



WINTER 2015

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Dear Friends,

Our Fall Fundraiser on Oct. 22 was a great success. After expenses, we had a net blessing of over \$25,000! Our guest speaker, Jennifer Shaw, was wonderful and her stories and songs touched many hearts. The announcement of my role changing from Office Manager to Executive Director was made and I had the privilege of interviewing one of our campers, David St. John, who has been coming to camp for over 20 years, and a first-time counselor, Taylor Haney, from this summer. Their testimonies were great for everyone to get a taste of what Camp is like.

Being fairly new to this organization, I am so encouraged by the many of you who have so generously and faithfully supported Christian Berets over the years. As this year draws to a close and we are busy with events and preparing for Christmas and the New Year, I want to offer my sincerest gratitude for your faithful support of Christian Berets!

I also want to encourage you to take a moment to pray and ask the Lord if He is calling you to make a special gift before the end of the year. We are poised to grow in 2016, with an additional week of camp as well as hiring a full time Camp Director, but these developments mean our *General Fund* has to increase accordingly. Some more exciting news, last year we issued over \$22,000 in scholarships, so if you would like to support a camper who needs some financial help, you can specify your gift to our *Scholarship Fund*!

As I look forward to the coming year and beyond, I have big dreams and hope to realize the vision of Don Crooker, founder of Christian Berets, of having our Camp ministering to people with special needs and their families 365 days a year! These dreams, however, can only be brought to fruition through deep faith in our Lord and the continued faithful gifts of His people.

Thank you again for your continued support,

Rochelle Van Horn

Executive Director



View of the valley from our
future Hilltop Master Plan
~December 2015~

Saying Good-Bye

This year has brought many changes to Christian Berets, so we want to take a moment to share our gratitude to a few people who have kept the organization running, through good and tough times.

I was introduced to the inner workings of Christian Berets by **Karen Gwyn**, the office manager who retired in March after almost 20 years with the organization.

I also want to congratulate and thank **Brian and Laura Robison** as they retired after 10 years and purchased a home in November. Although I didn't get to know them too well, I know they were such a vital part of keeping our Camp Facility running all-year-round!

Chad Willson, our Summer Camp Director for the last four years has sensed the Lord's calling to another ministry. He worked so hard to make Camp fun and ensure all our campers heard and felt the love of our wonderful Savior Jesus Christ. He will be greatly missed.

Although we are not saying "good-bye" to **Tom Crooker**, he is transitioning from "interim executive director" to "just a volunteer" as he likes to say. He stepped in when we were going through some challenges and with God's help, successfully navigated the organization to be debt-free and in a position to grow!



Filling The Voids

As mentioned on the opposite page, we lost many key staff members this year. Their years of experience and knowledge can never truly be replaced, but we have brought on some wonderful individuals who are up to the challenge.

Matt Russell was one of our CNA's this summer, but was so excited about our mission, asked to stay involved and with his diverse background ranging from plumber to country club chef he was an easy choice to take care of the camp for now.

Karin Hoselton has been a friend of the ministry for many years, so when the need arose for a part-time Office Manager to take on some of the tasks Rochelle had been doing, she was available and willing to step in and learn quickly. She and her husband Kevin have an eleven year old son, Gabriel, who they are very involved with his schooling and extra-curricular activities.



Here's Matt driving a camper in a go-cart this summer.



Our new **Camp Director** is still being determined. The Board has interviewed several candidates and are hoping to have a decision and the new person announced in January.



Counselor & camper sitting on a motorcycle
~Summer Camp 2015~



Counselor & camper reading from the Bible
~Summer Camp 2015~



December 2016

Another dream of Don Crooker that we hope to implement as soon as next year is to decorate our camp with at least 10,000 lights and open our facility to the public around Christmastime as an outreach and awareness opportunity.

In order to make this dream come true, we need to have at least 100 donors purchase a strand of 100 **L.E.D.** lights and drop off at our office. After Christmas there are many great sales, so we hope to prepare well in advance to make this vision a reality.

Any ornaments or decorations that are in good condition will be helpful as well!

Merry Christmas
and a
Happy New Year