



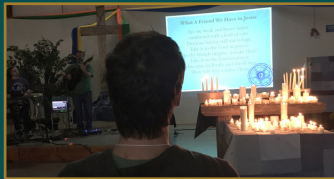
Nebraska Lutheran Outdoor Ministries

ANNUAL REPORT 2016

WE ARE CALLED BY GOD TO BE A
CHRIST-CENTERED, SPIRIT-POWERED MINISTRY:



To equip, teach and excite people for discipleship through **CAMP** experiences.



To provide our **CONFERENCE & RETREAT** guests with places set apart and serve with sacred hospitality.



To nurture **LEADERSHIP** for service in the church and world.



LETTER FROM THE E.D.



Dave Coker,
NLOM Executive Director



You need to know this from the get-go... this report for the year 2016 is about YOU! That's right. There's no doubt about it.

All the good that happened through Nebraska Lutheran Outdoor Ministries in the year past is the result of your support.

The generous gift of your prayers on behalf of our ministry and the selfless giving of your financial resources make everything we do possible. Honestly, we could not welcome any campers, serve any retreat guests or provide any learning opportunities for leaders if it wasn't for you and others like you. And, for all of that and on behalf of all of our Board members and staff, please hear our most sincere, "Thank You!"

I invite you to celebrate with us the stories on the following pages. And, never forget that these stories are made possible only because you have cared enough to step up and offer your support.

Blessings!

David Coker
Executive Director



NEBRASKA LUTHERAN OUTDOOR MINISTRIES

» *The stories of 2016* «

The year was filled with God's overflowing love. The following stories represent some of the most significant things that happened and share where our staff saw God's love.



Living Water Retreat House

« The brand new Living Water Retreat House has 12 individual sleeping rooms with gathering space and a kitchen. It will be used for adult confirmation leaders in the summer and for year-round retreats. Two groups have been critical to the construction efforts of this project. First, Mission Builders, a skills-based ELCA group, along with volunteers, spent the spring and summer getting this project off the ground. Prairie Gold Homes, a non-profit organization running an innovative job training program in collaboration with the Nebraska Department of Correctional Services, worked closely with our Building & Grounds crew to bring the project to near completion.

"God is at work when we serve others. The folks that came out to help with this building shared that love every day."

- Roger Maxon, Director/Buildings & Grounds



FAITHFULLY 
Forward

A FAITHFUL HISTORY BECOMES A FAITH-FILLED FUTURE

» **\$2 million of ministry-
growing projects!**

THANKS TO GENEROUS DONORS IPADS & WIFI ACCESS WERE ADDED

at Carol Joy Holling Camp,



This makes communication and access to camper health records easier and faster. All of this equals extra security and safety at camp!



“The Healthcare Team at CJH ramped up our safety and preparedness efforts this last year. God put the right people in place to make all of this possible.”

- Korey Breutzmann, Director/Programs



Fire Starters

Monthly Donor Club for
NEBRASKA LUTHERAN
OUTDOOR MINISTRIES

FIRE STARTERS

grew to 160 donors, totalling nearly \$9,000 per month in giving. In reaching this milestone, NLOM also received a \$25,000 grant from Thrivent Foundation.



“God’s love shines through every donor and every gift that is given.”

- Trish Haniszewski
Associate Director/
Development

MUMPS AND THE RESPONSE

Over the course of the summer, Carol Joy Holling Camp had six confirmed cases of the mumps, all amongst Summer Staff. While it appears this is the whole story, the goodness that came out of this is what we really want to remember:



- Incredible healthcare team response, limiting exposure and keeping campers’ risk to a minimum. No camper contracted mumps.
- Great partnership and strong communication with Centers for Disease Control, Public Health Department and the media.

“This isn’t a situation that we would ever want to happen, but we learned, throughout, that God was present in all of the ways our friends reached out to share their support and love.”

- Casey Fuerst, Director/Marketing & Leadership Development

- Incredible support from parents, congregational leaders and our partner Lutheran Outdoor Ministries organizations.



Sullivan Hills Camp RECORD ENROLLMENT

2016 Campers - 212 (up from 185 in 2015)



“Sullivan Hills is an incredible place. From the sunsets to the sounds of campers singing across site, God’s love is abundant.”

- Brent Thomsen, Director/Guest Services



GOD'S IDEA COMES BACK TO NLOM



In 2002, NLOM launched Operation IDEA as a program to reach out to people of all ages, asking them to consider if God was calling them to serve as a pastor. The acronym, IDEA, stands for Invite; Discern; Excite; and Act. After several years, Operation IDEA was gifted to the Nebraska Synod, to support its initiatives to raise leaders for Christ's church. In 2015, the name was changed to "God's IDEA."

In 2016, the Nebraska Synod asked NLOM to again manage this set of programs. Nebraska Synod Bishop, Brian Maas, says, "Going forward as true partners—leaning on NLOM's continuing programmatic and hospitality strengths while incorporating Synod staff's connections—multiplies the potential impact of the ministry."



"It is a gift to be able to walk with people as they discern God's call to ministry."

- Rev. Paula Lawhead,
NLOM Pastor

UNIQUE WAYS TO GIVE



Marlan Watson of Superior (second from left) collected antique tractors, parts and equipment for 50 years. He, and his wife, Susan, decided to donate the tractors and parts to Carol Joy Holling Camp to be auctioned off. More than \$119,000 was raised to support camp.



"We have the most generous and creative donors of any place. EVER. No exaggeration."

- Jason Gerdes,
Director/Development



One thousand children from the Ashland/Greenwood School District will get to spend a week at Carol Joy Holling Camp as a result of a donation from Bob and Christy Luebbe of Ashland. Starting with the summer 2017 camp season, 100 children will be given a week at CJH every summer for the next ten years.

SUMMER SERVICE PROJECT

Fleece Blankets for Homeless Children

NLOM has a long history of significant service projects for campers and volunteers. In 2016, NLOM, People's City Mission in Lincoln, The Stephen Center in Omaha, and The DOVES Program of Western Nebraska worked together to teach our campers about the struggles that homeless children face. Each camper tied a fleece blanket that was given to homeless youth in Nebraska.



"God shows up in such neat ways when we serve others and learn together."

- Heather Abbott, Associate Dir./Marketing



Sam, at right, enjoys a laugh with friends at Carol Joy Holling Camp.

» SUMMER CAMP «

Makes a Difference

John and Sam are refugees. Their family moved to Omaha two years ago, fleeing the violence of their homeland in the South Sudan. They, like many other refugee families, have found support through friends at Messiah Lutheran Church in Ralston. Messiah Lutheran is passionate about making sure these wonderful kids get to Carol Joy Holling Camp and they have committed to paying half of the registration fee. The CJH Campership program covers the other half.

For John and Sam, coming for a week of summer camp is a new experience in so many ways. While their friends from church prepared them for the fun and also for all the “bugs and spiders,” their week far surpassed even what they hoped for. From swimming to hiking and the high ropes courses, Sam had “one of the most fun weeks of my life.”

John describes what it was like coming to CJH, “The first day I came here, I was nervous. I didn’t know anyone here except for my brother. But from the first day, I was able to get to know other people really quickly. That was a big deal because it hasn’t been easy for me to make friends here, even at school.” Sam added, “At camp, I learned that God is with me all the time, no matter what. God loves everybody and we’re all part of the same group. We’re all part of one big community, and it doesn’t matter where you come from or what you look like.”

CAROL JOY
HOLLING CAMP

1356
campers

SULLIVAN
HILLS CAMP

212
campers



PROGRAMS FOR PEOPLE » WITH DISABILITIES «

Make a Difference



A camp experience makes a difference for all people. For Annette Rosno, camp is all about trying fun new things and making friends, “I don’t often get to do new things with new friends and I love it,” said Annette. “I love meeting new people. I have a great time making crafts. I still have some of the bracelets I’ve made. And, of course I love swimming and eating sno cones during the summer!”

Annette has participated in both the year-round Jay Novicki Programs for people with disabilities and the summer program at Carol Joy Holling Camp. Annette says, “Camp has made me a more positive person. I’ve met many new friends there. It’s given me a chance to do lots that I can’t in my everyday life. And, I’ve learned more about and have grown in my faith.”

JAY NOVICKI
PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS

» 264

SUMMER CAMPERS

49 «



» RETREATS & « CONFERENCES

Make a Difference

Holt Adoptee Camp provides a community for transracial adoptees (a different race than their family) to explore their identity amongst kids who have a similar history. Carol Joy Holling Camp, Conference & Retreat Center is fortunate to be the home of this camp.

“We love Carol Joy Holling because the staff is welcoming and the facilities and activities give us so many options,” said Katelyn Marks, Camp Director for Holt International. “We have a lot of repeat campers and the families we serve see Carol Joy Holling Camp as their home for this experience.”

Marks continues, “We hold our camps at many places across the country, but when we are at CJH, we know that the food is going to be good and the accommodations are going to be clean and well organized. It sets us up for a successful experience.”



RETREAT
GUESTS

16,598



PARTNERSHIPS



Make a Difference

Partnerships are at the core of the mission of Nebraska Lutheran Outdoor Ministries. From people to congregations to agencies, businesses and associations, NLOM strives to connect with others. The work that we can accomplish together always exceeds what we can do alone.

Mary Mayfield knows all too well of the things that we can accomplish when we work together. Since Mary's daughter, Ann, came to camp many years ago, Mary has found ways to partner. Her congregation, St. Matthew Lutheran Church/Omaha, holds an annual ice cream social to raise money for camp; she has donated a quilt for the Quilt Auction EVERY single year; she has coordinated many Nebraska Synod Women of the ELCA Saved to Serve weekends at Carol Joy Holling and Sullivan Hills Camp; and she leads the annual Tanzania Fabric, Fun and Faith retreat which raises funds to support scholarships for the women of Tanzania.

Mary says she believes all of these partnerships contribute to the future of the church, "Camp is important to the young people of our congregations and the development of their faith. When kids come back from camp, they are stronger contributors to the church - maybe not right then but definitely later."



VOLUNTEERING



Makes a Difference



Several years ago, David Mann's pastor at St. Michael Lutheran Church in Omaha invited him to serve as their congregation's Parish Activities Coordinator. And, so it began. Mann's mission was to recruit the "young at heart" men to engage in church in a different way.

Mann has organized and led groups of more than 20 men on trips to Sullivan Hills Camp for a weekend of serving. "We've trimmed lots of trees, installed the Gaga Pit, laid paving blocks, set up beds, cleaned, put in hundreds of fence posts and rolled wire for the fences around the property. It's good hard work and,

a lot of times, it's work that is hard to find people willing to do."

Mann embraces this kind of work, but more importantly, he embraces the value of such an experience for the guys that go on this trip. "The comradery of working shoulder to shoulder with different generations is great. The passing on of friendship and knowledge outside the walls of the church is huge. You get to be a family and grow pretty close. The biggest benefit I see — after we get back home — when these guys go to church on Sunday, they don't just see other people they just know of, they can look at these guys and know who they really are - what they do, where they are from and what they are made of. Those relationships strengthen the whole church."

Sullivan Hills Camp has become a special place for this group of volunteers. Mann says, "when you work so hard and connect with others while you are doing it, it is bound to become an important place for you. And, these guys love that we are doing work to benefit summer campers."

SO MANY
GENEROUS VOLUNTEERS

➤ 834
volunteers

13,048
hours



» GIVING «

Makes a Difference

The Bible talks a lot about God's call to give of our time, talents and treasures and NLOM is blessed to have friends like Sue and Roger Knight, who do so with such humility and love.

Ever since their son was a camper, Sue and Roger have been connected to Carol Joy Holling Camp. Sue said, "We believe this place impacts lives and that is why we give here." The Knights give in all kinds of ways in addition to their dollars - Roger volunteers with the maintenance crew, and Sue brings friends out to introduce them to the ministry and helps with computer work for summer camp.

They've also brought their grandson Gavin to camp. The last time they picked him up from a week at camp, he rejoiced, "I'm going to work here when I'm old enough and they don't even have to pay me!" Even though he, like his father, may not have brushed his teeth all week at camp and definitely didn't match his clothes (Sue was horrified), they love that he had this life-changing experience!

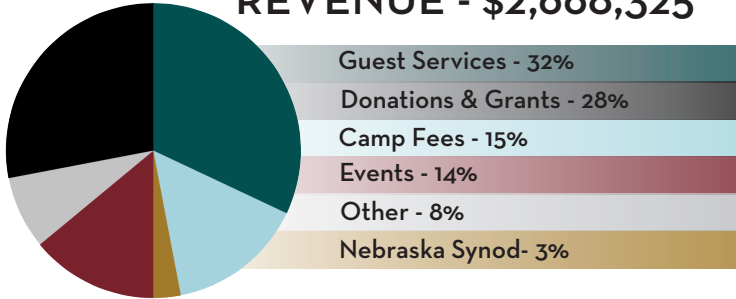
Sue and Roger say they get back a sense of "fulfillment" from what they give at Camp.

1,602
donors

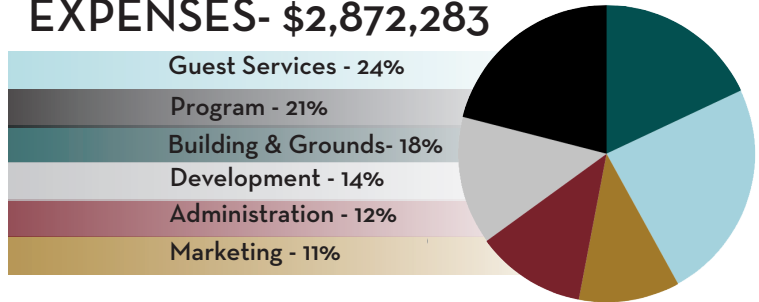
160
monthly
donors

2016 FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

REVENUE - \$2,668,325



EXPENSES- \$2,872,283



Assets

Cash	\$	482,908
Other current assets		118,705
Investments		1,376,587
Property & equipment, net		6,022,502
Beneficial interest in trusts		831,717
Total assets	\$	8,832,419

Liabilities

Deferred revenue		124,695
Other current liabilities		74,671
Total liabilities	\$	199,366

Net Assets

Unrestricted	\$	5,696,522
Unrestricted-board designated		432,368
Temporarily restricted		1,448,343
Permanently restricted		1,055,820
Total net assets	\$	8,633,053
Total liabilities and net assets	\$	8,832,419

Net assets end of year	\$	8,633,053
Net assets beginning of year	\$	7,966,027
Increase in net assets	\$	667,026

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 *gracious*
People

 *sacred*
Places

 *significant*
Experiences



Nebraska Lutheran Outdoor Ministries

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Carol Joy Holling

Camp, Conference & Retreat Center

Camp: CarolJoyHolling.org
Conference & Retreat: CJHCenter.org



SULLIVAN HILLS CAMP

www.SullivanHills.org