

# CAMP SPOFFORD



# 2020

## ANNUAL REPORT



# STATE OF THE CAMP



It is amazing to think about what was happening at Camp Spofford in January of 2020. It feels like a different reality.

I remember a feeling of great excitement and anticipation for what God was going to do in 2020. Thanks to some recent hires we had made, Camp had every year-round position filled for the first time in my tenure as Executive Director. We had just begun construction on our newest year-round facility with a plan to complete construction in time for the 2020 Summer Season. We were gearing up for Winter Retreats with our new Program Director. We were working on a 5-year facility plan and a vision statement to drive our mission for years to come.

The staff, the Board of Directors and myself were united and excited.

Then March came.

Proverbs 16:9 says "The heart of man plans his way, but the Lord establishes his steps."

Your world changed. My world changed. Camp's world changed. 2020 would not be the same. Last January really does feel like a different reality than the one we are living in now. There is a lot of difficulty and hardship that I wish never happened for so many families this year. But I know God is doing good things through all of it.

At Camp Spofford, I got to witness so much of His good work. To my amazement, 2020 is worth celebrating at Camp Spofford!

From the 'Spofford at Home' content created during the shutdown and all the good that happened when we reopened in June. New relationships with neighbors who sent kids to Day Camp. Opportunities to share the Gospel and serve local kids, families and organizations in new ways. Being a place of rest and normalcy for staff and families this summer. New families experiencing Spofford for the first time both during the summer and with our Family Weekends and After the Aisle. Running multiple marriage retreats to help and encourage couples with Biblical truth. God did so much in 2020.

Looking back, God was preparing us to do amazing work in this season. He established a staff and Board who was remarkably united and involved in the work God was calling us to do. We prayed, we served, we cared for people and God was glorified.

Financially, God kept providing. I don't ask for money too often, typically trusting God to move in the hearts of people to give. He did, all year long. Our income exceeded our expenses, overcoming a steep drop in program revenue and we fully paid for the construction of our new building, Hillside. We celebrate your generosity alongside all the life change that happened at Camp Spofford this year!

For His Glory,

"The heart of man plans his way,  
but the Lord establishes his  
steps."

Proverbs 16:9



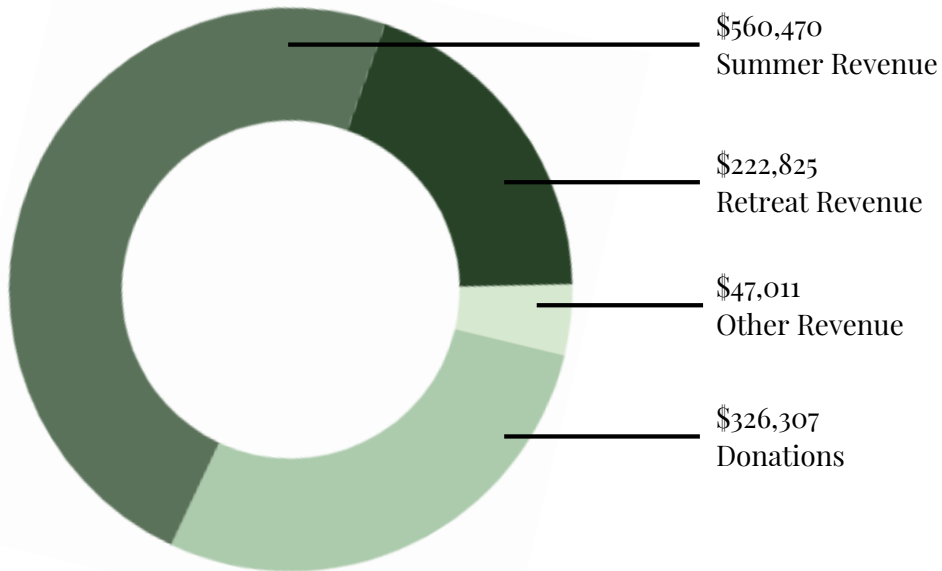
*Dan Syvertsen*

Dan Syvertsen  
Executive Director

# FINANCIAL REPORT

## 2020 Income

**\$1,156,613**



### Hillside

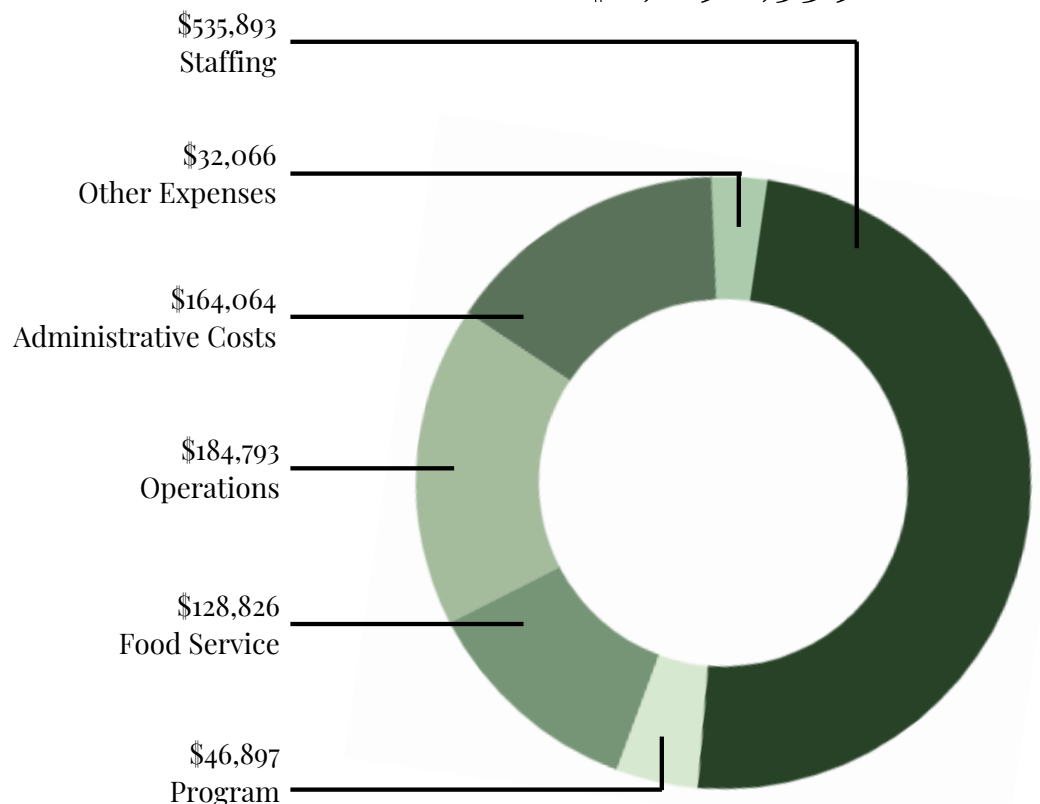
Donations Received: \$550,000  
Pledges Remaining: \$107,000  
Construction Cost: \$629,409  
No outstanding debt

### Granite Lodge

Payments Made: \$12,885  
Debt Remaining: \$88,540

## 2020 Expenses

**\$1,092,539**





# SUMMER STAFF

Prior to 2020, I don't know that anyone had imagined how Camp would run in a pandemic. But this year, we didn't just imagine it...we did it. It was a summer full of adjustments for our staff, both on and off the job. Every department experienced changes to their responsibilities and/or hours. Our waitstaff, for instance, endured some of the most profound changes, and rose to the occasion with excellence. The staff performed daily health screenings, lived in the camper cabins, and observed social distancing protocols. In spite of all this and more, the staff did an incredible job.

One of my favorite aspects of this summer, and perhaps what sustained us through it, was our weekly staff chapel. Every Tuesday night the staff gathered for worship, prayer, and teaching. Because we weren't running overnight youth camp, even the counselors were able to join us. Once per week, for this one purpose, the whole youth staff was together. Never before had I witnessed such unanimous and sincere worship from our staff. It was a beautiful thing to behold week in and week out. Despite its challenges, 2020 will be a summer fondly remembered by our staff.

-Jon Deming  
Director of Guest Services  
& Discipleship





# SPOFFORD DAY CAMP

There is a first time for everything; add that to the list of catchphrases for 2020. Back in Spring of 2020, the COVID-19 Pandemic forced us to tear down all of our normal Youth Camp plans and create something brand new that could be run safely and legally under the guidelines put in place by the State of New Hampshire. What developed was a day camp program for local campers ages 5-15. Looking back on these six weeks, I am so thankful and proud of what our team of 14 counselors pulled off. Day Camp averaged 40 campers per week, many of whom came from unchurched families. What this meant for us was a program concentrated with campers who had never heard the Gospel! We gave away about 75 bibles to kids who didn't have one, and every day our counselors were engaging in conversations with campers about Jesus. In addition, this summer brought the first sold out session of Aftershock in years. 20 young men and women decided to stay with us at camp for four weeks, growing in their faith, skills, character, and relationships with each other. There isn't enough room to tell of all the good that came from Aftershock this year, but when I tell you that many of them are still in active group chats with each other, that should reveal just how special these few weeks were! Then came the Fall. With our newfound love of day camp and knowledge on how to run one safely and effectively, we saw a chance to help the local community into the fall

season. With school districts uncertain how to bring students back to in-person classes, we offered Remote Learning Day Camp for students in grades K-8 so that parents could return to work and students could have a place to form community. We believe that sometimes sharing the Gospel with others is simply loving them as Jesus asked us to. So that's what we did. Our staff and local volunteers linked arms to help students complete their school work and rekindle friendships that went silent during quarantine. It allowed us to use our brand new Hillside Chapel for the first time too. We also learned that once you give kids a chance to win free soda, they'll never stop trying to win free soda! For obvious reasons, I pray this is a program that we never need to run again, but I feel blessed to have been a part of it. Overall, 2020 has been one of the most challenging years in youth ministry that Camp Spofford has faced. On the flip side, it has also been one of the most encouraging. We walk away from this year with hearts full of gratitude for what God did with us. With immense anticipation, we now look forward to the return of our normal programming, but now with a new sense of open-mindedness. Sometimes God gives you exactly what you thought He would, and other times he takes you on a wildly different route. Whatever the case may be for 2021, we're along for the ride.

-Tory Abrahamsen  
Program Director



# FAMILY DEVOTIONALS

Because of our desire to see families follow Jesus together, this year we created family devotionals. Designed with the whole family in mind, these devotions are the perfect resource to use in your family discipleship. We released two studies this year: Ecclesiastes and Acts. You can find them on the Camp Spofford app. Be on the lookout for more studies that we will be releasing on the app as well.



## What Families Are Saying

"It gave us time to be together and to reflect on what God is doing in our lives individually and as a family. The time was relaxing and fun and gave us space for God to show up. We also created some fun memories together! Thank you!"



## FALL RETREATS

Camp Spofford had the opportunity to run weekend retreats that served nearly 400 people over the months of September, October, and November. That number includes 58 adults for Fall Foliage, 137 adults and 121 kids for Family Weekends, and 34 couples for After the Aisle. Our staff and volunteers did an amazing job providing a fun, safe, and renewing experience for all who joined us,

even in light of pandemic and all the restrictions that came along with it. We received encouraging feedback and testimonials from each of these retreats, some of which we have been sharing periodically on our social media pages. We are thrilled to have had such a successful fall season, and we look forward to what God will use us for in the coming year!

-Alissa Abrahamsen  
Office Manager





# NEW STAFF



We are Nick and Katie Johnson, and we moved here from Iowa in June of 2020. Katie is the Program Assistant here and Nick works at Dick's Sporting Goods while helping with retreats on the weekends. We felt God calling us to full time camp ministry last spring. While it was a little crazy trying to figure out jobs during a pandemic, we trusted the Lord and He placed us right here in Spofford! We believe in the power that camp ministry has to bring people closer to Jesus, and we are so happy to be here!

We are Tory and Alissa Abrahamsen, and we are into our second year working full time at Camp. Our return has proven to be everything we were hoping for: reconnecting with great people, doing work that has eternal meaning, and wearing sweatpants to work. We're thankful to be here during such a unique time in Camp's history, but we certainly are ready for the return of the normal camp rhythm we love so much!



# HILLSIDE

Hillside is our new, year-round facility that will be used for camper chapel and boys staff housing in the summer and retreat group housing and meeting space in the retreat season. Hillside is not just a new building, it is a reminder of God's faithfulness and provision when he calls us forward. God has moved in miraculous ways since this project began. From casting a vision, to raising money, to town approval, to starting construction and completing it with volunteers – He has arranged details we never could have imagined and provided people we never saw coming. It is a miracle that we finished this building. It has added more flexibility to our facility and will strengthen our Camp when we are back to full capacity after COVID. There is no doubt that He made our plans succeed, and as we shout for joy over its completion, let it be known that it is God who has done this great work. He is worthy of the praise.



# GUEST QUOTES

"I was very sick in March when COVID hit. I mostly felt despair as I was not improving for a couple of weeks. At one point I was just hoping I could have some peace at Spofford with my family. Spofford represented a place of hope for me in my despair."

"Not having to work for a week and be able to rest together is huge. It is our only vacation of the year. The kids forego Christmas presents as THIS is "worth it"! The chapels are truly a taste of heaven as we worship together. It is always simple, thoughtful, not overdone. We were refreshed and encouraged by the sermons, especially during these trying times."

"We really experienced the love of God through the community at Spofford, and felt like this camp experience truly facilitated rest balanced with enjoyable activities. We were blessed by the delicious food and kindness of the staff."

The secret is out...

## Cardamom Bread Recipe

### INSTRUCTIONS

1. Mix yeast and warm water
2. Allow to soften for 3-4 minutes
3. Add 2 cups flour until smooth - allow mixture to work before continuing (5-10 minutes or until bubbly)
4. Add salt, cardamom, brown sugar, eggs, softened butter, and 4 cups of flour
5. Mix and knead until well formed - if it's too sticky, keep adding an additional 1/4 cup flour until dough clears the side of the bowl or is easy to handle (be careful not to add too much flour)
6. Cover with a towel and allow to rest for 30 minutes
7. Cut into 3 pieces (each will be a loaf)
8. Cut each of those into 3 pieces and roll out to 12" - 18"
9. Pinch 3 of the pieces together on one end and braid
10. Once done braiding, pinch the end together
11. Place on well greased pan (separate each loaf by a few inches or place on different pans)
12. Allow to proof until doubled in size (30-90 minutes)
13. Mix together egg and water for topping
14. Brush top of loaves with egg/water mixture and sprinkle with sugar in the raw
15. Bake immediately at 350 degrees for 25-35 minutes or until browned and 175 degrees in the center

### INGREDIENTS

- 2 cups warm water (100 -110 degrees)
- 3/4 cup brown sugar
- 2 tbsp yeast
- 6 cups bread flour (regular flour also works)
- 1/4 cup softened butter
- 3 eggs
- 3 tbsp cardamom
- 1 tbsp salt
- 1 egg
- 3 tbsp water
- 1/2 cup sugar in the raw

### HELPFUL TIPS

- Put loaves in a turned off oven with a pot of just boiled water to speed up the rising process
- Try to allow the loaves to cool before cutting

**Enjoy this camp favorite recipe at home! You can thank Doug Hildreth, our Food Service Director, for releasing It!**