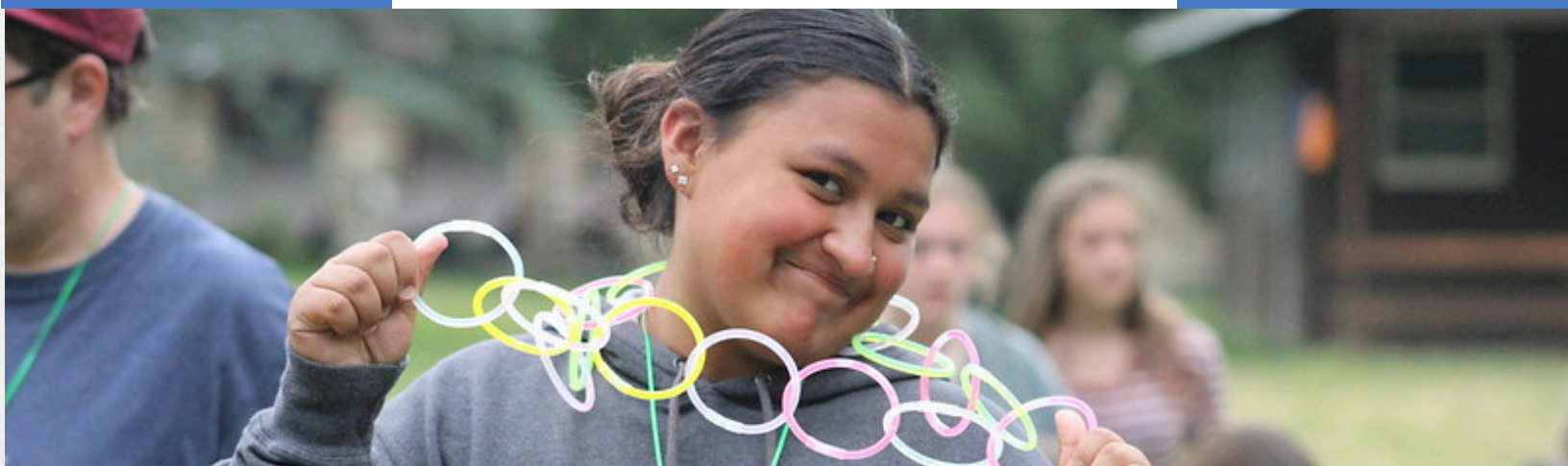




CAMP MACK IMPACT

Stories of the Difference Donors Make



EVERY MOMENT

By Gene Hollenberg

He ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass. He took the five loaves of bread and the two fish, looked up to heaven, blessed them and broke the loaves apart and gave them to his disciples. Then the disciples gave them to the crowds. 20 Everyone ate until they were full, and they filled twelve baskets with the leftovers. 21 About five thousand men plus women and children had eaten.
Matthew 14:19-21 (CEB)

This month's newsletter is mostly a series of stories shared by our counseling staff this summer. It is easy to see the impact Camp Mack has on the lives of children who desperately need to hear of incredible grace, the overwhelming love of God, and the joy of living in a community of faith.

Every moment of camp contributes to growth and helps lead campers to God's vision of love for everyone.

As much as we celebrate the camp season we just finished, we also have been concerned that more campers were not here to experience what it is like to be part of this community. Since the pandemic, the number of campers has been much lower than before 2020. Each camper who is not here, is a child who does not hear, see, and feel the wonder of Christian camping.

Summer camp 2025 begins a little less than eleven months from now. If you, the individual members of our community, and every church were to send a child to camp next summer, we could be serving so many more, and the impact we could have would be incredible.

I am asking you to start planning now to make a child's world change forever. Will you set aside some money each month, by yourself or in a group, to make it happen? What a difference it will make for you and your community.

STORIES OF THE SUMMER

One of my memories from this summer is when a huge storm blew through camp in the middle of the night, and we had to evacuate our cabins at 12:30am. We got all our campers safely to the basement and that is when one of my girls started having a nervous breakdown. She started crying, screaming, and begging to go home. I held her through the storm, sang to her, and prayed with her through the storm. We got back to the cabin, and I remember thinking, this was definitely one of the hardest nights yet.

It was a couple days later when that camper came up to me and said "you helped me so much that night. I knew I was safe because you never left my side, and you got me through that storm." She probably did not think that comment would stick with me, but a great reminder of what may seem so little to us may be huge for our campers.



PRAYER REQUESTS

Join us in a prayer of thanksgiving for a great summer staff and amazing bunch of volunteers this summer.

VOLUNTEER NEEDS

The facility team can always use an extra set of hands for projects. From roofing to decking, facility can always use your help.

GIVING OPPORTUNITIES

Your support for Camp Mack each month helps sustain Camp Mack in both the busy and quiet times.

One of the most rewarding parts of counseling is watching campers do things they were sure they would not be able to. For many that might be making new friends, passing the swim test, or climbing the hardest part of the climbing wall — but for Seekers that is frequently just spending a full week away from home. Homesickness can often seem too scary to even be spoken of as a counselor, something that if you suggest it might make your week far more difficult, yet I found that through walking with campers who were struggling gave me the unique opportunity to hold space for them and share tools for dealing with big emotions that they can apply throughout their life.

For one of my campers, her consistent perseverance through a tumultuous week left a lasting impression. Though she cried at most meals, she remained committed to sticking out the week. Watching her confidence in herself rise as she proved to herself that she could spend a week in a new environment reminded me why I love counseling — the empowerment that many campers experience me within just one week reminds me why all of us should do something that scares us once in a while.



One of the campers came to camp through the after school program. This was a kid where the program camp gave him the space and environment where he could be himself and smile. He joined in and helped build fires, cook meals, and other things that the camp needed, plus come away with new friends. At the end of the week, I asked him, how he would rate his camp experience, if we could remove the mosquitoes, he said it would be a ten out of ten.

One of my best memories at Camp Mack this summer was being able to watch spiritual growth happen within the lives of my campers. While counseling, I got to work with campers who came from many different backgrounds and levels of spirituality. I enjoyed teaching my younger campers how to read the Bible for the first time.

For some of these campers, this is their first time opening a Bible, so it is important to be able to teach them how to find different Bible verses and provide them with Bibles to take home and flourish in their own faith. I personally felt that it was rewarding to teach this newfound knowledge and give them the resources to explore the curiosity that comes with learning about faith for the first time.



CAMP UPDATES

LAKESIDE PAVILION



Thanks to Giving Day this spring, the Lakeside Pavilion has a new roof! The new roof looks nice and has provided campers a great place to sit at the swim beaches.

ULRICH ELEVATOR



Thank you to all the churches who donated to help purchase a new steamer. The steamer has been a part of many delicious meals at camp this summer.

During my time counseling Finders camp, my plan was to counsel for the majority of the week and to leave on the campers' last night to go on a school trip to Italy. My boys and I had started the week out a bit rough with some problems listening and following instructions. Throughout the few days at camp though, my CIT and I had seen an overall change in attitude. Our kids had actually changed their demeanors as the week went on.



On Thursday, the day I was heading out, the boys kept telling me that I needed to stay and that we should stay in touch after camp (they were especially interested in me showing them my pictures from Italy), and by the end of the day as the boys were in bed waiting for me to turn off the lights and head out, there was this really emotional moment. The entire cabin had lined up for a round of hugs. The boys also started petitioning for the name tag that I had made during the week and asked if they could keep it. So before I left the cabin and headed to prepare for my trip, I gave my name tag to the guys. These moments made it tough to leave camp, but knowing that I'd see the boys next year (they insisted that I come back to see my pictures of Italy) gave me hope about this and next year.



**THANK YOU TO ALL THE
STAFF, VOLUNTEERS,
DONORS, AND CAMPERS THAT
MADE THIS SUMMER
POSSIBLE!**