

February/March 2024 Newsletter

**SEASONS OF CONTRAST** – Sometimes February and March consist of cold weather, warm fellowship, dicey driving, long days of travel, and tangible evidences of sovereign protection; special times of encouragement, and short but lengthening hours of sunlight while fast approaching are the long action-packed days of spring and summer. The “lion and the lamb” of March accentuates the contrast!

Some years ago, a little game of carpet ball with a summer camper prompted the question, “What do you do after camp is over?” The joking response of course was, “Just practice carpet ball!” In reality, the seasons that follow summer have contrasting challenges without which the ministry would be much diminished. Throughout all seasons, we are blessed to be busy with the task of making disciples. Paul told Timothy, “What you have learned from me in the presence of many witnesses, entrust to faithful men who will be able to teach others also”. This season of contrast is one of great purpose and necessity, because like the typical iceberg in which only ten percent shows above the water, summer ministry which is most visible is supported by much that takes place in the other seasons. Even as I write, Marshall is working on a grounds project with a handful of young people who are part of one of our Bible study groups.

**ONGOING EVENTS AT CAMP THROUGHOUT THE YEAR:**

- **YOUNG ADULT FRIENDSHIP NIGHT** – For young adults who have been campers or staff, and some who have not. Fellowship, potluck, spiritual encouragement. Beginning again on February 18.
- **SURF CLUB** for area teens
- **VOLUNTEER RETREAT** – Each fall and spring – Next Date is April 19-20, 2024 – An event of service with projects for the entire family! Meals provided and lodging on a first come, first serve basis.
- **GO TEAM** – A one-hour meeting of volunteers usually scheduled on the first Thursday of each month. Coffee and donuts are followed by a brief time of project sharing and prayer. Some stay on to work on a project, but there is no obligation to do so. GO TEAM dates: February 8, March 7, April 4, and May 2.

**FRIENDS OF CAMP APPANOOSE** - Perhaps you are retired or semi-retired and would like to serve the Lord at camp while enjoying the beauty and rich amenities which southern Iowa has to offer. Consider spending the summer as a friend of Camp Appanoose, parking your trailer or RV in the Appanoose Village. The village offers full hookups, a picnic table and a grill. Friends of Camp Appanoose (FOCAS) will enjoy complimentary lodging, at least twelve meals per week in the camp dining room during June and July (when meals are served) and the benefits of beautiful Rathbun Lake, in exchange for 20-30 hours of service per week at camp. Service commitments could be mowing, kitchen service, light maintenance work, the camp store or many other possibilities. Requirements would be a love for young people and for Christian ministry to them, an RV or trailer and the completion of background screening (administered through Appanoose Ministries). Consider this opportunity in 2024 and contact us for more information.

**IOWA HORSE FAIR** - Camp Appanoose will again be represented at the Iowa Horse Fair, March 22-24. Along with advertising the camps four weeks of horse camps, we will be handing out literature introducing the gospel. Volunteers are needed at our newly enhanced booth. Around 10,000 attendees are expected.

**SUMMER STAFF** - Once again Camp Appanoose is searching for quality young persons who are anxious to care for kids and share Christ this summer with them. Please contact Marshall Sandlin at camp ([Marshall.Sandlin@CampAppanoose.org](mailto:Marshall.Sandlin@CampAppanoose.org)) if you know of a qualified young adult. Additionally, we are also looking for experienced kitchen staff and volunteers including two to four persons who would give leadership as a team. Please contact Cynthia Amsden at camp ([cabar@CampAppanoose.org](mailto:cabar@CampAppanoose.org)) for more information.

**THE JESUS I WISH I KNEW** - February 18 will be our first young adult's Bible study, The Jesus I Wish I Knew. Open to anyone, on Sunday evenings from 6:00 until 8:00 p.m. Bring a friend, some food to share and a Bible (if you have one). Volleyball, basketball, in-door archery and table games are options, along with opportunities to develop some great friendship and grow in our knowledge of God's great purpose.

**OPERATION FACELIFT** - Funds are now being developed to give a much needed facelift to parts of the camp facility. Projects include:

- △ Conestoga wagon replacement - Several years ago volunteers rebuilt two of our wagon sleepers. Now there is an urgent need to replace the other four at a cost of \$8,000 each. (\$32,000)
- △ Wagon Camp Lighting - Seven new lights are needed to replace and expand the current lighting system and to minimize light pollution. (\$2000)
- △ Shower House Renewal - Plans are now in place to replace leaking plumbing with pex, replace the roof and most fixtures. (\$ 5000)
- △ Filling Station - Our snack shop is in need of a new serving window and a fresh paint job. (\$2000)
- △ Dining Room - Replace tables, some appliances and fixtures. Add audio visual components, and re-decorate. (\$5000)
- △ Reconstruct Playground Infrastructure - For the safety and appeal of our playground, we will re-route the water flow, eliminate some outdated equipment and prepare for an enhanced future play area. (\$6000)
- △ Pavilion Floor Finish (activity center) (\$8000)
- △ Lift Station - Circumstances change and a donor was unable to fulfill an earlier promise on the lift station. We are now in need of additional funds for completion of the new wastewater lift station. (\$10,000)

**HELP US MEET OUR GOAL** – In the year ahead, it is the goal of Appanoose Ministries to increase regular monthly income to \$25,000/month, allowing us to both add to and better care for staff, meet the demands of inflating costs in every area, and more realistically maintain facilities with which we have been blessed. As you consider the part you have, or could have in this, consider helping us connect with churches, individuals and service organizations which will allow us to present our mission. Do consider how your Sunday Fellowship Class, Bible study group or professional organization might accept a challenge to raise a portion of this goal or of the Operation Facelift initiative. It would be our pleasure to present this work to your organization. Contact us here for more information!

#### **MOST WANTED ITEMS**

- Target Sport equipment (upgrade and addition to worn out equipment) \$11,500.00
- ~~Foosball table (arcade quality) provided, thank you!~~
- Life size mannequin (any color – we'll paint it!)
- A climbing rock
- Replacement compressor for one of our HVAC systems - \$800.00
- Windshield for van \$600.00
- Fertilizer for the pasture - \$3000.00
- Financial Gifts may be sent by US mail to: Appanoose Ministries, Box 37, Plano, IA 52581

**SEVERAL COMFORTABLE HOMES** are for sale in the neighborhood adjacent to Camp Appanoose. With the transitioning of several of our older and faithful volunteers, we are anxious to see who God will bring us in the next phase of ministry. Maybe it will be you!

**THANK YOU** for the generous gifts which were received by this ministry at the close of 2023. We are so blessed by your generosity as we pursue the great mission of "introducing the next generation" to Jesus Christ.