



**12500 Prang St
Jones, MI 49061**
888-899-7712 | blbc.com

**Experience
Life-Changing
Relationships**

June 16, 2021

Greetings, Bair Lake Bible Camp Family!

A little over a week ago, 32 young men and women descended on Bair Lake Bible Camp ready to take this corner of the world by storm! The infusion of energy from the Summer Staff's arrival is always a blessing. Just seeing their excitement to be here and serve puts a smile on my face! Seeing Levi, a first-year summer staffer, especially made me smile, as I thought of the growth God has produced in his life over the past three years. Levi and I remind each other regularly how we arrived at Bair Lake Bible Camp at the same time. I had just been named the new Executive Director when I came to Men's Retreat in April 2018, and that was Levi's first weekend as a BLBC camper.

Levi heard the gospel and trusted Christ during that retreat! His story is extraordinary: he was born into a very difficult family situation and spent much of his life in the foster care system. Providentially, he was placed in the home of a family who has been involved at BLBC for many years - a family who makes sure all their kids get to come to camp! Since trusting Christ in April 2018, Levi has camped and volunteered at BLBC whenever given the chance. In 2019 and 2020, Levi junior staffed every available week over the summer, spending practically the entire summer serving at BLBC! His work ethic, passion to serve where needed most, and positive attitude, even at the end of the summer season when tiredness and irritability can often be a struggle, have endeared him to our full-time staff. When asked some of the things he's learned at BLBC, Levi said, "I've learned about the love of God and many other truths from the Bible that kids who grow up in Christian homes probably already know. But since I came to faith later in life, I'm learning these foundational truths at Bair Lake Bible Camp. I've also learned what it's like to live in relational community at BLBC. When I do things here at Camp, I don't have to worry about making mistakes because no one is going to make fun of me or judge me for them. I can try new things here without fear!" Praise God for Levi's testimony and continued excitement to be serving at BLBC, now as a summer staffer!

If God worked in only one camper's life per summer as He has in Levi's, everything we do would be worth it! But thankfully Levi's story is just one of dozens upon dozens we see and experience every single summer of camp. With normalcy returning to BLBC this summer, we are looking forward to more stories like Levi's being written as we prepare to host our full schedule of summer camps. Our camper numbers have rebounded to near pre-COVID 2019 levels. **(We are around 95% for overnight campers and on pace to double the number of day campers of our pre-COVID levels!)** God led us to expand our day camp ministry last summer when it looked for the longest time that it might be the only ministry we could do. The impact of this expanded ministry to local families needing weekly child care was so life-giving for the families and for us that we decided to offer eight weeks of day camps again this year and into the future!

It's apparent God is working to provide plenty of opportunities for life-changing ministry this summer, and we want to let you know how you can be a part of what God is doing here at BLBC.

We have a "wishlist" of items our team believes are necessary to support smooth operations this summer and beyond. Some of these items will directly enhance the camper experience, while others will equip our team members to carry out their incredible behind-the-scenes, mission-supporting work. By the grace of God and through the generosity of loyal donors, pandemic relief programs, and a creative staff who brainstormed new programs to continue to draw campers and generate new sources of revenue, Bair Lake Bible Camp is in an overall healthy financial position. Despite losing over \$500,000 in operating revenue, we are in a good place financially with our budgeted operating expenses covered and our planned deferred maintenance projects funded. As you can imagine, however, we could not afford to budget for any of the items on this wishlist in our COVID-contracted budget this year.

Would you please consider giving towards this wishlist? If you have the ability to underwrite the cost of one or more of the following items, would you consider doing so? In full transparency, some of these items are needed so much for this summer we have already ordered them in faith that God will provide for them. **Would you allow Him to use you to answer our prayers and meet these needs?**

Operations - The **greatest need** in our Operations Department is a new (to us) tractor. The 1969 Ford tractor that has served Camp well for years, primarily by pulling and powering our batwing mower, has died and is more expensive to fix than it's worth. We also desperately need a new trash water pump to pump water for our dust-control road watering trailer (a great system our Ops Dept built last summer from components we already owned!). Speaking of roads, our roads on grounds are regularly graded now that we have a box blade attachment for our other tractor. A Top-n-Tilt kit would make that attachment more effective and efficient for those operating it. Our commercial gas stove in the kitchen is on its last leg. It came to us well-used and we have coaxed many more years of use out of it, but its time has come to be replaced!

- **Tractor - \$25,000**
- **New Commercial Gas Stove - \$2,000**
- **Top-n-Tilt Kit for Tractor - \$1,000**
- **Trash Water Pump - \$500**
- **Kitchen Utensils and Containers - \$500**
- **Programmable Countdown Clocks for Kitchen - \$250**
- UTV for Operations Department (used) - \$10,000
- Chain Saw, Cordless Grease Gun, Misc. Power Equipment - \$1,500
- Diverter Valve Kits for Tractor to add Grapple - \$500

Program - The **most needed items** in our Program Department center around fun and games! Our first core value is being rooted in Christ's Word. We will never promote fun at the expense of this core value, but we do want BLBC to be a fun place campers of all ages want to be! All of the bold items will be put to use immediately this summer when funded.

- **New Tubes and Towable Booster Tube - \$1,200**
- **Ski Tower and Sun Shade for Boat - \$1,200**
- **Microphone Upgrades for Various Meeting Rooms - \$1,200**
- **Summer Theming and Games - \$1,000**
- **Lakefront Furniture - \$1,000**
- **ACE Rope and Hardware - \$1,000**

- **ACE Helmets - \$800**
- **Sports Equipment (balls, arrows, BBs, etc) - \$800**
- **Craft Supplies - \$500**
- Golf Carts (2 used) - \$11,000
- Outdoor Benches for Conversational Spaces - \$2,000
- Lakefront Water Play Feature - \$1,000
- Backdrop for Shoreview Meeting Room - \$1,000
- Pool Furniture - \$500

Administration - Our **greatest needs** in this department are a new copier for our office and new computers for many of our staff members. Support for our current copier ended several years ago, making it impossible for a number of our computers to print to it. We were recently informed by our copier service company that some parts are no longer available for this model, and they won't be able to continue to service it. Many of our staff members' computers are over 10 years old and take what seems like an eternity to boot up. Both these items will significantly improve administrative efficiency for our entire staff, allowing them to fully focus on our mission.

- **Copier - \$12,000**
- **Computers - \$5,000**
- Drone for Videography - \$1,000

Health Office - Our old AED expired so we need a new one of these devices we hope we will never have to use. Operating a Health Office during a global pandemic is a bit more expensive than usual, so we could use some help to supplement our budget for Health Office equipment and supplies.

- **AED - \$900**
- **General Equipment and Supplies - \$500**
- Medical Backboards for Pool and Lakefront - \$500

To keep a manageable list of wishlist items, we have combined smaller needs into a bundle, but gifts of any amount are very helpful! For instance, a gift of \$30 would cover a new basketball, \$50 would provide BBs for the BB Gun Range for the entire summer, and \$120 would cover a new computer monitor for one of our staff members. Ideally for us, all gifts would be designated "Wishlist - General" to allow us to prioritize these purchases. However, if you underwrite the entire amount of a bold item on the wishlist and direct us to purchase it, we will gladly honor your designation. Gifts for less than the entire amount of any wishlist item will be used where needed most.

As always, if you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to me. I can't wait to see our Bair Lake Bible Camp Family this summer!!!

Yours in Christ,



Drew A. Gardner
Executive Director