

Living Water Ministries - 2020 Report

Living Water Ministries did not operate summer programs in 2020 as a result of concerns related to COVID-19. The cancellation of our 2020 summer season came with the expectation of approximately \$200,000.00 in financial losses for the organization, however we were able to mitigate these expected losses through the increased generosity of our donors, securing a PPP loan, the reduction of expenses, and interest income from our ELCA Pooled Trust investment. In fact, we ended our fiscal year without incurring any financial losses while keeping our year-round staff employed.

Without summer programs, the work of Living Water Ministries has centered around fundraising, the implementation of new camp and donor management systems, facility renewal, program planning and more!

Fundraising - The loss of revenue as a result of the cancellation of our 2020 summer season was significant, however our donors rose to the challenge and Living Water Ministries had a 108% increase in donations in 2020 over the year prior!

New Systems - We've taken the time and space allowed by the pandemic to implement a new camp management and registration system that will help streamline our operations while also being more user friendly for our camp families. In addition to our new camp management system, we implemented a new donor management system that has allowed us the ability to cultivate and receive the generosity of our donors more efficiently and with greater ease for them.

Facility Renewal - Tied to the generosity of our donors and careful planning by our board, we finalized plans to begin the construction of the first phase in our facility renewal plan. A contractor has been selected and work will soon begin on a new, 2,100 square foot duplex cabin structure at Stony Lake. This new structure will house up to 24 participants, have in-cabin bathroom facilities, and a great room with kitchenette. This structure will also have electric baseboard heat for potential use on the shoulder seasons. Construction is tentatively scheduled for completion by November of 2021.

Program Planning - When camp does return in 2022 there will be adaptations to the way programming is implemented as a result of new learnings related to the pandemic. We continue to develop, redevelop, and revise strategies for program implementation, staff training, and health services as new information comes to light.

While we have come out of the first year of the pandemic in a strong position, the cancellation of our 2021 summer season presents similar financial and operational ramifications. In 2020, we centered our efforts around "restoring momentum" lost due to COVID-19. In 2021, we turn our attention toward "restoring hope" as we do the continued work of preparation in order to strengthen Living Water Ministries and provide the best season of programs we've ever had in 2022! We welcome your partnership as we solicit donations, recruit summer staff, and reinvigorate our camp families to participate in God's work through our mission in 2022 and beyond.