



Upgrading Infrastructure for the Future

By Steve Pinkley, Executive Director

As the Executive Director of Hidden Acres, part of my job is to not only oversee the day-to-day operations of the camp but to also prepare for the future. We are growing, and with all the fun improvements come other projects that are less visible.

Our current lagoon was built about 40 years ago for a much smaller Hidden Acres. Our current number of guests is overwhelming that system. We are now faced with the reality that an expansion must happen. We've worked with Snyder Engineering to draw up plans for the new system. Snyder has submitted those plans and their recommendations to the Iowa DNR, and we're waiting on DNR approval. Please pray they would accept our plans and that we can start this project soon.

Another behind-the-scenes project is a necessary upgrade to the swimming pool equipment room. Our current system is outdated and requires costly repairs throughout the year to keep it running. To replace such

a technical system, we've partnered with Jered Peterson and his company, Evolution Pools, LLC. Jered attends Stonebridge Church in Cedar Rapids, and we met him at our Sportsmen's Retreat. With his line of work, he attends trade shows and talks with pool equipment companies across the globe. He recommends we purchase a system from an Australian manufacturer. Their equipment is salt-based and even uses UV light to kill bacteria in the water. Pool standards in Australia are about ten years advanced from US standards, so we're excited to purchase a system that will serve us for many years.

We plan to close the swimming pool December 2-20 during our slower winter season. We will work with Jered's company on the installation, and at the same time we will replace the concrete deck around the pool. We resurfaced the inside of the pool a couple years ago, so with these new additions the renovations will be complete!

I hope you see the need for these upgrades, and please prayerfully consider supporting these two projects.

Fundraising Events

In my last newsletter, I mentioned that the success of two events last season—the Giving Tuesday Telethon and the Fundraising Gala—allowed us to help fund the Airnasium Project. They will now be annual events. This season, those events will support the swimming pool and lagoon projects.



The Telethon will be Tuesday, December 3rd. This is a social media based event where we stream live throughout the day to Facebook and YouTube. We are planning a 12:00-8:00

pm run-time with special guest emcees, but we'll feature more details on our Facebook page soon. Don't forget to tune in that day and support us!

The Gala is scheduled for Sunday, February 16, 2025. This semi-formal event features a guest speaker and delicious food. Guests will enjoy a silent auction, a live auction, and a dessert auction. This fun evening is perfect

for gathering as a group of friends or family to support the ministry of Hidden Acres. We'll share more about the Gala on our social media soon, at which time you will be able to reserve your seats (or an entire table!) online.



Thanks again for your continual support of Hidden Acres. If you need anything, reach out to me at steve.pinkley@hacamps.org

Higher Education Update

By Jesse Evans, Chaplain & Education Director

This year brought challenges with our education programs, but God did a work as usual. In August we started our gap-year program, The Ministry School, with only four students enrolled. This was a lower number than we desired considering the amount of work and ministry happening at Hidden Acres. An idea was presented, and a couple of our full-time directors organized a work program they call "Project Path."

Project Path focuses on gap-year aged students, featuring a vocational track over a school track. Three applied and were hired right



away, and as I write these words there are a few more applications in progress. Looking to next year, our goal is to compress The Ministry School and Project Path into one program with two separate tracks. Students will have the option of an academic track or a vocational track. Look for more details in the following months.

Our integrated master's degree and internship program, The Residency, took a hit this year. We had three students hired to come and participate in this program, only to find out that our partner college closed a few weeks before classes were scheduled to start. One of the students decided to stay and complete an internship without the college aspect of the program.

Since losing our partner college, we have been able to partner with a different school for next year and we are also looking to add an additional partner college to the program. The school year began with some head-scratching, but we are so thankful for a faithful God who already had the plan worked out. We just had to trust Him and keep pressing on!

Airnasium Ceremony



The Chris Clark Airnasium was officially dedicated on September 1. This fell in the middle of our Labor Day Family Camp weekend, so we invited members of the public as well as family campers to attend.

We had a few hundred people show up including Chris' wife, Marj, his kids Truman and Ruth, and other family members. EFCA Central District Superintendent Mike Shields spoke about Chris' meaningful impact on Hidden Acres. We revealed the building sign and a custom bench made from International tractor fenders.

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Summer Camp '24

By Josh Constant & Taylor Mugge

Summer flew by so quickly! It feels like just yesterday campers were headed down the gravel road, full of barely-contained anticipation. God has shown Himself to be good over and over this summer, both to our staff and our campers alike. He blessed us with 180 staff members who served and led in several different capacities this summer. They served 3,728 campers who heard and encountered the gospel every day. Our traveling Day Camp program accounted for 295 of those campers. They heard the gospel while getting connected with a local church.

There were so many highlights this summer. We used the Airnasium, which meant we could fit all 528 high school campers in the same building for sessions. This summer we sent every camper home with a devo book and family devo guide, which would encourage them to start regularly reading Scripture by themselves and with their families.

I saw a camper who had been rejecting authority and living life contrary to God's designs have his life changed through the testimony of a staff member. There are too many highlights to include here.

Clearly, God was working in the hearts of our campers and staff members this summer in life changing ways.

We had 248 campers tell us they put their faith in Jesus while here, and another 173 campers said they were rededicating their life to Jesus. Join us in praying for our campers and staff members, that God would grow them closer to Him each day, that He would provide them with spiritual community to support them as they grow, and that He would ordain opportunities for them to serve and lead wherever they go.



The Salvation Bell was busy this summer!