

it's because of YOU that Drift Creek Camp exists

Each camper, each volunteer, each staff & board member, each parent, each counselor, each kitchen worker, each supporting congregation....it is because of YOU that Drift Creek Camp exists.

Simply maintaining the facilities is a huge job and the many helpful folks who make the drive to spend time chopping wood, painting bunks, cleaning windows or trimming trails make a difference! Camp's delicious and affordable food service would not be possible without the people who labor in the kitchen. Others who dedicate two years (and sometimes more!) serving as on-site staff are integral to operations; they are the faces of Drift Creek. Board members who graciously commit their time and talents to sustaining the organization are vital to the long-term vision for the Mennonite Camp Association of Oregon.

As we reflect over the past half century, the helping hands that have sustained Drift Creek Camp are too many to count. Today we celebrate what has grown from a vision fifty years ago. Our spirits are refreshed and it is with courage and a renewed dedication that we step forward, continuing what has been entrusted to each of us. Sure, there will be more repairs to make, more wood to gather and pizza rolls to prepare...there will be skinned knees to tend to, windows to wash and cabins to clean. But there will also be songs to sing, hearts to heal and discoveries to be made about God, ourselves and creation. There is reason to rejoice because for many, camp is a place to meet God. It is a sacred space and holy ground. It is where the world is fresh; surroundings are simultaneously ancient and new.

I can't imagine my childhood without Drift Creek in it. When I reflect on my own life, I remember moments at camp that were pivotal in who I am. Today is a new beginning. The world may be different than it was 50 years ago. Now, in this crazy fast-paced world, camp is an important factor for spiritual formation, personal development, and the fostering of life-long friendships. For many, camp experiences are the common denominator that connects us. Together, let's make sure that we, the people of Drift Creek Camp, overcome the challenges presented by rotting roof shingles and raising funds. Let's make a commitment to our children and their children that Drift Creek will endure and be an integral part of their stories too.

~ Brenda Kaufman