



## Final Update on the Airnasium Project

It's amazing to think that we announced this project and the fundraising behind it about 11 months ago. In the fall of 2023, we took what had been an outdoor basketball court and worship center and added concrete footers. This was the first step in preparing the area to become a large covered meeting space and activity center.

Each week since then we've seen the building change. We hired Justin and his team from Central Iowa Building Systems (CIBS) to do the majority of work. When CIBS showed up on February 12, it only took a few hours before 12 steel beams outlined the concrete pad.



The building is now enclosed with a roof, siding, and insulation. Ten large garage doors are in the process of being installed. These doors will allow us to choose whether the meeting space should be open-air or enclosed on any given day. And because we insulated the entire building, it will be usable year-round.



By mid-April, electrical and HVAC contractors began work inside the building. Our staff are now focusing on water drainage around the site and have built the stage that will be installed soon. One thousand chairs have been delivered. We are on track to open the Airnasium at Memorial Day Family Camp and are excited to use it for Summer Camp 2024!

This project wasn't possible without the hand of God bringing us generous donors and the right people to drive fundraising. Our original fundraising goal was \$850,000 but we increased that to \$910,000 to cover additional expenses and outsourced electrical work.



In November 2023 we held a Giving Tuesday Telethon with a goal to raise \$125,000 and actually raised \$178,000. In February 2024 we hosted a Gala & Auction to raise more funds, and it was such a fun night! Guests enjoyed appetizers, a fancy dinner, a silent auction, and a live auction with a wonderful auctioneer (and new camp friend), Ron Davis. Dinner didn't include dessert, but guests could bid on 20 different desserts from local bakeries and talented Hidden Acres staff. Justin, our contractor with CIBS, made sure his company started construction before the Gala so guests could see progress, then he and his staff even bought a table at the auction and attended the event! Our goal for that night was to raise \$100,000 and we were blessed to bring in over \$191,000! Because these two events were so successful and we realized Hidden Acres will need support for future development projects, we now plan to make both the Telethon and the Auction & Gala annual events.

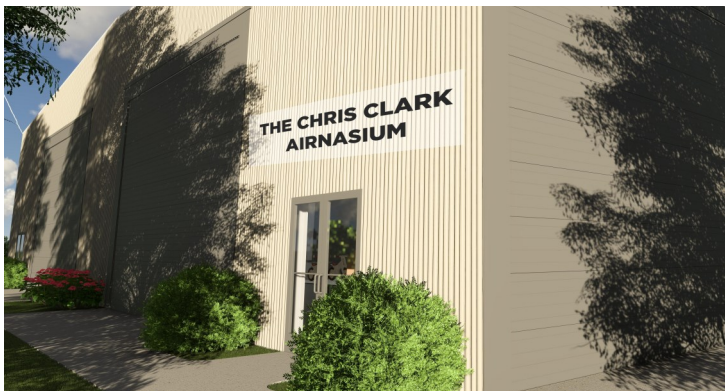
In addition to these two large fundraising events, we've felt extremely blessed and humbled by the overwhelming support and generosity we've received from the community, our camp friends (like you!), local churches, event attendees, and more. To date, we've raised \$780,000 and another \$60,000 is pledged and expected soon. This will leave us with around \$70,000 needed to be fully funded. This is absolutely incredible considering we announced the project 11 months ago. God is good. Thank you so much for your prayers and support!

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## Airnasium, Continued

Chris and Marj Clark were hired as our Camp Advancement Team in 2023. Chris was a driving force in fundraising and spreading the word about this project. We felt like God had brought us the exact right person for the exact right task. Chris' friendliness and ability to connect with new people, his excitement for Hidden Acres, and his caring and intentional heart were a perfect fit. He got right to work planning special events like the Telethon and Gala & Auction. He scheduled church visits where he shared our plans for The Airnasium and explained how this building would allow lives to be changed by the gospel of Jesus Christ.

We learned in January that God had other plans for Chris. On the evening of January 29, just a few weeks before the Gala & Auction, I was texting Chris and making plans for his next trip to camp. Three hours later he suffered a massive heart attack and passed away at the age of 57. Jesus had called him home. Our entire staff attended his celebration of life where we remembered our friend. He was such an intentional and dedicated follower of Jesus and he challenged our staff to be more like Christ. In memory of Chris and because of our thankfulness for his hand in bringing this project to fruition, our staff and camp board have decided to name the building The Chris Clark Airnasium.



Thank you so much for your support of Hidden Acres and prayers on our behalf. If you feel led to help us finish the Airnasium fundraising, you can give online at [hacamps.org/donate](http://hacamps.org/donate) or use the enclosed envelope to send a check with "Airnasium" in the memo blank. Next time you're at Hidden Acres, make sure you check out The Chris Clark Airnasium! If you have any questions or want to volunteer at camp, you can email [steve.pinkley@hacamps.org](mailto:steve.pinkley@hacamps.org) or call me at 515-988-2121.

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## Preparing for Growth

By Ryan Graden, Ministries Director

Some of you may not know this, but I've been around Hidden Acres for most of my life. My parents started volunteering with the camp when I was about four years old. I remember when the Main Lodge was brand new and the only "cabins" on camp were simple tentels. I remember when Hickory Grove, Basswood Knob, and Treetopper Cabins were added. I also recall crews building the Bunkhouse, Johnson Lodge, and Horse Barn. It's been a joy to grow up here and I am now blessed to work and live here as a member of the permanent staff. I never dreamed as a child that camp ministry at Hidden Acres would be my career.

All the growth I have witnessed here over the years—more groups, guests, and buildings—adds up to a need for more infrastructure. There are a lot of parts of camp that need attention that you don't normally think about: roads, electricity, water, and the sewage lagoon. That last item, the sewage lagoon, is probably the least fun to discuss, but it too needs our attention.

To try and bring levity to the topic, here's the current scoop on poop at camp. Our lagoon is too small and has reached its capacity. We are thus expanding our lagoon to handle current and future guest attendance. We hired civil engineers Snyder & Associates to help us design and build a new lagoon that will support the ministry of Hidden Acres for years to come. With Snyder's help, we hope to start building a new lagoon this summer that is twice the size of the current one.

As you can guess, we need funds to complete this project. A few staff have humorously stated that we need people to be our #1 donor for our #2 project. Just know that this project is a step in growth. It's not as fun as some of our other fundraising projects, but it's a necessity. Thank you for your continued support.

In Steve's article about the Airnasium, he mentioned the plan to turn our November Telethon and February Auction & Gala into annual events. Your individual donations throughout the year, along with funds raised at these annual events, will keep our Development Fund at a healthy level. We'll be able to pull from this fund to support projects (like the Lagoon expansion) that are harder to raise money for but are needed to keep Hidden Acres updated and growing. The Telethon will be held each year on Giving Tuesday (late November), and the next Auction & Gala will likely be in February 2025. Mark your calendars and watch for more updates on these events on our Facebook page ([www.facebook.com/hacamps](http://www.facebook.com/hacamps)).

If you feel led to give to this project now, you can give online at [hacamps.org/donate](http://hacamps.org/donate), making sure to direct your donation to the "Development Campaign." You can also use the enclosed envelope to send a check but be sure to write "Lagoon Project" in the memo blank.