



Camp Whitley

"MAKING MEMORIES TO LAST A LIFETIME SINCE 1928"

2024 ANNUAL REPORT



LETTER FROM OUR BOARD

With great pride, we announce the successful conclusion of the Camp Whitley 2024 season. It feels like we were preparing for opening day just yesterday. This year was a testament to our collective efforts and commitment to our mission.

For the 2024 season, we hosted 271 campers, which is comparable to last year's number. We also hosted a week of day camp for Easter Seals, attended by approximately 35 campers.

This report shows several improvements from this past year, both in camper activities and with our camp's grounds. Improving the camper experience and maintaining our buildings for future generations is vital to Camp Whitley's continued growth. We can afford these improvements thanks to continued support from the community and our donors. Every year, in January, our Board of Directors has a one-day retreat to determine which improvements we will make for the following year. We have already begun obtaining bids for improvements to our waterfront area.

One of the significant changes we made this year was adding a camp nurse. With the number of campers requiring prescriptions rising, we realized the need for dedicated medical support. Regina Warner, our nurse, played a crucial role in ensuring the well-being of our campers and staff, particularly during the high temperatures and humidity. Her presence was instrumental in allowing our director to focus on other aspects of the camp, contributing to a smoother and more efficient operation.

The Board of Directors has many people and organizations to thank for their part in making 2024 a successful season for Camp Whitley. First, we want to thank our staff for all they have done this past season: our counselors, counselors in training (CIT), our cook Pam, and her assistants Janet and Stacy. Regina, our nurse; Hannah, our director; and Justine, our assistant director. Thanks to our board members for their hard work, vision, and ideas for improving Camp. Thank you to the Whitley County Community Foundation and all our donors. Your donations provide improvements and programs for camp that would not be possible without your support. We also want to express our heartfelt gratitude to the parents of our campers for your support and trust in allowing your son or daughter to attend camp. We also want to thank our campers for wanting to come or return to Camp Whitley this year, and we certainly hope you decide to return next year. We certainly hope that you made memories that will last a lifetime.

LETTER FROM OUR DIRECTOR

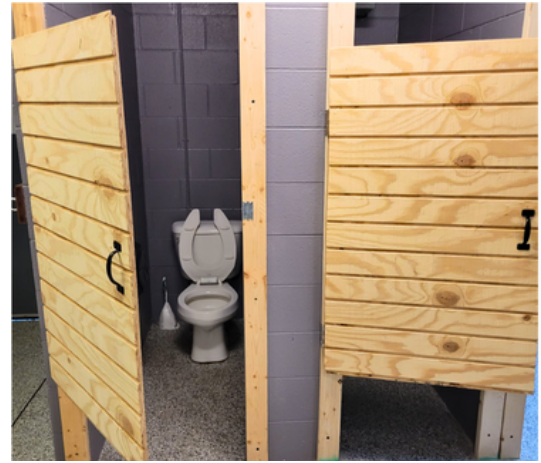
The summer of 2024 at Camp Whitley was one for the books! When I think about this summer, I think of little moments. Campers and counselors watching beetles with pincers the size of your thumb fight at lodge logs. Watching a camper excitedly ripping open a care package from home. The pirates' team huddles and screams a chant before the egg toss during the land derby. A camper sitting with a counselor at a picnic bench excitedly talking about their sister's upcoming wedding. I can't help but think that little moments like these will turn into bittersweet nostalgia for all of us at camp in 30 years and beyond.

Our successful summer of 2024 was made possible by our wonderful community, board members, donors, and campers. However, I want to take a moment to highlight the unique roles of our exceptional staff. Our cook Pam Hiles, kitchen assistant Stacey Malloy, and volunteer Janet Johnson, each with their distinct responsibilities, tirelessly served almost 300 campers and up to 20 staff. Their hard work and laughter in the kitchen, even in the blistering heat, ensured our campers were well-fed and happy. This year, we were fortunate to have our fantastic nurse, Regina Warner, who works hard for WCCS as a school nurse for the rest of the year. Camp Whitley has not had a nurse on staff for too long, and Regina's presence was invaluable. She ensured we kept hydrated during our hottest weeks by providing ice water coolers around Camp. Regina took care of our staff and campers with care and a plethora of knowledge when we were sick or injured. She was always a phone call away, even for silly questions when she was not on campus.

We had eight counselors in training (CITs) this summer. These are past campers who are not yet old enough to become a counselor. They volunteer at least a week per summer to "intern" as a camp counselor. All of our CITs did an excellent job of spreading the camp magic and cheer with our younger campers! We also had Brittney Wood (past camper and counselor). She used her college internship program as an opportunity to help Camp and help her in her future career in marketing and communications. She came from Fort Wayne 3 times a week to take excellent photos to share with our camper's parents and families. She stayed longer than needed for many weeks to tell her favorite and infamous version of Fred York!

Finally, I want to express my deepest gratitude to our eight counselors, lead counselor Emma Magsamen, and assistant director Justene Whitehead. These individuals are the heart and soul of our camp, the reason why campers return year after year. They build relationships, keep scores for ribbons, clean the bathrooms, lifeguard, sing all the songs, and cheer those kids on. They are up early for the flagpole and sometimes don't go to bed until the wee hours if a camper can't fall asleep. They are unbelievably hard workers and incredible people. Because of a counselor, the beetle fights were narrated with silliness and from a safe distance. Within that care package was a letter that the camper couldn't quite read yet, so it was read to them by a counselor. In the middle of that chant was a counselor dressed like a pirate, waving the large pirate flag with gusto. At that picnic table was an exhausted counselor at the end of the summer, listening and conversing excitedly about the wedding of a person they did not know. These people always have, and still do, create core memories and make us nostalgic for our childhoods. Thank you to the 2024 staff from the bottom of my heart!

CAMP IMPROVEMENTS



Pat and Darrin from the board worked hard this year to build and replace all the frames and screens in our cabins, they also built the new bath stall doors and installed them for extra privacy for our campers. With the help of the Whitley County Community Foundation and the Lilly Scholar Lead Forward Program we were able to purchase new mattresses for every camper and counselor.



Camp Nurse - We hired Regina Warner, R.N., to help us with medication management and overall camper and counselor health for the season.

Salad Bar - Due to the amount of Salad that we now serve. We purchased a Salad Bar. It has been a BIG HIT!

Martin and Bat Houses - These were added to the Camp thanks to a grant from the Whitley County Master Gardeners. They make great natural bug repellents.

CAMPER ACTIVITY UPDATES



Rifle Range - Designed & built by Brandon Smith, labor assistance from Ron Case and Jay Walters, dirt & rock donated by Wigent Excavating. The materials were purchased from the auction of our 4, .22 single bolt action rifles.

Water Front Activities - Thanks to the Whitley County Community Foundation we now have 25 Kayaks and were able to purchase the lumber to build our new storage racks. Camp also purchased a new 4 seat paddle boat to add to our fleet.



Holmes and Company donated New Lodge Logs. Our campers and counselors often meet at the Lodge Logs to check in and play games together. Camp purchased a new movie screen and received a new foosball table to help our campers stay entertained on rainy days.

FUTURE PROJECTS & VOLUNTEERING



Roofing & Siding - Our boathouse is in major need of repairs, including roofing and siding. We are also going to need to replace the roofing on all our cabins.

Pier - Our pier is nearing the end and the runners are sagging. We are in the process of obtaining quotes.

Beach Replacement - We want to dig out the pebbles and replace with sand. We hope this will make the beach experience better for our campers and renters.



**CCHS FRESHMAN
ACADEMY**



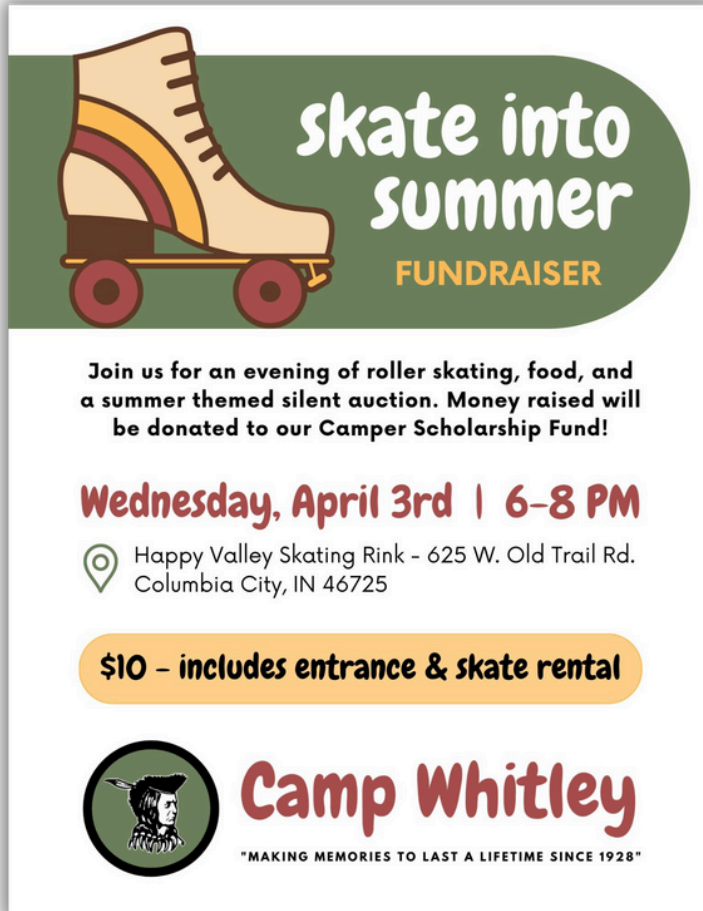
**UNITED WAY
DAY OF CARING**



**BOY SCOUTS
TROOP 84**

How to Get Involved? Volunteering is a wonderful way to get yourself, your family, or your business involved with camp. We had several groups that came out this year to support us. **THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS, WE LOVE YOU!**

FUNDRAISING EFFORTS



Skate into Summer Fundraiser - This year we tried something new to raise money for our camper scholarship fund. We partnered with SO MANY local businesses to offer a community fundraising event.

We are already exploring new activities and partnerships to make next year's fundraising even better. We invite our donors to join us in these efforts and look forward to your continued support. Thank you for your generous contributions and for being a part of our community's efforts to support our campers!

SILENT AUCTION SUPPORTERS

- Andy's Car Wash
- Aunt Millie's Bakeries
- Bee Great
- Big G's Sports Café
- Brevin's Downtown Eatery & Lounge
- Busco IGA
- Columbia Automotive
- Country Roads Coffee
- Divine Arts Studio
- Di-Ro Builders
- DQ Grill & Chill Columbia City
- Edwin Coe Spirits
- Espich Printing
- Fort Wayne Children's Zoo
- Happy Valley Skating Rink
- Journey333 Columbia City
- Main Bowl
- Moyer's Corner Café
- Paige's Crossing
- Pickles Café
- Poptique Gourmet Popcorn
- Running Around Screen Printing & Embroidery
- Russell & Eveyln Fahl Aquatics Center
- Sage + Stone Essential Care
- Sky Zone Trampoline Park
- Stan's BBQ
- Strive Fit Club
- Teghtmeyer Ace Hardware
- The Nook
- The Ramy Family
- The Scented Shed
- TNT Floral Shop
- Tratum Ink Co.
- Tyce Johnson, Tattoo Artist

CAMPER SCHOLARSHIPS



Over the past few years, we have witnessed a marked increase in the number of scholarship requests we have received. This surge is directly correlated with the financial challenges many individuals and families in our community are currently facing.

Your past contributions have allowed us to award 250 full or partial scholarships to our campers in just the past few years alone. Your ongoing partnership is vital in helping us meet the growing demand for scholarships and ensure that no camper is left without the assistance they require.

If you are able to contribute once again or increase your support, please know that your generosity will directly impact the lives of those who are struggling. We understand that everyone's circumstances are unique, and any contribution, regardless of size, is genuinely appreciated.



Some of my best childhood memories were here. I still, to this day, have my Daniel Boon and Davy Crockett trophies. I can't wait for my son to experience CW and the memories. Campfire stories, movies, the bunk friends you make. Place is and was magical! If 10 stars could adorn a camp for kids, this would be it.

DONORS & VOLUNTEERS

LEGEND OF TROY SPONSOR

- The Community Foundation of Whitley County

CAMP WHITLEY SPONSORS

- Builders Mart
- Steel Dynamics
- Lily Scholars Network
- Jane Mitchell

CAMPER OF THE WEEK SPONSORS

- Candy Bower
- AJ Machine, Inc.
- Katlyn Hostrander
- ChromaSource
- Fox Products Corporation
- Smith & Sons Funeral Home, Inc.
- Teghtmeyer Ace Hardware
- Weatherhead CC Federal Credit Union
- Julie Copeland/Superior Essex
- UAW Local 3055
- James and Beth Stricker

TINKHAM'S SPIRIT SPONSORS

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- Fort Wayne Metals
- BRC Rubber & Plastics
- Whitetails Unlimited
- Blackburn & Romney
- Holmes & Company
- Linda Green
- Bloom Fund
- Reelcraft

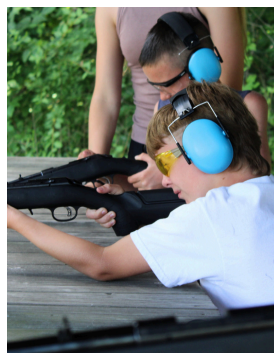
PIZZA NIGHT SPONSORS

- Bryan Graham Mortgage Man
- Crossroads Bank, Columbia City
- 260 Studio Designs
- Loren and Aimee Fry
- Orizon Real Estate, Inc.
- BackRoads Logistics
- Lori Bazur-Persing
- Kathy Vessey
- Di-Ro Builders

SPECIAL THANK YOUS

Master Gardeners of Whitley County, Kent and Mary Hill, The Love Family, Teresa Sell, Wings Etc. Columbia City, Sara Art, Renee Zabel, Steven and Carol Watson, Columbia City Scout Troop 84, Brooks Longenbaugh, More Farm Stores, Robert Rose, Maria Slimbach, SWAT Team Pest Control, Pizza Hut Columbia City, DQ Grill & Chill Columbia City, Medtronic, Starlight Industries, Brandon Smith, Ron Case, Jay Walters, Jason Leedy, Chris Miller, Janet Johnson, Ken's Appliance and Home Repair, Men's Breakfast Group - Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church, Beta Associate Chapter of Tri Kappa, Wigent Excavating, Socks Marina, CCHS Freshman Academy, Stryker - Medical Devices and Equipment Manufacturing.





**FROM THE ENTIRE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
AND STAFF OF CAMP WHITLEY**

THANK YOU

FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT



making memories to last a lifetime since 1928

