

Enriching Lives through the Camp Experience

American Camping Association

Enriching Lives through the Camp Experience – And Good Earth Village takes it one step further because everything we do at camp is centered on our faith in Jesus Christ.

Good Earth Village provides life-changing experiences. We heard it again and again this past year from parents, families, adults, pastors, and most importantly, kids. Good Earth Village truly is a partner in ministry with congregations that own and support the camp.

In 2003, the American Camping Association evaluated Good Earth Village. We are visited every 3 years to maintain our accreditation status. They evaluate camps nationally on management, health care, food service, program, ... Once again, ACA's approval provides a sense of pride that we have a safe and well managed camp and retreat facility.

2003 also marked the year when the Log Lodge Retreat Center was dedicated. In June, we gathered together for a special evening to celebrate this new facility and all it has to offer for new and expanded program opportunities. There has been an overwhelming response to weekend retreat reservations and guests rave about the comfort and feel of the building. It's a great addition to camp!

This past year, unfortunately, also marked the first downturn in summer camper numbers in many, many years. Many reasons can be attributed (war, economy,...) – but the heart of the matter is that we need to do a better job of promoting and emphasizing the value of the Bible Camp experience for kids and families. We need your help and participation !

Good Earth Village came through financially better than expected. Gifts for the annual budget from member congregations and individuals (especially during the last two weeks of December) helped to make up budget shortfalls from summer income.

Many of our members realize the value Good Earth Village makes in being a vital partner in their congregational life, yet it's so disappointing for me to see the lack of participation and support from so many others that are part of the Good Earth Village Association. And from a capital improvement perspective, even though many congregations and individuals stepped forward with amazing support for our Connecting with the Spirit Capital Appeal, many more shared minimal or no financial backing. We will need to continue our capital appeal as we manage and payback a building loan. Good Earth needs to grow in the sense of "Congregational Ownership" and "What does it really mean to be a Member Congregation."

We do have a lot to celebrate and be proud of at Good Earth Village. We know we are Enriching Lives through the Camp Experience – And especially, Good Earth Village makes a difference in the faith life of thousands of individuals each year.

Thank you for your partnership and support.

David M. Herder
Executive Director

