






Christian Camps
and Conferences



2016 ANNUAL REPORT

 **BROOKWOODS**
 **DEER RUN**
 **MOOSE RIVER OUTPOST**

Our Mission at Christian Camps and Conferences is to foster vibrant Christian communities located in awe-inspiring outdoor settings in which young people are spiritually transformed through Christ-centered relationships.



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DEAR CAMP FAMILY

Since 1944, our mission has been to foster vibrant Christian communities located in awe-inspiring outdoor settings in which young people are spiritually transformed through Christ-centered relationships.

Our creative and talented staff doesn't do this alone. We are surrounded by alumni, parents, former staff, grandparents, and donors who encourage, pray, and donate their time and resources to help it all come together. This is the core group that makes up the Brookwoods, Deer Run, and Moose River Outpost family.

Our ministry continued to grow and expand in 2016. A record number of campers attended Moose River Outpost, while Brookwoods and Deer Run maintained their continued history of excellence. It has been a privilege to do this work not only on the waters of Lake Winnepesaukee in New Hampshire and Heald Pond in Maine, but also by interfacing with campers and families at various events across the country.

The purpose of this report is to recognize and thank our many donors and to provide information regarding how we steward the funds that are committed to this vital ministry.

When someone supports camp, they "Join the Journey" with us as we believe this describes what happens at camp as we come alongside families to assist campers on their own faith journeys to discover who they are in Christ and how they can serve the Kingdom. We appreciate everyone who "Joined the Journey" in 2016!

I hope the Annual Report will inspire you and communicate how blessed we feel to minister to God's people. Christian Camps and Conferences, Inc. is an organization with a tremendous tradition of excellence and faithfulness in New England and beyond. It is truly my pleasure to serve.

With thankfulness to God for the faithful loyalty and generosity of our camp family,



Bob Strodel
Executive Director



2016 HIGHLIGHTS HIGHLIGHTS HIGHLIGHTS

▼ The new Bigelow cabin at MRO



Inside the ►
Wolf cabin



Increased Enrollment: Camp Brookwoods, Deer Run, and Moose River Outpost hosted more campers than ever in 2016 with a total of 1,016. MRO attendance was up 78%, with a record high enrollment of 154 campers. The leadership programs added an additional 78 campers.

Expanding Off-Camp Programs: This year MRO introduced the new *Paddles & Saddles* program which combined canoeing and cycling for campers aged 14 and up from Brookwoods, Deer Run, and MRO.

Facilities Improvements: Donations to the 2016 Annual Fund financed efforts to continue a multi-year project to repair and update many of

our NH cabins. Specifically, the Wolf and Highland cabins have received much needed facelifts and the work continues with the Moose and Fox cabins up next.

New Construction: The new heated “Shop” is a welcome and much needed maintenance building for our facilities staff as their work continues through the often snowy and cold New Hampshire winters. Additionally, construction on the new Bigelow girls’ cabin at MRO is nearing completion and will be ready for summer 2017.



◀ The new
heated “Shop”



Off-Camp Trips

Paddles & Saddles: 2016 was the first summer of our newest off-camp adventure program introduced at Moose River Outpost this year. The program accommodates 10 campers, ages 14 and up, who spend two weeks on a backcountry living experience in northern Maine. They spent one week on the St. Croix River in canoes (grab your paddle) and one week on mountain bike trails in Bradbury and Bond Brook State Parks (saddle up!). Campers lived out of their backpacks for the full two weeks in this unique “Off to bed and then do it again!” adventure. Besides honing their biking and paddling skills, campers spent time enjoying God’s creation, growing spiritually, and making memories—on the trail, on the river, and around the campfire.



SALT (Servant and Leadership Training) Year 2: The SALT program continued in its second year serving the people of Nogales, Mexico. Another great group of campers experienced the programming addition of exploring the Grand Canyon at the end of the trip. Here, campers were challenged to plan their meals while staying within the monetary limit of the poverty line. The combination of serving what some would call the least, the lost, and the last, in a poverty-stricken border town and the difficulty of budgeting minimal resources juxtaposed with the immensity of the Lord’s power at the Grand Canyon challenged the campers in marvelous ways. In 2017, we are adding a follow-up year to the program where participants will serve closer to home in Los Angeles and explore some of California’s wilderness together.

IMPACT IMPACT IMPACT



Most fish caught
in a single activity period



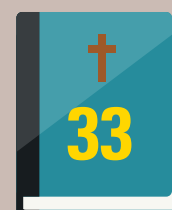
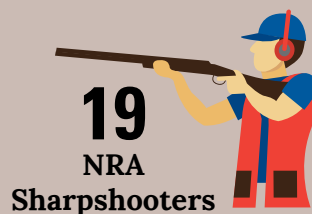
MRO campers who learned
to roll a kayak



Fried eggs served at
Brookwoods and Deer Run
breakfast cookouts



170
Summer Staff



Verses memorized by MRO's
Iron Moose Campers

LIVES TRANSFORMED

Courtney was a camper at Deer Run for eight consecutive summers, completing the Leadership Development Program (LDP) in 2015. It was during her time at camp that she first heard the good news of the gospel, truly found her identity in Christ, and came to see camp as a safe haven. She continued to grow in faith



during her time in LDP. She states, “My favorite part of LDP was challenging myself spiritually, but also physically through things like the 6-day hike and the 48 hour solo. I cherish

the lifelong friendships I made with the people in my group who I now consider my brothers and sisters in Christ.” After completing LDP, Courtney felt prepared for her next adventure as she answered the Lord’s call to fly to Alaska to volunteer at a small Christian camp, Camp LiWa. There, she served under the watchful eye of another camp alumnus, Daniel Schubert. Her past camp experiences gave her the confidence and skills required to present the gospel to children who had never heard it before and form connections with the campers and the staff members. She enjoyed and benefited from her time at Camp LiWa but is unsure of what the future holds. In Courtney’s experience, “God seems to rearrange all the plans I make for myself, so I am just trusting the Lord will make everything clear as to where He wants me to serve next.”

“Camp really gave me a foundation for my faith because before coming to camp, I didn’t know who Christ was or how to have a relationship with him, I didn’t even know you could have a relationship with him!”

Greg and Catherine treasure Camp Brookwoods and Deer Run in their hearts for a number of reasons. Greg and his brother, Bryce, were both campers at Brookwoods in the 1980’s, following in their father’s (Ragnar) footsteps, who was a camper in the 1950’s. Now their three daughters, Kirstyn (17), Ashlyn (15) and Abigail (12), all call Camp Deer Run their “home away from home.” Camp Deer Run has provided a place for them to grow in their faith, in their skills, in their friendships, and in their

confidence. Catherine says, “Each summer when the girls return home from camp, we are in awe of the growth that we see in their lives. They are full of joy and can’t wait to return for Winter Reunion to meet back up with their friends. They all have the Camp App on their phones so they can watch the countdown to camp and keep up with the camp webcams.”

Two summers ago, all three daughters made a special request to be baptized at camp by the camp pastor. Even though they are active in their church at home,

they feel especially close to God when they are at camp. Greg and Catherine, along with the girls’ cabins, gathered on the beach one foggy morning to witness their baptisms in Lake Winnepesaukee. Greg and Catherine gave thanks to God for His amazing grace in their lives: “...for the blessing of three daughters that love God, seek after Him, and want to share their faith with others. Camp has played a huge role by coming alongside them and nurturing them in ways that we can’t do on our own. They have mentors in their counselors, role models in the camp leadership,



"God is still doing big things in my life, and I pray that will never change, but the place where He initially stole my whole heart was Jackman, ME, with the amazing people of Christian Camps and Conferences, Inc. Thank you to all the donors who make it possible, and thank you Jesus for giving me the opportunity to make an impact."

Carter describes himself as a typical jock through high school, who went into college with a lot of bad habits, often finding himself in spiritually unhealthy situations. He found it difficult to live the Christian life as a new believer and an NCAA lacrosse player while attending college at a "party school." However, during his first summer working as a raft guide at Windfall Rafting and as a counselor at Moose River Outpost in 2014, he found himself surrounded by people whose lives were oriented towards Christ. This experience would make a lasting impact. He describes working as a raft guide and a counselor at MRO as not your typical service project for the Lord, "...it was packed with the purest and best kind of adrenal adventure—the kind that makes encountering God and His creation completely undeniable." After those few tough years of trying to walk faithfully with Christ, it was the amazing community at Windfall and MRO that helped Carter to first understand his full and true identity as a follower of Christ. Carter puts it this way, "The Holy Spirit met me vividly in the remote woods, rapid rivers, and open clearings around Heald Pond. And the best part is, the love of Christ was shown to me that summer extended through to several of my campers who I stay in touch with to this day."

Carter continued to serve on staff at MRO through 2016 and made the decision to transfer to an institution where he could find a similar community, Gordon College. He was given numerous opportunities there, and experienced what he calls "divine flourishing" while working closely with the administration, the chaplain, and other professors who helped him grow as a leader. Through hard work and without those early distractions, Carter graduated cum laude from Gordon College and now works as an instructor for one of his favorite activities in Big Sky, Montana: alpine skiing.

and friendships based on a shared faith and understanding of what it means to be a Christian in today's world."

Even before they had children, Greg shared with Catherine how special "his" camp in New Hampshire was, and that he wanted their children to go there one day. At the time, Catherine was hesitant about sending the children to camp in New Hampshire when they lived in Virginia, but now she can't imagine a better way for them to spend their summers.



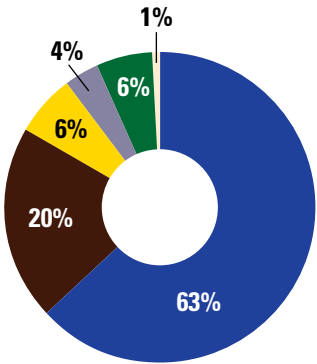
"There's a reason we put thousands of miles on our car each year, and that we invest our time and finances so that our girls can go to Camp Deer Run. It's because we as parents are stewards of our children and we believe that these summers spent at camp will have a huge return on our investment in our children's lives and all the lives that they will touch going forward."

2016 FINANCIALS*



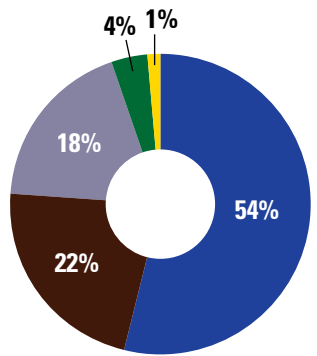
Support & Revenue FY 2016

Summer Tuition	\$ 2,169,825
Conference Income	\$ 699,423
Sugaring and Timbering	\$ 213,159
General Donations	\$ 123,996
Scholarship Donations	\$ 204,607
Other Donations	\$ 22,092
Total	\$3,433,103



Expenses FY 2016

Summer Programs	\$ 1,751,509
Conference Ministry	\$ 728,422
Management & Operations	\$ 599,168
Alumni Relations & Development	\$ 127,718
Timbering & Sugaring	\$ 42,970
Total	\$ 3,249,787



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“We are very thankful to everyone involved at Camp Brookwoods, Deer Run and Moose River Outpost for helping us teach our children about God’s love.”



Donations

2016

Endowment**:	\$ 143,102
MRO:	\$ 18,800
General Giving:	\$ 105,196
Scholarship Donations:	\$ 204,607

Campers receiving scholarship assistance: 199 (18% of all campers)

2015

MRO:	\$ 19,325
General Giving:	\$ 129,020
Facilities Fund:	\$ 40,750
Scholarship Donations:	\$ 103,885

Campers receiving scholarship assistance: 176 (18% of all campers)

**Inspiration Point Scholarship Endowment Fund is currently \$730,919

*Numbers are un-audited at time of printing



Board of Directors

Todd Blount, *Chairman*
David Bass, *Vice Chairman*
George Veth, *Treasurer*
Lisa Forkner, *Secretary*
Gerry Bennett
Bob Bennett
Cheryl Crawford
Monica Lyle
Dan Rogers
Bob Strodel

Leadership

Bob Strodel, *Executive Director*
David Strodel, *Brookwoods Director*
Mary Beth Bowling, *Deer Run Director*
Craig Boronow, *Moose River Outpost Director*
Seth Coates, *Director of Special Operations*
Melissa Yonan, *Alumni Director*
Ann Higgins, *Development Director*



"We donate so camp can continue to bring children to the Lord and grow their faiths in a tough and fallen world. We give so that college-aged men and women who love Jesus have a place to come and be fed spiritually as they feed the younger generations spiritually."

"We believe that giving to Brookwoods, Deer Run, and Moose River Outpost is a privilege, and it is our hope that God will continue to bless them as they carry out their unique mission."



**Christian Camps
and Conferences**

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