

Despite calamities, catastrophes and the near-collapse of camp funding in 2003, CHFK eventually re-grouped and migrated in 2006 to 88-acres on an exceptionally scenic patch in rural Pennsylvania.

For my first camp experience, I chose the kitchen crew. I am no stranger to volunteering, but I found that a week at camp uniquely schools the heart and stretches faith: contentment without air-conditioning; camaraderie while cleaning and chopping chicken thighs alongside a non-complaining crew. These ridiculously young-looking chefs successfully guided our crew to dish up sustenance to over 150 elementary-aged kids – picky eaters and all. And the food was good! During good news sharing, several campers commented that lunch was the highlight of their day. “Yay!” said the grandma in me.

I’m curious: why did my seven other cabin-mates come to camp? Carolina, a single mother, traveled six hours with her two kids and their three friends (count: five kids in a compact car). Two mature women took time off from work – none of their children or grandchildren were at camp – and drove over six hours. One woman whose kids are no longer campers brought her young nephew, knowing that it will make a difference in his life. Two of the women are married to men who do not follow Jesus, one driving over seven hours to camp. Only Carolina and I are newbies; the other six are veterans, coming back each year to these non-resort-like accommodations during heat dome days. They tell me that they come because serving synchronizes an old heart to “see” God moving in these young hearts. In this setting they witness spiritual formation – in kids and adults – right before their very eyes. Now I understand why they keep coming back. They don’t want to miss out. Camp has become an integral part of their continuing education, an annual deep-dive into living out the serving heart of Jesus.

So, if the Lord wills, I will return next year to sing silly camp songs, to curate a clandestine cabin raid, to prep three-meals-a-day of real food alongside selfless volunteers. And here’s the thing: I am a happy camper.

Check out Camp Hope for Kids (www.hopeforkids.org). In all, approximately 2000 people are served during the camp season.

LATEST STORIES ON www.DisciplesToday.org:

Go to www.DisciplesToday.org to read the latest News articles and to access the archives for all channels.

> **Hampton Roads Church Seeks Region Leaders**
July 23, 2024 • Corey Stuck – Hampton Roads, VA, USA
The Hampton Roads Church is seeking an experienced evangelist and women’s ministry leader couple to serve as region leaders within the church. The Hampton Roads area is in Eastern Virginia and includes the...

> **Young Professionals Singles Retreat in Wisconsin on August 23-25**
July 23, 2024 • Curt Ammons – Milwaukee, WI, USA
The Young Professional Singles Retreat (YPS) 2024 is back for another exciting weekend of fun, faith, and fellowship! This retreat is designed specifically for singles between the ages of 21 and 35. Join us in beautiful Fredonia, Wisconsin from August 23-25.

> **Tim Sumerlin Goes Home to the Lord**
July 16, 2024 • Roger Lamb – Disciples Today
On July 8, we lost a great servant of God to his eternal home due to kidney cancer. Dr. Tim Sumerlin, a counselor, teacher, shepherd, husband, father and friend left an indelible impact on untold numbers of people around the world through his compassion, counsel...

> **North American Singles Conference: One Month Left to Register Online**
July 15, 2024 • ICOC Singles Service Team
Don’t miss this year’s “Equipped” conference in Anaheim, California—just steps away from Disneyland Park! Twelve hundred brothers and sisters from across North America and around the world are already...



disciples today

To Inspire, Inform, Unify and Grow
the International Churches of Christ

INTERNATIONAL & LOCAL NEWS BULLETIN

WWW.DISCIPLESTODAY.ORG • ISSUE 968

Camp Hope for Kids: Onboarding One Retiree

UPCOMING EVENTS

US - ICMC 2024
Asheville, NC, USA
August 1-4, 2024
Teaching Ministry Conference
August 15-18, 2024
Tallinn, Estonia
North American Singles Conference
Anaheim, CA, USA
August 29-September 1, 2024
North American Church-Building Teacher's Conference
Lancaster, CA, USA
September 6-7, 2024
DT Hawaii Cruise
September 21-28, 2024
Americas Workshops for Spanish Speakers
Online • October 5, 2024
InsideOut Christian Counselors Conference
Atlanta, GA, USA
October 18-19, 2024
Pure & Simple XV
Saddle Brook, NJ, USA
November 8-10, 2024

CONNECTING DISCIPLES IN
CHURCHES AROUND THE WORLD



International News reprinted
courtesy of Disciples Today
www.DisciplesToday.org
content@dtoday.net
All rights reserved ©2023

July 18, 2024 • Pat Brush – Philadelphia, PA, USA

I hate camping. As a kid, summer camp was never mentioned. Never ever. And I didn’t want to go...until I hit retirement. Like many who are facing their “golden years” (a preferable alternative to “the final chapter”), I consider: What is my legacy? What difference have I made? Even better: What new thing am I willing to learn?

A few months after my husband and I moved to the Philly area to be near family, I signed up to volunteer at Camp Hope for Kids (CHFK) in Schwenksville, Pennsylvania.

I remember that my fellow golden-years friend Linda Brumley traveled cross-county and volunteered here, connecting with the campers, inspiring the other volunteers and even running the zip line! “This is one of the best leadership-development programs in our brotherhood,” she was heard to say. Watch and learn, I told my reluctant camper-self!

This camp had its humble beginnings on a rented farm in Culpeper, Virginia, with 40 campers in 1995. Relocating three years later to a new campsite, campers had to sleep in canvas Army-style tents; bowling lanes were rented for group activities. It may sound like a fly-by-the-seat-of-your-pants origin story, but “Camp Hope for Kids was and continues to be a work of God through faith,” said Kim Evans, the camp founder, CEO and visionary. Like most good ideas, Kim’s passion was born from her own powerful experiences as a child at camp – and as a parent facing the youth ministry desert at her local church.

