



**CAMP
SPOFFORD**

ANNUAL REPORT 2022



STATE OF THE CAMP

2022 was a good year at Spofford.

In reality it was truly a year like none other. Every program we ran was either sold out, nearly sold out or had increased from the previous year. Stories continue to pour in about the lives changed while at Spofford for Family Camp, Youth Camp or Retreats. People continue to come to know Jesus, follow Him together and rest in the beauty of God's creation. God is doing a good work at this place.

After each week our staff talked about how "busy" Camp felt and how many people are coming week after week. It started with Winter Retreats, continued into the 60th Anniversary Celebration and then throughout the entire Summer and Fall seasons. One number that captures the work we did this year is the revenue - which is up 23% from last year and up 17% from our last non-Covid year in 2019. Truly remarkable growth, to God be the glory!

To understand just how good it was we have to look back at what God has been doing over these last few years.

Back in 2019, Camp launched the Raise Up Capital Campaign, for the building we now know as Hillside, with the plans to improve staff housing, add a new chapel and increase the year round bed count. I remember announcing the project and sharing a vision for the future. We wanted to get Camp to a point where all three of our ministries were clicking at the same time - Family Camp, Youth Camp and Retreats.

Throughout the history of Camp, this goal had been elusive. It always seemed when two were going strong, one was lagging behind. For many years it was the Retreats ministry, other times it was Family Camp and most recently it had been Youth Camp.

Around the same time I began to rebuild the Year Round Staff which was experiencing over 50% turnover going back to 2017. I remember having conversations with the Board about the need to hire a larger team to prepare for growth and from 2019-2021 we slowly added to the Year Round staff a number of new people and positions.

In 2022 we saw the fruition of the plans we put in place back in 2019.

I am reminded of Proverbs 16:9:

In his heart man makes his plans, but God establishes his steps.

We made our plans back in 2019, and we saw many of those plans come to fruition, but not always the way we thought they would. Everything went backwards in 2020 because of COVID (not what anyone had planned). One of the unintended blessings of COVID for Spofford was the opportunity new families had to experience Camp, especially in the Retreat Season and the doors that opened for us to serve our local community. As a result, in 2022 we experienced a year when Family Camp, Youth Camp and Retreats were all strong and experienced growth from the previous years. We have a great staff who was up to the task of serving our guests and living out our mission for every family, child and church that came this last year.

One thing we never saw coming was the rebuilding of Youth Camp happening so quickly. In 2022 we were nearly sold out every week, had our highest attendance in over a decade and saw greater than 50% of all registrations come from families in Cheshire and Windham county, our own backyard! Never before have we had such a large influx of local families and we are now blessed with the opportunity to have a Gospel impact on our own neighbors.

I have no doubt God's not done with Spofford and we are looking to the future. He has proven his faithfulness to Spofford over 60 years, and the words of Psalm 33:11 echo in my mind,

But the plans of the Lord stand firm forever, the purposes of his heart through all generations.

In the next year we will undergo a renovation project that will create a brand new Girl's Staff Cabin for the 2023 summer, followed by the construction of a new Family Lodge this fall. We have major repairs planned in the Gym, Chapel and on the grounds. We will pursue new opportunities for providing a place where people can know Jesus, follow Him together and rest in the beauty of God's creation. We will continue to make our plans, but will always trust that God's plans will lead the way as he orders our steps.

To God be the glory.

-Dan Syvertsen
Executive Director

MEET OUR INTERNS

Hey, my name is Tyler! I'm a 2022 graduate from Liberty University and decided to spend the year at Camp to learn various skills and receive some mentorship. You can find me doing anything and everything around Camp including housekeeping, maintenance, hosting meals, and working in the kitchen and dish room. I'm grateful to be working in such an amazing environment and community that sharpens each others' faith!



Hey! My name is Judah Sciacca. I am 20 years old and I reside in Birmingham, Alabama. I didn't know what direction to take for my life after taking a break from college. Hearing about Camp Spofford from my friends and family who worked there in the past has really been a blessing for me. I love the connections and friendships I have made so far while being a ministry intern. I am so thankful to God for this amazing opportunity.



Hello, my name is Joey! I'm an 18 year old fresh out of high school and was looking for a place to get away while serving and strengthening my relationship with God. As an intern, my job consists of housekeeping, kitchen, dish pit, facility work with Dave, and pretty much anything I can do to be a helping hand. I love Camp Spofford, as it has been a safe haven for me not only mentally, but spiritually as well. The bonds I've been able to create here will last a lifetime.



FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT

REVENUE	EXPENSES
Total Revenue - \$1,878,582 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Donations - \$299,138• Summer Revenue - \$882,492• Retreat Revenue - \$601,516• Other Revenue - \$95,436	Total Expenses - \$1,823,752 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Staffing - \$892,574• Admin - \$276,371• Food - \$270,170• Facility - \$274,599• Program - \$110,038



FUND UPDATE

Over the last year, Camp has been saving and raising money for new funds to help with our long-term financial needs.



Emergency Fund - \$150,000 (fully funded)

This replaces the line of credit with our local bank and is in place when the Camp is need of money to pay operating expenses in the event of unplanned lack of cash flow.

Capital Maintenance Fund - \$106,000 (current balance)

This fund exists to cover costs of necessary repairs and upgrades to the property.

2022 Usage - new lifeguard shed, new hot water storage tank in Cheshire, new hot water heater for Granite Lodge, deposit for new gym roof, new boiler for Chapel heat

2023 Plans - new furnace for gym, new roof for gym, upgrade Chapel audio, replace exterior fence



Camp has experienced steady growth over the last decade, but as this graph captures, in the last year we saw an unprecedented 17% growth over the past 3 years, greater than any time in recent history. Praise God for the lives being impacted through Camp Spofford and your partnership in this work He is doing!

60TH ANNIVERSARY

A big highlight of this past year was our 60th anniversary celebration! Many friends were reunited over this special weekend as we celebrated all that God has accomplished here over the years. We held a fundraising banquet, a concert with past and current staff, and a classic Sunday morning chapel service. It was a beautiful picture of the many generations of families and staff that have been impacted by their time at Camp. We are so thankful for our Spofford family!



SOMETHING NEW CAMPAIGN

The Something New Campaign launched in 2022 with a goal of raising \$1.25 million over two years to support the construction of a new Girl's Staff Cabin and a new Family Lodge. In addition, the campaign is supporting \$200,000 worth of upgrades to the property and \$50,000 of seed money for future ministry the Camp is pursuing. Here are the details of both the fundraising and schedule of work over the next year:



Chesterfield → Girl's Staff Cabin

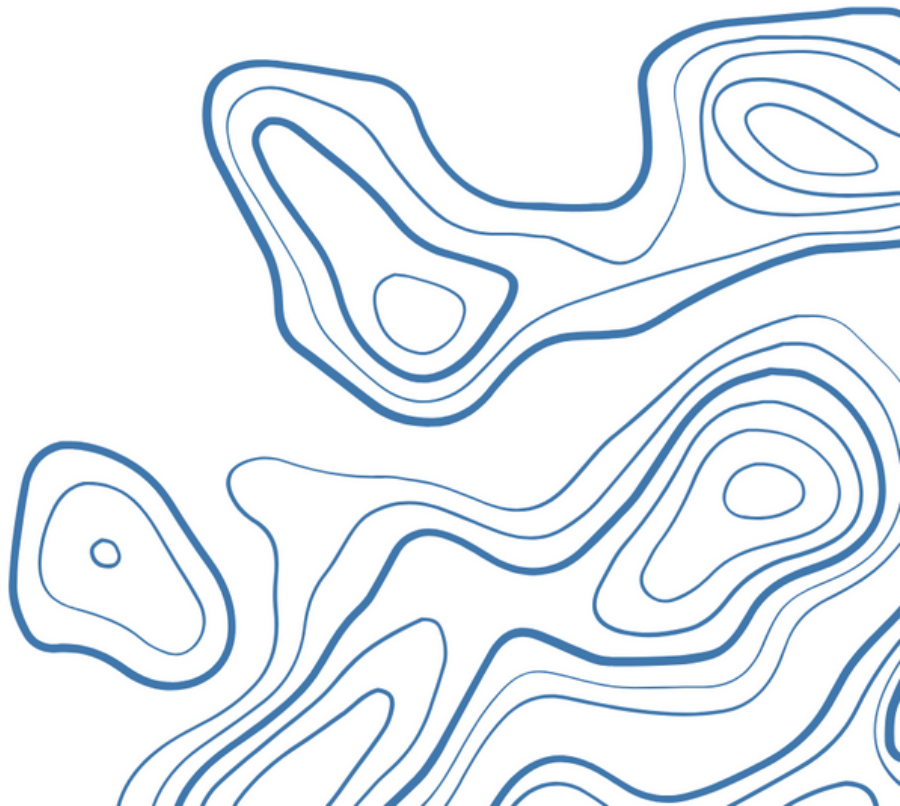


FUNDRAISING

- Given to Date - \$271,289
- Pledges to Date - \$370,050
- Still to be Raised - \$608,661

SCHEDULE

- New Girl's Staff Cabin - in progress, ready for 2023 Summer
- Replace Gym Furnace - underway
- Upgrade Chapel Audio - underway
- Replace Gym Roof - Spring 2023
- Replace Septic Field - Spring 2023
- Replace Exterior Fence - Spring 2023
- New Family Lodge - Fall 2023, ready for 2024 summer



FAMILY CAMP

Another year, another great summer! Over the course of our summer season, we had over 1,500 Family Camp guests join us to rest, reconnect with old friends, get closer with family, and hear God's word. As many of you know, November 1st was the opening day for new families to register for Family Camp 2023, and we are thrilled that our on-site accommodations are completely sold out! God is faithful, and we are incredibly grateful for the families who love and invest in Camp year after year.

As we begin preparations for summer 2023, we ask that you keep our staff in your prayers, both our year-round team as we begin the summer staff hiring process and the summer staff team that God will provide. They are such a huge part of the guest experience and ministry of Camp Spofford.

-Alissa Abrahamsen
Office Manager



YOUTH CAMP

We routinely look back to our goal of selling out Youth Camp by 2025: a goal set in 2019. When we came close to reaching that goal in 2021, we were hopeful that 2022 would bring us one step closer. We knew early on this past year that not only would we take a step towards it, but we would come within one week of meeting that goal 3 years early.

The original plan for 2022 was to run six weeks of Youth Camp as we have been for the past 10+ years. In the late winter/early spring, both Junior Weeks had already sold out and the waiting list was beginning to pile up. By mid-spring our Teen Weeks went to waitlist, while the Junior Week lists had grown to more than 40 kids waiting for a chance to register. In response, we decided to add a seventh week to Youth Camp - Junior Week 3. We finished the summer with every week sold out, with the exception of a couple of beds in Senior High Week and the newly created Junior Week 3.

We speak often here about how registration numbers are not the ultimate goal of Youth Camp. However, I want to celebrate them because I believe that they point to something deeper and much more significant: that God's favor is on this program. We believe that He desires for kids to be at Camp Spofford because He trusts that here, they will be encouraged to know Him, follow Him, and rest because of Him. What a humbling and thrilling thought to inspire us forward!!

We see God's hand at work in our program not just through numbers but through the stories we see at the end of each week. We hear of kids finding breakthrough in their battle with mental health, finding a place where they break social isolation and make quality friends, healing from emotional damage from past relationships, finding out what real joy feels like, and leaving for home encouraged and filled rather than drained and defeated. We have counselors considering career study changes because God gripped their heart for ministry while serving at Camp. We've had students be baptized as a result of finding Jesus at Camp. We gave away more than 50 bibles to kids who didn't have one prior to Camp!

So we celebrate our growing program, and believe that God is packing us out so He can fill up those who attend. As we look ahead to 2023, we plan to run seven weeks of programming and we pray that once again, God will grant us the favor He has been showing us, and will give us the ability to operate a program that will glorify Him in the lives of hundreds of kids. What an honor.

-Tory Abrahamsen
Program Director



RETREATS



Fall Foliage Retreat

This fall retreat season was certainly one for the books! Between our Men's, Women's, and Fall Foliage retreats, we served nearly 500 guests. That's an increase of almost 70 people compared to last year's fall retreats. The numbers say it all! God is continuing to use Camp Spofford to change lives and connect people both to Himself and to one another. Here's one of my favorite quotes from our Women's retreat: "[The retreat] really encouraged me to love others more fully and step away from the sidelines that I cling to. I left feeling convicted to be saturated in Scripture and more earnest in prayer, and more intent in talking with others around me about their lives and about Christ!" It was an amazing season, and we are so thankful for the work God has done.

-Alissa Abrahamsen
Office Manager

SPOFFORD HIGH

We wrapped up our second year of Spofford High in the Spring of 2022. With this second year came a growth in numbers, from averaging 10 a night in 2021 to 25 a night this past year, and an understanding of how significant this ministry is to the teenagers in our area.

It's evident to us that Spofford High has become an important part of many of our student's weeks. We are told very often that it is the highlight of the week for many who attend! We've also come to understand how rare Christian community is in the New England area. Wednesday nights serve as a place for teenagers to form community in a space they can trust, where they will be encouraged by older Christian mentors and where they will see the love of Jesus exemplified.

New England is a difficult place to grow up as a teenager. Social isolation is very real here, along with a slew of other factors relevant to teens across the nation. We plan to continue walking alongside our teenagers through these challenges as we head into 2023: encouraging them, providing a safe space for community, and demonstrating Jesus in the way we act and speak.

-Tory Abrahamsen
Program Director



WHITEOUT

Whiteout is a winter retreat that Camp runs for New England and Tri-State youth ministries. This year we decided to grow from one weekend to two, and they were a blast! More than 300 students and adult leaders flooded Camp for a few days of competition, food, ice skating, sledding, and four sessions filled with worship and teaching from local pastors. Our mission for these weekends is to create a place where kids can hear the Gospel of Jesus and worship together as the unified church, but we also want to create a place where adult leaders can further connect with their students. We only have two days with the students when they attend, but their youth leaders who attend with them pour into them all year long. For that reason, we try to create an environment where leaders can do nothing but focus on encouraging and mentoring their students, without worrying about logistics or planning.

My favorite story from Whiteout this year was how God revealed himself to us through two snowstorms. So much planning goes into these weekends, but one thing we have no control over is the weather. Shortly before our first Whiteout weekend we hit a warm spell. All of the snow at Camp melted and the forecast showed no hope of any new storms on their way. We meet as a staff every Wednesday to pray for each other, for Camp in general, and those in our Camp family (you!). This time I asked the team to spend time praying that God would miraculously bring in snow before the weekend, because so much of our winter programming relies on snow and cold weather. Friday came, groups showed up, and the ground was bare, warm, and muddy with the forecast still showing no signs of anything changing. I will admit that I felt a bit defeated that evening. However, on Saturday morning I remember walking out of our worship session to snow flurries moving in. Our session ended at 10:30am and before noon, Camp was blanketed in fresh powder. By 1:30pm, our sledding hill was covered in snow deep enough to sled on and there was not a green patch of ground anywhere! God is so good.

He wasn't done though. After the weekend ended and groups left on Sunday, that fresh snow melted and Camp had bare ground once more. We had one more Whiteout weekend to host though, so we prayed again. The ground remained bare until Friday afternoon, when four fresh inches fell just as groups were arriving. Camp was once again blanketed in snow and winter activities resumed all weekend...only for the snow to once again melt a day or two after the retreat ended!

I fully believe that those storms came directly from God, and all weekend long it was an encouragement to me that God is in this place, and while we may work and plan hard, He is ultimately the one who ensures that what we do works out as it should. He was with us for Whiteout this year, and we are confident that along with the snow, He delivered a fresh understanding of His love to the kids and leaders who attended.

-Tory Abrahamsen
Program Director



