



Camp Fire USA
RIVER BEND COUNCIL

2010 Annual Report





Our Mission

Build caring, confident youth and future leaders.

“She left with a smile and came home with an even bigger one.”

- Parent

“It’s so fun you can’t really put it into words.”

- Will, camper

Our Council

River Bend Council is creating new experiences for the youth of our community. Of programs are co-ed, youth-oriented, and inclusive. Our kids develop the self-reliance and confidence that comes from exploration and creation. We teach youth about community and how they can make the world a better place. For over 80 years, River Bend Camp Fire has given thousands of kids an opportunity to grow.

National

Camp Fire USA is one of the nation’s leading not-for-profit youth development organizations, currently serving nearly 750,000 children and youth annually. Camp Fire USA, with national headquarters in Kansas City, Mo., provides all-inclusive, coeducational programs in hundreds of communities across the United States. Founded in 1910, Camp Fire USA’s outcome-based programs include youth leadership, self-reliance, after school groups, camping, environmental education and child care.

*Today's kids.
Tomorrow's leaders.*

A Camp Fire Story

Last year, we told the story of DeQuarius - a camper who overcame his fear of the water and finished his week at camp by jumping off the diving board into the lake. When we shared that story, I had no idea how his journey would parallel that of our council's.

As he promised, DeQuarius returned to camp in 2010. In fact, he managed to earn enough to return to camp for three whole weeks - an accomplishment of its own. When he arrived, he renewed his resolve to conquer his fear of the water. He took swimming lessons all three weeks and his determination led him become a fairly competent swimmer in a very short time. He was so determined, in fact, that he swam his 20 laps--the pre-requisite to participate in "lake swim." On the final Saturday morning of his time at camp, he joined a handful of other campers and successfully swam across Birch Lake.



To say we were all proud of him is an understatement. His persistence and confidence should serve as a lesson for all of us. We considered his first summer a success, but DeQuarius wasn't done. Instead of resting on his laurels, he set his sights higher and sought help when he needed it. And after he accomplished his goal, he began to look for a new one. If he can achieve so much in just two years, who knows how far he'll go?

Our journey isn't over. As we celebrate the first 100 years of Camp Fire, we also look ahead to the future.

Camp Fire USA celebrated its centennial in 2010. Such times are reason for celebration, reflection, and vision.

At the beginning of 2010, we hired Marty McKiernan as our executive director. A former board member, he provided leadership and focus. He drove us to think critically about our programs and priorities, leading to financial reforms and new policies. But most importantly, he brought a passion for our mission.

Camp Fire has had a few excellent years and has grown tremendously. But like DeQuarius, we're not done. Every year we set new goals and work hard to accomplish them. We ask for help along the way and when we succeed, we try to outdo ourselves next time. Our journey isn't over. As we celebrate the first 100 years of Camp Fire, we also look ahead. With kids like DeQuarius for inspiration, we're optimistic about the next 100 years and our ability to continue making a difference in the lives of our children.

Chas Grundy

President, Board of Directors

Executive Director's Report

I was thrilled to be a part of an exciting 2010 year with Camp Fire USA's River Bend Council. First, we had another successful year of serving Michiana's youth through our Camp Tannadoonah, Camp Tawanchi and Club programs. We exceeded our goal of providing 100 camperships, thanks to the numerous organizations and individuals who contributed in a big way. And we celebrated our national organization's hundredth anniversary with a hog roast and centennial ceremony at Camp Tannadoonah. Those honored included Camp Fire alum, our friends on Birch Lake, and former and current staff and volunteers.

The council made great strides in terms of our financial position. We regained United Way of St. Joseph County program funding for camperships. Residents of Birch Lake played a huge role in successful fundraising initiatives. Tannadoonah had a banner year, with a 16% increase in campers. Lastly, we addressed key expenses including program supplies and insurance. Our 2010 financial results included an increase in both camp and fundraising income, reduced total expenses, and a positive net income for the year while simultaneously reducing debt.

Most importantly, the board voted on organizational changes and other strategies to move us from a position of survival to one with a financially stable future, focused on our strengths and designed for self-sufficiency. These changes will become evident in 2011, and should ensure that Camp Fire USA will create caring, confident youth and future leaders for another one hundred years.



Marty McKiernan
Executive Director

2010 Board of Directors*

President	Chas Grundy
Vice President	Bret Robertson
Treasurer	Brenda Engel
Secretary	John Engel
Members-at-Large: Joe Bellina, Jim Dominello, Glenn Geiser, Maureen Koscielski, Tony Laskowski, Joe Lyphout, Patti Russwurm	

Council Staff

Executive Director	Marty McKiernan
Camp Tannadoonah Director	Amber Grundy, Ph.D.
Club Director	Peggy Laskowski
Camp Tawanchi Director	Brooke Hull (May-August)
Bookkeeper	Stacy Koebel-Harder, C.P.A.
Office Manager	Dawn Brooks (June-August)

* As of December 31, 2010



Camp Tannadoonah



Our resident camp is a traditional overnight camp, set in a wooded area along the shores of beautiful Birch Lake in southwestern Michigan. Camping activities for boys and girls include sailing, swimming, archery, games, and lots of outdoor enjoyment. We provided 100 full or partial camperships, and had a 71% camper retention rate from 2009.

Director's Note

We made some big improvements to the shower house in the spring. We added a number of exciting new programs to the camp experience this year: cheerleading, soccer, basketball, volleyball, springboard diving camps, and two weeks of science camp. Our camp counselors and community volunteers led all of these programs,

including volunteer coaches from Soccer Zone, a teacher from St. Joe Grade School in Mishawaka, a Birch Lake resident and marine biologist, and a former Tannadoonah counselor. Camp attendance hit a 20-year high and Hawaiian Week set a new Tannadoonah record with 115 campers!

	2009	2010	Change
Total Campers	490	571	+16%
Unique Campers	384	457	+19%
Camperships	66	100	+52%



Camp Tawanchi

Located in the heart of Mishawaka in beautiful Merrifield Park, our day camp provides supervised summer activities and games, including archery, swimming, crafts, and more.

Director's Note

In partnership with the Mishawaka Park and Recreation Department, we hosted another successful season at Camp Tawanchi. We made it easier to attend camp this year by widening our age range to 5–12 years, expanding our season by a week, providing camperships, and working with parent volunteer counselors, whose children attended without cost. In total, 33 children were able to experience camp for free this year. Our centennial celebration included a visit by Mayor Rea, a trivia game and the timeless tradition of s'mores over the fire.

Total Campers	2008	2009	2010	
	303	265	295	+11.3%



Camp Fire Club

7 Leaders

28 Youth

5 Club Groups

The Club group program brings families and communities together in youth development, service projects and fun family events.

Director's Note

This year the kids volunteered their time with projects at Tannadoonah, Fun Run, Goodwill Doll Project, Zoo Boo, Caroling, Valentines for Vets, and the Christ Child Society. Club boys and girls engaged in cool monthly activities including Spring Camp.

After the summer season concluded, we expanded its reach by inviting those who received camp scholarships to monthly Club activities. This connection will expand in 2011.

The "St. Joe Mish" group implemented a project this year that exemplifies what Club is all about. To ensure the council would get through a tight cash situation in last fall, they designed t-shirts and hit the pavement hard to help raise funds for camp. These are our future leaders in training!



Camp Fire USA River Bend Council

Balance Sheet, December 31, 2010

ASSETS

Cash

Petty Cash	\$	50.00
Checking		21,051.95
Restricted		500.49
Accounts Receivable		4,037.50

Fixed Assets 122,336.73

TOTAL ASSETS \$ 147,976.67

LIABILITIES AND EQUITY

Accounts Payable 31,452.14

Unearned Revenue 9,250.00

Payroll Liabilities 982.71

Accrued Retirement 16,270.00

Loan 47,676.74

Promissory Note 8,000.00

Total Liabilities \$ 113,631.59

Retained Earnings 8,224.55

Opening Balance Equity 10,488.70

Net Income 15,631.83

Total Equity \$ 34,345.08

TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY \$ 147,976.67



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