

Living Waters

Camp and Conference Center

June 2018

The Board of Directors for Living Waters have been taking a hard look at the viability of sustaining the camp and whether or not the camp is still a valuable asset not only to the conference but to the community as a whole. Financially, we are struggling. Just when we think we are getting ahead, the cost of utilities increases, we lose a group because they are financially struggling or we have some major repairs such as the wastewater plant that requires a great deal of our resources. The camp is over 50 years old. While it is still in good repair, there have been no substantial upgrades or additions in 30 years.

Despite our financial woes, Living Waters is still a very valuable, needed facility not only for the youth but for the community as well. We are losing many sacred spaces all over the country and people need a place to be able to renew their mind and spirit which is why it is so essential we continue our mission at Living Waters. The board at Living Waters does not believe closing the doors is an option. Through a number of visioning sessions, the board has identified several short-term goals as well as long-term goals to improve our usage which will in turn, increase our revenue. Short-term projects include renovating the lodge, purchasing an event tent and replacing the sign on the road. Long-term includes building an all-purpose style dining facility and increasing the number of beds available for retreat. All of these projects are very doable but will not be easy to accomplish without outside support.

Our camping program is doing well and we had 150 campers throughout eight camps. We have had a steady increase of campers over the last three years because we have committed ourselves to keeping the cost of camp low. We have made changes to our camping week and will end on Friday nights to encourage families to join in the fun of camp instead of simply picking up and dropping off their children. Families are encouraged to come for dinner on Friday night, share in a closing campfire and meet other camp families. The excitement of camp is not only for the young. In addition to our camping program, we hosted over 1200 users throughout the year.

We would like to extend a very heartfelt thank you to Trinity, UCC – Scottdale for financially supporting the wastewater plant renovation as well as purchasing a new stove for the kitchen. Neither of these projects may have been glamorous (certainly not the sewage plant) but are vital to the future success of the camp. It is time to start investing in the camp so that we can continue to change lives and influence the next generation to be good stewards in a world full of chaos.

Respectfully Submitted by

Joni Hufford, Executive Director

On behalf of the LW BOD

Karen Addleman, Erin Brouse, Jeffrey Farber, Sheri Foor, Tina Harbaugh, Larry Hay, Don Kelly, Chelsea Neatrou, Rev. Jay Shaffer, Doug Walker, and David Worst