central Lutheran Camp Association of Indiana) was awarded not one but TWO significant grants to further its ministry. This past spring, the Harrison County Community Foundation (HCCF) awarded a **\$70,000** grant to fund the ongoing restoration and installation of modern utilities for our Civil-War era lodge at the Springs.

“The lodge, once restored, is going to serve as the epicenter for any guests arriving at the Springs and is a significant step toward the ultimate goal of allowing the Springs to provide family-focused retreats for all ages of our community.

“We are so thankful to the Harrison County Community Foundation for this generous contribution to our work at the Springs,” said David Vandercar, Executive Director. “We are humbled that they would choose to invest in our ministry efforts at the Springs, and we are thrilled to be able to bring this project to completion.”

In addition to the HCCF grant, Lakeview Ministries was recently awarded a **\$647,750** grant from Lilly Endowment Inc. to help further the mission and ministry of camp. This grant was funded through Lilly Endowment’s “Strengthening Youth Programs in Indiana” initiative. Out of all the camps awarded grants across the US, Lakeview received the highest total awarded!

This grant will allow for several important projects to be completed in the next two years at camp. The most significant will be building a 6th village cluster at Lakeview Villages, completing our goal of building six village clusters and allowing 120 campers to come to the Villages each week of the summer. In addition, we will be improving accessibility at the village clusters, paving the gravel road and parking area that runs through the Villages and increasing trail lighting across the site.



# FOUNDATIONS FOR



This grant is a huge building block as we look at the next 10 years for Lakeview Ministries and begin preparing to launch our next capital campaign. There is always more to do at camp, and the ability to fund and complete all these necessary projects in the immediate future is a huge help in allowing us to focus on other needed projects long term. We are excited for what the future holds here at camp!

“Organizations outside Lakeview are noticing the work we are doing to strengthen Indiana’s youth,”

said David Vandercar. “We were able to show how we’ve been good stewards of past grants and individual donations. The fact that the Lilly Endowment is willing to invest in Lakeview validates that investment and sends a strong statement that they want to see us grow.”

Look for the completion of the Lakeview Springs lodge this summer and a 6th village cluster at camp in the summer of 2025!



# THE FUTURE





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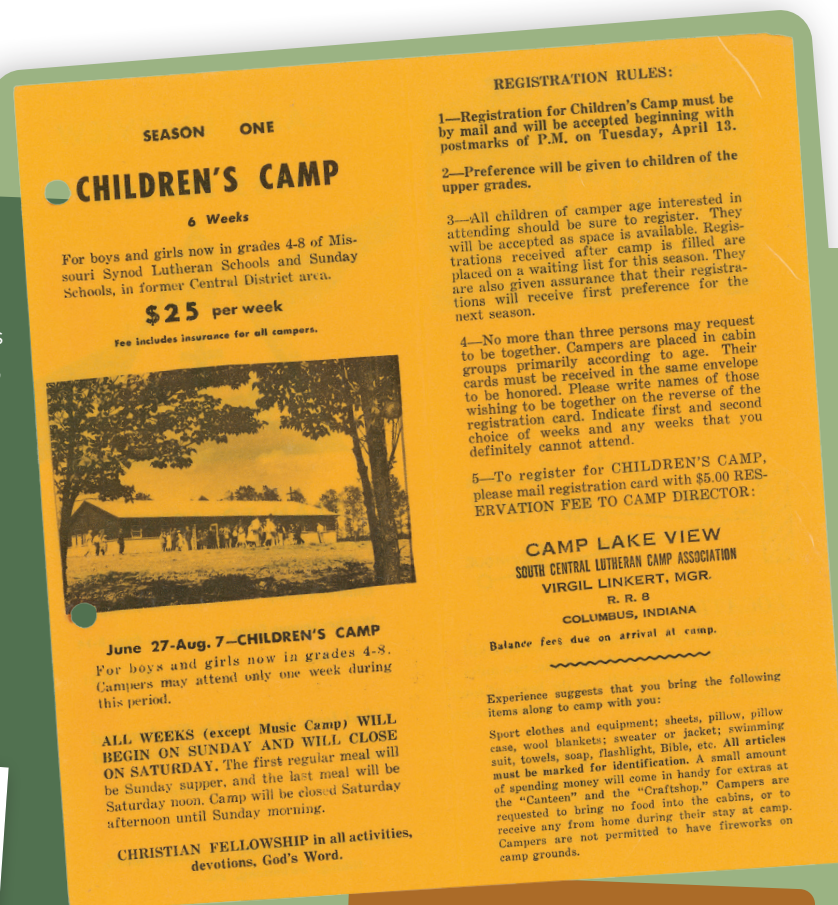
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## FROM THE ARCHIVES

### LAKEVIEW'S PAST SHAPES ITS FUTURE

Here at Lakeview, we have been blessed with a strong foundation from the very beginning. Our board has always had a confidence that God would provide for this ministry, as evidenced by the very first pamphlet they developed for the first summer season back in 1965. What I find most interesting about this pamphlet isn't just the \$25 registration cost for a week at camp (back when gas was 31¢ a gallon!), but also the fact that the board established a waitlist policy for camp. Before a single camp session was held, the board had the confidence and the hope that God would provide and camp would be completely full. I see that same confidence in those leading camp today. This is not a passive ministry - God is working! We appreciate the support and guidance from our board and all our supporters as we look to God to provide for this ministry as we head hope-filled into the future.

*David Vanders*



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