Crystal Lake Camps has much good to report from last year. Our enrollment and financial trajectories are on the right track after the irregularities of the past few years, and we’re underway with a comprehensive review of the camp property & facilities to ensure we are ready for CLC’s next 70+ years. But this doesn’t mean just ‘business as usual’. There is a lot of introspective thought and consideration going into this process. We’re wanting and expecting to balance out the long-held and demonstrated core value of our youth camp programs with interests expressed through our most recent strategic planning process. Which is to say: we’re striving to respond to your expressions of what you’d like to see happen at CLC!

Ultimately, the annual report is one key avenue for us to publicly acknowledge and thank you - our wonderful and amazing supporters - for enabling the work of the last year. You’ll also see program updates, broad-stroke financials, an alumni spotlight, and more.

Recently I’ve been thinking a lot about Mrs. Eddy’s statement in Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures, “Christian Science presents unfoldment, not accretion; it manifests no material growth from molecule to mind, but an impartation of the divine Mind to man and the universe” (page 68). It’s interesting to be leading an organization, where we’re
focused on unfoldment, and not
growth like so much of the rest
of the world. Thinking of all that’s
going on at Crystal Lake Camps, it’s
been increasingly important to me
to recognize each year and each
step of progress with our programs
- every physical healing and each
overcoming of error - not as an
improvement towards a sense of
divinity, but as the next unfolded step
in the grander view of what God sees
in CLC.

This thought of God made the
selection of our 2023 metaphysical
theme especially interesting to me.
From Romans 12:

“Be not overcome of evil, but
overcome evil with good.”

It’s a unique theme for us. Typically,
when the year-round staff selects
a theme, we see an idea rise to
the surface that tends to be more
absolute in nature. But this theme
is more relative to the human
experience. As our world contends
with some very difficult issues and
questions, this will be a great tool for
us in our metaphysical arsenals to
bring healing to our campers’ lives,
and answers to deep questions. A
recent Bible Lesson was quite explicit
in unfolding to us how God is good,
and so what a great passage to use
during camp that will enable us to
expunge evil and bring good, God
into action for our campers and staff!

So, while we continue hard at work
here in Pennsylvania to prepare for
another robust summer of amazing
activities for youth and families,
know that each and every day, you
make our hearts overflow with
gratitude for making it possible.

Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

Nathan Pown
Executive Director

2023 METAPHYSICAL THEME

Be not overcome of evil,
but overcome evil with good.

- Romans 12:21
In response to requests from campers and families for a longer camp session, CLC made some innovative adjustments in its First Session so it would run for a full three weeks during the summer of 2022. The results were wonderful! Campers told us they loved having more time to get to know their cabin mates and to become even better friends. Counselors and staff members told us that having more time to study the weekly Bible Lesson and CLC’s metaphysical theme together with campers allowed for deeper 1:1 conversations and group discussions and more time to demonstrate and witness CLC’s six core values in action.

“My first year in CLC was a success as I learned to apply Christian Science into every activity I did. The love shared at that camp left a lasting impression on me. I am looking forward to another journey led by divine love at CLC!”

CLC Camper
CHRISTIAN SCIENCE is in action everywhere, but it’s especially sweet to see it in Metaphysical Activity Periods (MAPs) when the whole camp dives deeply into a spiritual concept, idea, or Bible story in engaging and fun ways.

PHILOS/AGAPE can be felt in every single gift given by our generous donors. Thank you!

RESOURCEFULNESS/ RESPONSIBILITY shines through those who participate in our Cleanup weekends.

HOSPITALITY pours forth as we welcome new and old friends in CLC + DiscoveryBound's 20’s-30’s Spring Retreat.

The full-time staff who live and work on camp property all year long may be the center, but certainly not the circumference of the way CLC expresses its value of FAMILY, because the whole world is embraced in CLC’s family through virtual programs and campers and staff who come to CLC from far and wide.

It’s impressive to see the value of TEAMWORK growing and flourishing among our summer staff, beginning with staff training sessions every June, and remaining intact throughout the year as dear friends stay in touch even over great distances.
**FINANCIAL REPORT**

**INCOME**

- **Outdoor Center** - $36,300 (2%)
- **Donations** - $1,075,400 (85%)
- **Camp Programs** - $168,500 (13%)

**Total Income** - $1,264,000

**EXPENSES**

- **Programming** - $438,000 (35%)
- **Core Support** - $434,200 (35%)
- **Facilities** - $259,100 (21%)
- **Outreach** - $109,900 (9%)

**Total Expenses** - $1,244,400
THANK YOU TRUSTEES & SPECIAL FRIENDS

Heartfelt thanks to CLC’s Board of Trustees for their vision, leadership, and love!

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* Served for part of 2022
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Special thanks to these dear friends who helped us during Cleanup Weekends in 2022.

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“During summer camp, I learned to recognize what it really means to live, move and have our being in God.”

CLC Camper
Q: What are some qualities that CLC helped you to discover & develop? Were there any camp activities that provided a proving ground for those qualities?

A: CLC is where I learned how to figure things out and how to be resourceful. One example of this was during my seventh summer at CLC, during Leadership Training. We went on a four-day, three-night hiking trip. We were having some very heavy rain, and all sorts of things weren't going exactly right. Part of our CLC training was to understand that complaining is a waste of time, and we would be better off spending our time focusing on solutions rather than talking about problems. And I have to say here that we had great group leaders. Tim Allison and Judy Shepherd were both outstanding Leadership Trainers. When we stopped hiking for the day, we just decided to have fun addressing the problem of how to make camp for the night in all that rain. Between the two of them and the rest of us, we were able to make a difficult situation really fun. That experience stuck with me because it wasn’t just an example of ‘how to make camp in the rain’ but how to approach things in a positive way and improve our experience even when – or especially when – it might be hard.

I would also say that good, positive communication is also a big thing I learned at camp that’s still helping me today. CLC also trained me to navigate successfully outside of my
comfort zone, and to pay attention to what’s going on in that zone, and to embrace the lessons I can learn in that space.

Q: What were some of your biggest victories, healings, and challenges overcome at camp?

A: During my Leadership Training/CIT summer, I became ill and lost a lot of weight. The CLC staff contacted my mom, and it’s kind of a long story, but I needed to focus completely on healing instead of camp for that summer so I left camp early. It was a very difficult time and I was initially on medication for a little while. But what I learned about myself in Christian Science at CLC – that I am a spiritual idea of God – helped me work my way off and to stay off medication and I went back to camp the next summer. CLC helped me learn and demonstrate that as a spiritual idea, I’m indestructible. And my whole life today is a living testament to that fact.

Q: In what ways has your camp experience had an impact on who you are today?

A: Some people say that time stands still at CLC, but I think that’s because there’s a definite feeling of the infinite, eternal, ever presence of God there – and that’s why it feels like home – because we’re always at home with God. I felt this so clearly when I went back to CLC after being away for almost 20 years. When I parked the car and my feet hit the ground there, not only was I flooded with memories of camp, but also with such a powerful sense of God’s ever-presence. In that moment I remembered that I’m always at home with God, and that CLC is the place where I first learned that.

Q: What do you enjoy doing with your free time today?

A: I love learning guitar and drums, and I love history, researching, and making videos about historical things. For example, I saw a write-up about the Underground Railroad in Lycoming County and it inspired me to learn more. I’ve been researching an abolitionist who lived in Williamsport, Pennsylvania by the name of Daniel Hughes. Mr. Hughes shipped lumber up and down the Susquehanna for a living, and that business gave him the perfect cover for helping slaves get from the port of Havre de Grace, Maryland to Williamsport, and continue north to eventual freedom in Canada. It’s been really satisfying to learn more about the large community of abolitionists in Loyalsock Township and Lycoming County surrounding camp.

“You can’t help feeling that we are ALL God’s children from the youngest on up! It’s a wonderful feeling of brotherly love and unity!”

CLC Camper
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