



Fall
2022

Little Eden Echoes

Every summer has a story: *the story of 2022*

by KJ Oom

I recently saw a sign that said, “Every summer has a story.” It got me thinking about the different stories that have been told over all the summers at Little Eden. Stories of time spent with loved ones...*a parent or grandparent sharing uninterrupted time with their kids or a lifelong friend, realizing how much they love being together.* Stories of peace and rest...*allowing yourself the time to relax, read a book, make a puzzle, or experience a new pastime.* Stories of enjoying God’s creation around Northern Michigan...*gazing at the stars or a spectacular sunset on the shores of Lake Michigan, while re-connecting with the One who made it all.* This summer was no different in that it has a story to tell as well.

Youth Camps (by Dan and Micky Graber). Another year of youth camps has come and gone. It is always sad to say goodbye to these two weeks after months of planning. Time spent with little campers all the way to high school students brings so many powerful moments and wonderful memories that fill our hearts and minds for years to come. Once again, we were able to see God moving on our behalf to bring all the details together and impact these campers’ lives.

This year, we faced many changes in our plans. Wanting to keep everyone safe - as a few staff began to experience Covid symptoms and then tested positive - made for many last-minute changes in staffing. Yet God was faithful to bring in new, qualified staff to help fill these spots, some with just a few hours’ notice. These people willingly jumped in and poured so much love and fun into these kids’ lives. It made us think numerous times, “*They were meant to be here all along. Thank you, God, for providing.*”

One of the most powerful things to witness each year is the change that happens in campers in just a week. They step off the bus, many looking nervous and not having much to say. Some come without a friend, feeling overwhelmed knowing they will spend a week with strangers. The transformation that happens within 24-48 hours is amazing. Friendships form. Conversations and so much laughter take place. During evening devotions in cabins, they begin to demonstrate courage by being vulnerably open, sharing things with which they are struggling. It’s a beautiful sight to witness.

The last evening of our high school camp was a night that we as directors and long-time counselors had never experienced before. During our worship time, the campers began forming small clusters and praying together. The clusters then all joined together as one praying and worshipping without the leading of counselors. One of

our campers became overwhelmed thinking of leaving this safe group of peers as camp was ending the next day. As this camper began to grieve, the group encircled this person and proceeded to pray boldly over them. Truly a powerful and beautiful moment that will not only stay in the hearts of the campers, but the hearts of the counselors and directors too.

Family Camps. This summer, we were once again able to witness the generations of many different families enjoying sweet time together. We saw babies experiencing camp for the first time along with campers celebrating 70 plus years at Little Eden. What a joy to help celebrate milestones like a 50th year wedding anniversary, birthdays, and a baptism.

Camper numbers continue to grow - one week even surpassed 400 campers, and our total number of summer campers was 2894, exceeding last year’s record! Each week has such a

unique community among the families as they build relationships with each other. It is a blessing to see God continue to move in the lives of families at Little Eden.

Staff and Volunteers. We were blessed with a small, but mighty summer staff of eleven college-aged students, who worked incredibly hard with a lot of joy and fun throughout the summer. We also

had wonderful volunteers who stepped in to fill the gaps. At the beginning of summer, the tasks that lay before us looked daunting, and we wondered how we would ever accomplish all that needed to be done. We prayed that God would send us what we needed, and He did in amazing ways. All necessary tasks were completed with the added benefit of enjoying many new faces around camp as volunteers came and went throughout the summer. How awesome to see the way God not only provided but answered our prayers each step of the way. Thank you to everyone who prayed! Thank you to each person who volunteered! And thank you to our local and year-round staff who went above and beyond. We could not have had the summer we did without each and every one of you.

His story. This summer was incredible in so many ways. What a blessing it was to see God moving among families and campers! We are thankful for God’s faithfulness to Little Eden and in the lives of campers. We are also grateful for your part in this summer’s story at Little Eden.



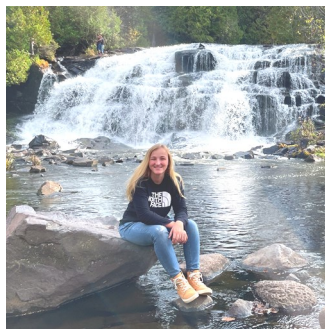
Staff comings and goings

This year, there have been and will be some changes to our year-round staff. Some of the changes are exciting as we welcome new staff and other changes are bittersweet as we say goodbye. We have been blessed to see how God continues to provide. Please join us as we say welcome, thank you and goodbye!

Welcome Lydia Kolbe, new Guest Services Manager.

Little Eden Camp is excited to welcome Lydia Kolbe as its new Guest Services Manager. Lydia, who began in May, is originally from Rockford, Michigan. She graduated from North Pointe Christian High School in 2020 and continued her education at Grand Rapids Community College. In her free time, Lydia enjoys all things sports! This past spring, she coached middle school soccer for Wyoming Public Schools. On Sunday afternoons, you can often find her watching football and cheering on Tom Brady's Tampa Bay Buccaneers. Lydia also enjoys traveling and spending time with friends and family.

Lydia attended several summer camps throughout her childhood and fell in love with camping ministry. She got her start at SpringHill Camps in 2018 as a traveling day camp counselor. She loved it so much that she returned for a second summer before going on to serve at Cran Hill Ranch as an Adventure Beach staff member.



Lydia is excited to be a part of the Little Eden community and is thankful that God has led her here!

Thank you, Kathy Charette. Kathy Charette will be retiring at the end of December after eight years at Little Eden. Kathy has served



as our Office Manager and has been instrumental in how our office works. Many of you have spoken on the phone or emailed with Kathy over the years. She has been exceptional at serving our campers and working with all our summer program reservations.

Please join our team in wishing Kathy a retirement full of God's blessings. Thank you, Kathy; you will be truly missed.

Welcome Michelle Foster, new Office Manager. Little Eden is excited to welcome Michelle Foster who will be taking over the Office Manager position. She is very excited to be joining the Little Eden team. Michelle has worked in the non-profit sector for many years and has volunteered at Lake Michigan Camp & Retreat,



as well as for the Boy Scouts of America which gave her a love and enthusiasm for camps. Being able to serve others in a camp setting is a dream come true for her.

Michelle has lived in Northern Michigan for 23 years and is originally from the Detroit area. She has a passion for Women's Ministry and loves helping women of all ages get healthy and whole from the inside out so they can run their Hebrews 12:1 race. Speaking, teaching and encouraging others brings her so much joy.

Michelle has been married to her wonderful husband Jake for 20 years. They have three amazing children, a new grandson and a crazy cat who thinks he is a dog. You can often find her on her stand-up paddle board somewhere on Lake Michigan, hiking the trails, driving along M22 with her husband in their 1949 Willy's pickup truck, taking pictures of the world around her or running a race somewhere to get a finishers medal.


Thank you, Keri Nofziger. Keri Nofziger will be stepping down from her position as Youth Camp Coordinator. She has given her last five years making sure that all our youth campers are registered and ready for their week of camp. She has done a wonderful job! Thank you, Keri, for your years of service and for all you have done for our youth camp program.



Welcome Valerie Rice, new Youth Camp Coordinator.

Little Eden is excited to welcome Valerie Rice as our new Youth Camp Coordinator. Valerie works as a teacher at New Horizons Academy in Wauseon, Ohio and has been married for 15 years to her husband, Nick. She has four children at home, and the majority of her time is spent at sporting events of her kids, nieces and nephews and even



several professional teams. Her family attends North Clinton Church in Wauseon and has made several trips to Little Eden over the years. She is looking forward to being part of the youth camp team! 



As mentioned in the last newsletter, Little Eden Camp has continued to take advantage of *Consumer Energy Rebates and Programs* to update our indoor and outdoor lighting to more efficient fixtures and bulbs as the rebates/programs come available. With our most recent updates, for the month of July, Little Eden reduced its kilowatt usage by 2906 KWh compared with July of 2021, for a savings of \$827.56 during our busiest electrical month of the summer. We look forward to additional savings all year long! 

Balmy Heights project

by Wayne Faber



Over the past fifteen months, Little Eden Camp has been working on a plan to address the needs and issues within the Balmy Heights cabin (the A-frame by the beach). Some of the issues included the aging roof, the absence of wall insulation, no attic space or insulation from the roof heat, a dangerous staircase, and very tiny bedrooms with beams on which people continually hit their heads. As we looked at long-term solutions to these issues, it was decided that the best option was to consider replacing the cabin.

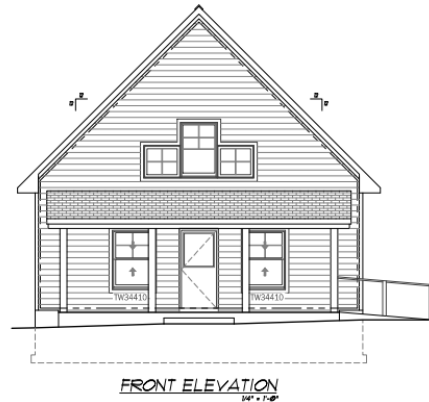


The current Balmy Heights

Thanks to many generous individuals and families, we have raised enough to fully fund this project and move ahead with a new cabin. Throughout this fall and winter, we will be replacing Balmy Heights with a traditional style

cabin (with straight walls) like the newer cabins on the west end of camp. The goal is to have the cabin finished before summer camp starts and use it next summer already.

We are excited to be able to make these improvements which will serve this and future generations for years to come. Watch our social media and the winter newsletter for pictures and progress.



Renderings of the new Balmy Heights - to be constructed this winter

Reminder: 2022 Memberships were due September 30, 2022. If you haven't paid yours yet, please do so today.

Old Little Eden t-shirts & sweatshirts needed

Someone who loves Little Eden Camp has graciously offered to make t-shirt and/or sweatshirt quilt top(s) from old Little Eden wear. Here is where we need your help:

- We are looking for some used Little Eden t-shirts or sweatshirts with the logo area still in good condition. The condition of rest of the shirt does not matter. Shirts can be brought to camp during fall work weekend, or you can contact the camp for a location to drop them off in the Stryker, OH area.
- We are also looking for someone who has a long arm quilting machine who would be able to help us out with the quilting part of the project.



The quilt(s) will be raffled off during family camps with the proceeds going to benefit the camp.



Submit your photos for Little Eden's **2022 Photo Contest**. The winners in each of the three categories will receive a **\$25 credit** to the **Little Eden Gift Shop**.

- Scenic pictures** – flowers, sunsets, the lake, animals, birds, the nature trail, etc.
- People pictures** – eating ice cream, sitting around the fire, fishing, jumping off the pier, families, adults, kids or any age just enjoying being at camp.
- Little Eden facilities** - buildings, grounds, inside or out.

Please email the pictures to lyndaf@littleeden.org or send a usb drive to Little Eden, 3721 Portage Point Dr, Onekama, MI 49675.

Rules: Pictures must have been taken in **2022** and must be submitted in high resolution digital format (jpeg or tiff) by **November 30, 2022**, with the understanding that they could be used in future newsletters and marketing pieces, on the camp website, social media or elsewhere. Names of the people in the pictures or of those taking the photos will not be disclosed when using the photos. No copy written or watermarked photos may be submitted.

Fall Work Weekend: *Come join us!*

Little Eden's **Fall Work Weekend** is scheduled for **October 13-17**. Come on up during a beautiful time of year and give a helping hand to prepare camp for winter.

Work will include fall clean-up—inside and outside—and several projects around camp. No matter your skill set or your age, there will be something for everyone!

You are welcome to come Thursday or Friday and stay through Sunday. All meals are provided Thursday noon through Sunday breakfast. Lodging and meals are free for those who volunteer. If you want to come early to help prep projects for work weekend, please let us know when you contact us.



Please contact the camp at office@littleeden.org or 231-889-4294 to let us know how many will attend, when you will come and what meals you will eat here. **Any and all help from ALL ages is greatly appreciated. Hope to see you then!**

The Fall Work Weekend also includes the **Annual Meeting** which will be held **Saturday, October 15 at 8:00 pm** in the chapel at camp. All members are encouraged to attend.



Join our 2023 Summer Staff Team

Summer of 2023 staff applications are available on our website. We are seeking college-aged adults (for two weeks of youth camps or for the whole summer) who are looking for a great way to gain leadership experience, meet new life-long friends and make an impact on youth and families. You can apply online at littleeden.org/workemployment.html today. Have questions? Call or text KJ at 630-294-6382.



We would love your help as we build our team!

Please share this opportunity with those who might be interested in serving Christ by serving others and be in prayer that God would provide the help we need for ministry in 2023!



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The 78th Annual Meeting Agenda
October 15 at 8:00 p.m. at camp

- Welcome and Call to Order
- Opening Prayer
- Presenting of Minutes of 2021 Annual Meeting
- Motion to approve minutes.
- Review of Major Decisions for '21 - '22 Year
- Operational Board Decisions
- Motion by membership to approve actions and decisions of the Board of Directors on behalf of the membership.
- Presentation of Annual Report
Review of the reports - Balance Sheet, Income and Expense, questions/comments by members about the Annual Report.
- Presentation of Nominees for Open Positions
- Board of Directors, Grounds Committee, Auxiliary Committee, Vote
- Little Eden Update
- Recognition of Retiring Board & Committee Members
- Closing Comments, Motion to Adjourn
- Closing Prayer



LITTLE EDEN CAMP

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