



# Camp Fire

River Bend



## ANNUAL REPORT 2022-2023



# LETTER FROM OUR LEADERS

## DEAR CAMP FIRE FAMILY,

As we conclude our 2023 season, we want to share with you a few of the accomplishments our board and staff are proud of from the past year.

Both of our Before and After School programs completed successful years and are off to a great start for the 2023-2024 school year. We had an excellent group of staff at both programs, and are excited that several of them have returned this year.

The Extended Day program at Good Shepherd Montessori had 65 registered students, and served an average of 18 students each day after school. At the start of the 2023-2024 school year, we have been serving an average of 25 students each afternoon. The Before and After School program at Sam Adams Elementary had 54 registered students last year, and served an average of 29 students each morning before school, and 13 students each afternoon after school. At the start of the 2023-2024 school year, we have 54 registered students, and serve an average of 32 students each morning and 9 each afternoon.

Our summer camp program at Camp Tannadoonah served a total 1197 campers in the summer of 2023! We had a strong and consistent staff this summer, and hope that many of them will return for the summer of 2024.

This year we celebrated a special tradition called the Patteran. The Patteran is a time capsule that we dig up every five years. The campers and staff sing special Patteran songs, and go on a search for the time capsule. Once it is found, we read stories from the past that are inside, and add our own stories for future campers to read.

We continued to look for ways to support our programs through alternative sources of revenue, and received grants from the Margaret A Cargill Philanthropies to support facilities improvements, staff salaries, and projects to increase camper safety. Generous contributions from the Kiwanis Club of South Bend, United Way of Southwest Michigan, United Way of St. Joseph County, and numerous individuals allowed us to provide many scholarships for youth to attend Camp and After School.

We hosted our second AmeriCorps National Civilian Community Corps (NCCC) team at camp this fall. This year we shared our team with the Cass County Parks Department. They served three weeks at Dr. Lawless Park, and four weeks at Camp Tannadoonah. The seven-member NCCC team helped clear trails and campsites and complete many projects around camp. We were very grateful for all they helped us accomplish!

In September, we held our third-annual grownup camp weekend, and were thrilled to have a beautiful weekend with

approximately 50 people in attendance. Participants enjoyed late night singing around the campfire, traditional camp activities, pontoon cruises on the lake, and amazing weather all weekend long!

Susanne Klein and Tricia Stitz will be concluding their terms on the Board of Directors in December 2023. Susanne and Tricia both joined the board in December 2020, and served as co-chairs of the Alumni Committee, helping with alumni outreach and planning of the Grown Up Camp events for the past three years. We are very grateful for Susanne and Tricia's years of dedication to Camp Fire and Camp Tannadoonah!

Our current Chair, John Michel, will also conclude his term as Chair at our meeting in December. John stepped into the Chair role last year for a one-year term, and we are thankful for his leadership over the past year.

Our biggest project of this year the incredible transformation of the waterfront. We replaced the crumbling concrete seawall with a more environmentally friendly rock wall and built a new boat shed for storage of our waterfront equipment. We also built a new pole barn for maintenance and storage, purchased new stalls to improve privacy in the shower house, and purchased a utility vehicle. We made many other improvements - big and small - all around camp.

Thank you to all of our donors, volunteers, and staff members for your generosity and steadfast support in making all this possible, and for your shared passion for helping our Camp Fire youth find their Sparks.

**John Michel**  
Chair, Board of Directors

**Amber Grundy**  
Chief Executive Officer

**Gabby Bittner**  
Camp Tannadoonah Director

**Carmen Garcia**  
School Year Programs Director



# FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS



Early Morning on Birch Lake

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

September 30, 2023

Total Current Assets	\$ 1,004,149
Total Long-Term Assets	\$ 708,133
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$ 1,712,282</b>
Total Liabilities	\$ 91,579
Total Equity	\$ 1,620,703
<b>Total Liabilities and Equity</b>	<b>\$ 1,712,282</b>

## FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

Financial information presented here is based on the unaudited financial statements for the year ended September 30, 2023. The complete financial statements have been determined to represent fairly, in all material aspects, the financial position of Camp Fire River Bend as of September 30, 2023, and the changes in its net assets and its cash flows for the year in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles.

For regular income and expense, the program-related functional expenses represented 81% of the fiscal year expenses, while the expenses for fundraising, online store, and administration represented just 19% of the fiscal year expenses. The council spent \$182,147 on facilities improvement projects and program equipment upgrades, including a new stalls for the shower house, a new pole barn for maintenance, a utility vehicle, a new boat shed, and a new sea wall and landscaping at the waterfront.

Our before and after school programs served a total of 119 youth over the course of the school year, and Camp Tannadoonah served 1197 campers this summer, and celebrated a special tradition called the Patteran.



Good Shepherd Montessori Extended Day

## STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES BY CLASS

For year ended September 30, 2023

	Admin	Tannadoonah	After School	Camp Fire Online Store	Unrestricted Fundraising	Total Regular Inc. & Exp.	Capital Improvements
Total Revenues	\$0	\$800,662	\$138,913	\$32,006	\$59,706	\$1,027,830	
Total Expenses	\$139,822	\$567,890	\$110,024	\$17,920	\$2,078	\$834,277	\$182,147
Change in Net Assets	\$(139,822)	\$232,772	\$28,889	\$14,086	\$57,628	\$193,553	

## REGULAR EXPENSE 2022-2023

Category	2022-2023 Expense	% of Budget
Year Round Personnel	\$227,689	27.3%
Seasonal & Part Time Personnel	\$198,299	23.8%
Payroll Taxes and Benefits	\$36,146	4.3%
Camp Meals & Daily Living	\$80,940	9.7%
Program Materials	\$11,993	1.4%
Cost of Goods Sold	\$35,043	4.2%
Insurance	\$35,594	4.3%
Depreciation	\$60,989	7.3%
Occupancy	\$22,443	2.7%
Regular Maintenance	\$22,241	2.7%
Promotion, Professional Dev., & Travel	\$13,756	1.6%
Payment Processing & Banking Expense	\$21,473	2.6%
Outside Services	\$25,787	3.1%
Office Supplies and Postage	\$3,398	0.4%
Dues and Licensing	\$38,486	4.6%
<b>Total Regular Expense</b>	<b>\$834,277</b>	<b>100%</b>

1031 UNDUPLICATED  
PARTICIPANTS ACROSS  
THREE PROGRAMS

56% FEMALE, 44% MALE

\$36,615 IN SCHOLARSHIPS  
AWARDED TO YOUTH



Good Shepherd Montessori Extended Day

# WE SALUTE OUR DONORS

On behalf of the youth and families who have benefited from Camp Fire over the last year, thank you for supporting us in fulfilling our promise, so youth can find their sparks, lift their voice, and discover who they are.

## \$20,000+

Margaret A Cargill  
Philanthropies  
Mike and Renee Chapple  
State of Michigan Department  
of Education  
United Way of Southwest  
Michigan

## \$10,000-\$19,999

Caterpillar Corporation  
Rob Dunlop and Kim Price  
Jameson Green

## \$5,000-\$9,999

Camp Fire National HQ  
Friendship Fund  
Kiwans Club of South Bend

## \$2,500-\$4,999

John and Patti Faustino  
Charlene Lenyo Hutt  
United Way of St. Joseph  
County Indiana

## \$1,000-\$2,499

Bob and Layna Bender  
Tom and Carolyn Edgerton  
Rich and Cindy Krupp  
John and Barb Phair  
Jeff and Jill Robinson  
John and Tricia Stitz

## \$500-\$999

John and Maggie Michel  
Dan and Sharon Waxman, in  
memory of Patty Luecht

## \$250-\$499

Gretchen Batalis  
Kim Burnett  
Tom and Barb Cassady, in  
memory of Phil Potts  
Bob and Leslie King  
Bryce Milligan  
Elizabeth Zickgraf

## GIFTS UP TO \$249

Sue Abshagen Wilder  
Dann and Brigitta Adkins  
Debra Ball  
Melissa Diglio  
Jane Goldsberry  
Barbara Green  
Lois Groszek  
Amber Grundy  
Bruce Harlan  
Eugene and Jeanette Huang  
Karen Kazmierzak  
Anja Keppeler  
Allison King  
Tom Kuhn and Jan Temple  
John and Barbara MacDougal  
Kara and Alex Macsuga  
Gail Miller  
Gayle Orange  
Laura Pence and Jamie  
Schnoor  
John and Betsy Pendarvis  
Carol Rhudy  
David and Laura Salela  
Lisa Tucker  
Heidi Tuthill  
Chelsea Wald  
Craig and Cyndi Weyers  
Ron and Linda Witchie  
Cindy Rheinart Zesinger



After School at Sam Adams Elementary





# CAMP FIRE RIVER BEND BOARD OF DIRECTORS

*Chair*—John Michel, Ph.D., University of Notre Dame; South Bend, IN  
*Vice Chair*—Mike Chapple, Ph.D., University of Notre Dame; Granger, IN  
*Secretary*—Carrie O'Brien, J.D., Reyes Holdings; Glenview, IL  
*Treasurer*—Jameson Green, Caterpillar, Inc.; Vandalia, MI  
**Bob Bender**, retired from Commodore Corporation; Granger, IN  
**Maria Carlson**, Cornerstone Christian Montessori; Elkhart, IN  
**Melissa Diglio**, Leo Burnett Group; River Forest, IL  
**Thomas Edgerton**, retired from Edgerton Travel; Lakeville, IN  
**Susanne Klein**, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign; Savoy, IL  
**Tom Kuhn**, retired from Northern Trust; Vandalia, MI  
**Sarah Mayeda**, InStride Advisors; River Forest, IL  
**Lily Schinbeckler**, Youth Representative; Edwardsburg, MI  
**Tricia Stitz**, enVista; Westfield, IN  
**Lauren Willis**, University of Notre Dame; South Bend, IN

\*Elected during the 2022-2023 year  
 + Term concluded during the 2022-2023 year



2023 Grown Up Camp Dance Party

## VOLUNTEERS

### Camp Tannadoonah

Brigitta Adkins  
 Percy Adkins  
 Becky Anderson  
 Anne Casini  
 Amy Condle  
 Bill Holleman  
 Sherry Holleman  
 Liv Portolese  
 Jonah Slack  
 Jonah Slack  
 Marti Strain

### Camp Fire Committees

Melanie Como Dits  
 John Engel  
 Tom Kuhn  
 Emily Matz  
 Yolanda Roche  
 Mike Sheffleck  
 Heidi Treacy  
 Ethan White  
 Holly Wozny

After School at Sam Adams Elementary



Good Shepherd Montessori Extended Day

## YEAR-ROUND COUNCIL STAFF 2022-2023

*Chief Executive Officer* —Amber M. Grundy, Ph.D.  
*Camp Tannadoonah Director* —Gabby Bittner  
*School Year Programs Director* —Carmen Garcia  
*Ranger / Facilities Manager* —Brenda Wentzel



# WHY CAMP FIRE?



Camp Tannadoonah

## OUR MISSION

Camp Fire connects young people to the outdoors, to others, and to themselves.

## OUR VISION

We envision a world where all young people thrive and have equitable opportunities for self-discovery, community connection, and engagement with nature.

YOU CAN BE A CHANGEMAKER. HELP YOUTH IN YOUR COMMUNITY GROW, SUCCEED, AND THRIVE.

## HELP KIDS THRIVE NOW

Visit [donate.riverbendcampfire.org](https://donate.riverbendcampfire.org) to donate today!

*Your contribution helps a kid or teen get the life-changing life skills they need to be the best person they can be today.*

Contributions may be unrestricted, or designated for camperships, programs, or facilities.



After School at Sam Adams Elementary



Camp Tannadoonah



# Camp Fire

Light the fire within

Camp Fire River Bend, Inc.  
PO Box 459  
Notre Dame, IN 46556

574.387.6095  
info@riverbendcampfire.org  
riverbendcampfire.org

Camp Fire River Bend is a 501(c)3 non-profit.  
Your contributions to Camp Fire are tax deductible.  
Our Federal Tax ID is 35-0924790.

THANK YOU!