



Camp Whitley

"MAKING MEMORIES TO LAST A LIFETIME SINCE 1928"

2023 ANNUAL REPORT



LETTER FROM OUR BOARD

To our campers, sponsors, parents, friends, and supporters of Camp Whitley,

As a board we are delighted and proud to provide you with our annual report for our 95th season at Camp Whitley.

This year's attendance total was 273 campers which was a 13.3% increase over last year. This is the highest attendance in several years. We started Day Camp this year and will continue to grow this for first time campers.

In this annual report, we will first cover our accomplishments for the 2023 camp season. We are very proud of what we accomplished this year and are very appreciative of our financial donors and backers.

To be able to determine what to focus on for the 2023 season, we held a board retreat in the spring to compile our ideas and projected costs all with camper and staff safety and camper experience in mind.

Our list of improvements:

- The completion and furnishing of our 3 bedroom, 1 bathroom Directors Cabin
- Poly coating installed in all areas of the Bath House
- New flagpole installed with commemorative bricks placed at the base
- New security system in place to alert staff of vehicles approaching our gates
- New public address system - this allows staff to alert all of camp at the same time and play music camp wide
- Purchased a new boat motor for our pontoon boat. Our pontoon boat had been banked for several years.

These items were purchased thanks to our donors and supporters. We were fortunate enough to receive grants from different estates to allow us to complete these major projects. They will be listed in this report, when we go into greater detail about each of these projects.



DIRECTOR'S CABIN UPDATE



We began the directors cabin project in 2020 and were able to finish it in May of 2023 right before the camp season began!

The construction of the 3 bedroom, 1 bathroom Director's Cabin final cost was around \$130,000. We ended the project \$13,000 under budget.

This project would not have been possible without support from The Dekko Foundation and The Whitley County Community Foundation. Both provided matching grant opportunities that we were able to take full advantage of.

Chad Whetstone of Whetstone Electric donated all the electrical work for the Director's Cabin, plus all the re-wiring work that needed to be done in all of our camper cabins.

We also received donations from TK Architects, McClurg Builders, Quality and Perfection Painting, White's Flooring, Bruce Ewing Landscaping and Daniel Landscaping. We received many donations to make this project possible.

Businesses that worked on this project:

- Architect - Teresa Ladd with TK Architects
- General Contractor - Andy McClurg - McClurg Builders
- Electrical - Whetstone Electric
- Plumbing - Van Contracting Inc.
- Painting - Quality and Perfection Painting
- Flooring White's Flooring

FLAG POLE UPDATE



This year we finally retired the old flag pole as it was leaning, rusted, and just not safe. It stood at Camp Whitley for at least 55 years.

The new flag pole was funded by the sale of commemorative bricks that were engraved to the donors choice. Previous Camp Directors names are on the bricks as well. There are 6 limestone pavers engraved with the insignias of each of the 6 branches of the United States Military. These were placed in honor of all veterans, but especially those that once stood at our flagpole as a camper.

The Marine Corp League of Fort Wayne held a dedication ceremony on July 9th, 2023. Daniel Landscaping set the brick base for us.



BATH HOUSE & BEACH UPDATES



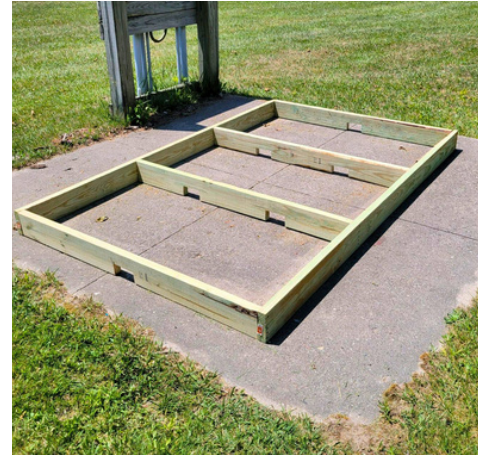
To make our bath house safer for our campers and renters, and easier to clean, we have updated the bath house flooring. The flooring has now been covered in a poly coating with a non-slip texture added in.

We were able to make this project possible with help from The Whitley County Community Foundation.



We worked with Indian Spring Middle Schoolers through the Charitable Champions project to receive a grant from the Whitley County Community Foundation to provide Goose Deterrent Supplies, Lake Weed Cleaning Supplies, and new chairs to help keep our beach clean and welcoming for campers.

CAMPER ACTIVITY UPDATES



This year, we purchased a 25 horsepower boat motor to get our pontoon boat up and running again. Now campers, staff, and renters can enjoy taking a pontoon ride around the lake, we even invested in a new tube to pull behind as well. We also had help from one of our board members (Darrin Daniel) to create a new box for box hockey. We also purchased this giant connect four that can be played with outside or inside on rainy days!



We received a cash donation from Highwaymen Concrete. With this donation the board purchased 6 new 22 bolt action rifles to replace the rifles we have been using for many years. They are a great addition to our program and even work with the ammo collection we already have saved up.

SECURITY & WIFI UPDATES

PA System - This year we added a camp wide PA System which gives staff the ability to broadcast messages quickly and easily. It was also used to play music during different activities, including the limbo.

Security System - Camper and staff safety is our number one priority. We purchased a driveway alarm system that notifies our staff when a vehicle is approaching camp and allows them the opportunity to respond accordingly.

Wifi - Camp Whitley now has Wifi! We put this in place mostly for our counselors and camp director to have access to the internet in the summer. This makes it easier for us to contact parents and post our photos online. It also allows us to stream movies now for movie night! Having Wifi is also an added benefit for our renters during the off season.

UPCOMING PROJECTS

There are several areas of camp that we still wish to make upgrades to. These include short-term and long-term projects.

- Boat House and Water Front
- Kitchen & Mess Hall
- Lodge
- Tinkhams
- & Riflery Area



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 provide full and partial scholarships to over 150 campers. 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 SPONSORS

- Robert Kellogg
- Whetstone Electric Inc.
- The Community Foundation of Whitley County

TINKHAM'S SPIRIT SPONSORS

- Fort Wayne Metals
- AMVETS Post 2919 & Gary Jones
- Bruce Ewing Landscaping
- Highwaymen Concrete

CAMPER OF THE WEEK SPONSORS

- Buchanan Automotive, Inc.
- Teghtmeyer Ace Hardware
- Teresa K. Ladd RA, Inc.
- Churubusco Rotary Club
- 80/20, LLC
- Fox Products Corporation
- Linda Green
- Weatherhead CC Federal Credit Union
- Meghan Lawrence in honor of Kaila Cearbaugh
- Julie Copeland
- Mildred Wasmuth
- Anne Titus
- Flow-Tech Plumbing & Heating Inc.
- Walt Maley Mowing Service

SPECIAL THANK YOUS

Brickworks Supply Fort Wayne, Wings Etc. Columbia City, DQ Grill & Chill Columbia City, Columbia City Pizza Hut, ChromaSource, Orizon Real Estate, Medtronic, Amber Sewell, Kent and Mary Hill, Ken's Appliance and Home Repair, Boy Scout Troop 84, Students from the Freshman Academy, the Whitley County 4-H Dairy and Feeder Calf Groups, the Rotary, Edward Jones, Ron Case, REMC Tree Crew, Ball Furniture, Northern Steppes, Knights of Flumenus Lux, Friends, Family, Staff, and Former Board Members.

CAMP WHITLEY SPONSORS

- Builders Mart
- Steel Dynamics
- Columbia City Elks Lodge #1417
- Blackburn & Romney
- Jane Mitchell
- Elks Lodge No. 155 in Honor of Wayne Stewart

PIZZA NIGHT SPONSORS

- Running Around Screen Printing & Embroidery
- Miller Sewer & Drain
- One Purpose Marketing
- Linda Green
- Robinson and Sons Electric
- Bloom Gates Shipman & Whiteleather, LLP
- Theta Kappa Chapter of Delta Theta Tau Sorority
- Sun Kiss Tanning





**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

