

CLARION NEWSLETTER

Covenant Cedars Bible Camp

Spring Edition 2015

AMAZING RESPONSE!!!



Above is a picture of the Future Tent at the 65th Anniversary Weekend. This was a showcase for all of the future plans at Covenant Cedars.

Left is a picture of one of the many volunteers who have already dedicated their time to the building project.

In late summer of 2014, Covenant Cedars began promoting the concept of a new Summer Staff Housing project that would cost around \$300,000. With \$70,000 already in hand, the constituency was presented with a challenge to raise the remaining \$230,000. Immediately an anonymous donor stepped up with a \$115,000 matching gift. Another family generously gave a gift of \$50,000 and the rest was raised by year end. We Praise the Lord and thank each one who so quickly responded! Ministry doesn't "just happen". It requires all parts of the body of Christ, whether each is called to prayer, sacrificial giving or supporting in another way.

So, what does this mean for the project?

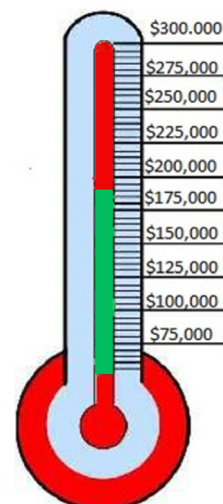
1. It means that as soon as we get through all permitting processes, the construction process can begin.
2. It means that hopefully by the summer of 2016, Summer Staff will have a new facility to live in as they serve the ministry of Covenant Cedars and we will be able to hire the "extra staff" that was

previously limited by the number of available beds in the staff cabins.

3. It means that the new Discipleship Program can potentially be "on track" to begin in September of 2016.

The Discipleship Program Task Force has been meeting monthly since February and is well on its way in designing this program. It has been an incredible thing to see how the Lord has continued to "open doors" for this extension of Covenant Cedars to develop! The Board of Directors hope to begin the hiring process for the Discipleship Program Director as soon as this summer. Please pray that God will bring just the right person to fill this role.

To learn more about the Discipleship Program of Covenant Cedars Bible Camp or how you may help, please contact the camp office and speak with the Executive Director-Daniel Buhr at 402-757-3241 or inquire at info@cedars.org



The funds have been raised and the project can now begin!



THE EVANGELICAL CHURCH OF WAUSA

Every-Kid-A-Camper Program

This program is a highlight for the ministry at Covenant Cedars. The staff at Cedars always wants to encourage our churches to continue their support by sending their students to camp. We want to pass along this article in hopes that it will inspire those who read it and want to impact young people with the Gospel of Christ.

THE PROGRAM

Our camp program started in 1989 with 12 kids going to camp. Its goal has been to provide a way for kids to go to camp who otherwise may not have been able to afford to go.

The EKAC program pays 80% of the registration fee for grades 1-4, 70% of the fee for grades 5-8, and 60% of the fee for grades 9-12.

To raise the money to be able to do this, we have **2 main fundraisers each year**. The first is our camp auction/spaghetti dinner. This is usually held in March or early April so that we have the funds in hand by the time registrations are due.

THE FUNDRAISERS

The spaghetti dinner that went along with the auction was made of donated items from the campers as well. The camp committee puts together the menu and each camper is asked to bring certain items to make up the meal. The dinner is offered with a free will donation followed by the auction. For the past 3 years we have had to try to "rename" our dinner as we have NOT served spaghetti. Covenant Cedars offered to bring their huge grill, providing the hamburgers and hotdogs, buns, and cooks and all we

have to do is provide the condiments, salads, drinks, and dessert. This has worked out very nicely. The campers still help provide items for the meal, serve, and clean up. **We had the full auction in 2014 and raised over \$8,000** between the auction and free will donations for the meal.

The second big fundraiser for the year is held over Labor Day weekend. Several years ago the community asked our church to take over the kids carnival that has been very popular for the younger kids. This is held on the Sunday of Labor Day weekend from about 1-4 p.m. We sell tickets for various games just like a carnival with a wide variety of prizes and we usually net around \$1,000. People in the church are so great about donating money or items as needed for this day and also about volunteering to help with the games themselves.

THE TRACTOR

In 2012, a group of men led by the Evangelical Covenant Church started on a renovation project on a rusted tractor that had long since been standing in the grass. Their goal was to rebuild it from the ground up, make it look and run new again, and then sell it for a profit. The money from the sale would then go to

the Every-Kid-A-Camper fund, which substantially helps kids pay their way to a summer Bible camp.

The tractor needed engine work and other things like brakes, gaskets, and new tires. After many nights of repairs – not to mention a whole lot of green paint – the group completed the project in February of 2014.

THE RESULTS

The EKAC program has been a huge outreach for our church. Of the 90 kids that we helped send to camp last year, only 30 were from our church. We send kids to both Covenant Cedars and Glad Tidings Bible Camp.

The camp committee is passionate about providing a way for kids to hear the message of salvation in an environment that takes them away from the "noise" of the world that many times keeps them from hearing.

Many of these kids, being "unchurched", are not hearing this message at home and EKAC offers hope through the camp ministry.

Clearing the Way for exciting times!



This is the site of the future Summer Staff Housing/Discipleship Program building.

The area for the new facility addition is being cleared just south of the chapel and we hope to begin construction before this summer. This project is key for the start of the Discipleship Program slated to begin at Covenant Cedars in September of 2016. This new building will not only house the camp's Summer Staff but will also house up to

30 students for a two term Discipleship Program during the off-season. Students will spend 3-4 days of classroom time, experiencing pastors and teachers from around the country and locally, 1-2 days serving at camp and 1 day per week serving in the community. They will also participate in mission trips as well as learning true community

living with other students and staff. All while engaging in deep biblical study, discovering their passions and gifts, all centered around the theme "Deeper In Christ-Further In Mission".

How are the plans coming for the program?

A six member Task Force has been meeting regularly since February to define such things as mission, objectives, curriculum, enrollment procedures as well as a job description for the Discipleship Program Director. This is no small task! The Task Force hopes to have an outline in place and ready to hire a Director for the program sometime this summer.

How can I help?

1. Please pray for God to provide "just the right person" to direct this program.
2. Start-up costs will need to be covered. (see donation slip)
3. Begin to encourage young people to consider checking out this program.

Day in the Life of a Summer Staffer

Every summer at camp there are around 30 young adults who are called to be full time, paid employees at Covenant Cedars. These young adults are finishing high school or are in the middle of their years at college. They are known as Summer Staff and this is their story.

After a potential Summer Staffer fills out their application and are selected to be on staff they are given a job title for the summer. There are four basic jobs that a Summer Staffer may apply for they are: Food Service Crew, Activity Crew, Housekeeping Crew and Program Crew. The last week in May they arrive for a week of intense training and preparation for the camping season. They are trained on various aspects of camp including cleaning, helping in the kitchen, hospitality, relational leadership, camp policy and procedure. There is even technical and safety training for the Activities Crew. After training week our first guests arrive for the season and they keep arriving through the first week in August.

There is no such thing as a routine day at camp. Trying to explain a day at camp is often the most challenging part of working at Covenant Cedars. The Food Service Crew arrives early and prepares meals and clean up throughout the day. In the morning the Housekeeping Crew goes through cabins and freshen them up. The Activity Crew cleans, as well as handle the set up for afternoon activities. The Program Crew works on planning and preparing Summer Youth Camps and helps where they are needed.

Warm and sunny afternoons are filled with time serving campers in various ways at camp through canteen, store, zip line, pool, and waterfront. The evening is time for the Summer Staff to enjoy camp. They can go to session, hang out with other Summer Staff, play games with the campers, get a snack at the canteen or just be by themselves.

At the end of the day Summer Staffers turn in and try to catch a few hours of sleep before another full day in God's

creation at Covenant Cedars. It is an intense three months of life for these individuals. Being on Summer Staff has given so many people the opportunity to grow in their trust in the Lord and develop relationships with people that last a lifetime.

If you or someone you know would benefit from becoming a member of the Covenant Cedars Summer Staff this year please email us at info@cedars.org or go online and fill out the appropriate application under the Get Involved Tab



WAYS FOR YOU TO HELP OUT AT CAMP THIS SUMMER

be an ADVOCATE

We are asking our readers to consider how they might advocate for a child to attend camp. Here is a resource for you to follow:

Step One:

Pray that the Spirit would bring to your mind a child in your sphere of influence that could benefit from a "faith building experience" (child, grandchild, neighbor, other acquaintances.)

Step Two:

After praying for them to be receptive, present the opportunity to them and their parents the process for registration to camp (available through your church or our website.)

Step Three:

Offer to help them fill out the registration, (if needed), offer to help find transportation options to and from camp.

Step Four:

Financing their experience should never be an obstacle to their attending. Most churches offer financial assistance, also you may contact the camp office for a scholarship or consider sponsoring them fully or partially yourself.

Step Five:

Continue praying for them while they are at camp this summer.



COME JOIN US THIS SUMMER AND VOLUNTEER!



We need you to participate at camp by being a:

- Counselor who leads cabin groups
- Nurse who provides medical assistance
- Kitchen worker who helps provide food
- Maintenance workers to help keep up grounds

We are looking for Volunteers who are ages 17 or older. **Parents** we would love to have you come volunteer during the week while you children are campers. If you are wanting to come out to Volunteer during camp this summer please let us know by send an email to info@cedars.org today!