

## LAKESHORE CAMP AND RETREAT CENTER

Rev. Gary D. Lawson, Sr., Executive Director

Our mission statement is one that practically every person on our summer staff and all the permanent staff can quote from the heart. It is as follows:

### **Offering ways for ALL to encounter life, love, and the God of Grace.**

The word ALL is in all caps because we mean it. We are intentional in our outreach to children, youth, and vulnerable adults who would not normally be able to participate in a Christian camp opportunity. We have raised and offered \$120,000 in camperships during many of the previous pre-pandemic seasons. It is our hope that no person be denied the potentially life-changing and heart-lifting experience of a Christ-centered camping experience where the grace of God comes through committed and loving counselors and staff.

Our Camp Hope series of decentralized camp programs were pioneering in their creation to reach out to young persons often classified as at-risk because of life circumstances that they had little control over. Camp Hope was designed to reach out to campers who had to deal with substance abuse issues in their homes, Camp Grace is for teenage girls who have experienced sexual abuse, and Camp Peace focused on teens dealing with anger management issues of their own. The Camp Hope program is in its 27<sup>th</sup> season of life-changing ministry. These camps are small (10 to 14 participants) in order for us to give the individual attention each camper needs. All fees are paid through camperships. If you have at-risk youth who would benefit from exposure to this wonderful ministry, please register them on our website [www.lakeshorecamp.org](http://www.lakeshorecamp.org) or contact us at [office@lakeshorecamp.org](mailto:office@lakeshorecamp.org) for more information.

We have long believed that camp and retreat ministry is a natural environment for the development of principled Christian leaders. You might say that camp is a leadership lab where young people can get hands-on experiences working with others, managing conflict, and leading in worship and activities. Pre-pandemic we offered 39,000 volunteer hours across a spectrum of opportunities mostly dominated by counseling and leading with young persons. We are able to celebrate many who hear their calling to ministry or other serving professions through their camping, counseling, and staff experiences.

From age-level camping to wilderness outpost camps to specialty camps, along with our Camp Hope series, we offer over 40 camp programs during a 9- or 10-week summer season. We celebrate resident camping participation of over 1,900 on average during a normal summer. In addition, we offer DayShore, a day camp partnership with local churches and communities who want to do camp right in their own backyard. Our two teams saw 800 participants in 2019 with a full schedule waiting us for the 2022 season. We are proud to be offering a fee paid DayShore experience for our friends in the Mayfield, Kentucky community that was so devastated by recent tornados. We are thankful for all of those helping us to coordinate this effort.

As we enter this inaugural annual conference as the new TWK Annual Conference, we wanted to take this opportunity to share a bit about who we are and invite any who are unfamiliar with us to take a day trip and pay us a visit. If preferred, reach out with an invitation for us to come to you to share our story and answer any questions. We are proud to be in covenant partnership with Cedar Crest and Beersheba as we go forward into these new days. Thank you for your prayers and support.