



Menno Haven Impressions



THE NEWSLETTER OF MENNO HAVEN CAMP & RETREAT CENTER ~ SUMMER/FALL 2015



Beautifully Broken

2 Corinthians 12:9-10 says, "But God said to me, 'my grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness'. The theme for the summer of 2015 was "Beautifully Broken." Though we took a little liberty with the wording, we spent this summer talking with campers about where God shows up in times of brokenness (weakness), broken situations, and broken people. The Bible is stocked full of stories of the "wrong" people, doing amazing things for God's glory! It

also tells many stories of broken people allowing God to shine through their brokenness. We heard some of these stories from the Bible, as well as historical, and personal testimonies of finding God in the mess and the brokenness of life. Through sharing our experiences and our stories we are able to realize, and tell others, how to find God in craziness that we sometimes find ourselves in so that we too can be beautifully broken children of God!!

This summer, I was blessed to experience, and enjoy camp with over 240 (over 280 including Family Camp!) excited and energetic campers and 23 summer staff throughout the summer! Though during the times of hardships, such as having to go through ALL of the backup rain plans within the first three days of camp sometimes made me feel as though this wet and muddy summer would never end; I found myself more often than not wishing that it never would! Now, as I sit here reminiscing over the beautifully broken summer that we all experienced here at Menno Haven Camp and Retreat Center, I am able to recall the excitement that experienced campers brought with them as they began each week. I am filled with joy as I think about the screams, and bursts of excitement when we would tell the campers what our next activity would be (did somebody say OZZIES?!). The nervous and enlivened wonder of the first time campers learning about each new thing that we do at Menno Haven gives me a new perspective on each and every aspect, and experience, of life around me. We learned many lessons as a staff this summer and we truly appreciate all of the thoughts, prayers, and support that all of you provided for us that made this summer a possibility!

Thank you,

Scott Litwiller, Program Director



COMING SOON



IMC Congregational
Leaders Workshop

February 12-13

Fall Work
Day
November 7



IMCA ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING
DECEMBER 5



Winter
Retreats



High School January 15-17
Junior High January 22-24

WISH LIST

- Small diameter drill bits
- 18V DeWalt batteries
- Heavy duty white shower curtains
- Zippered pillowcase protectors
- Basketballs & volleyballs
- Stamps

THANK YOU

FOR THESE DONATED ITEMS

- Steamer for kitchen
- Tractor mulch bucket
- Walk behind brush mower
- Outside & inside plants
- 5 gallon drink coolers
- Small & large storage containers
- Cross-country skis
- Life jackets
- Ladders
- Copy Paper

Menno Madness



Menno Madness this year saw 18 participants from 4 different teams enjoying their time here. The Walnut Community Baptist Church were the reigning champions, and are still the possessors of the much coveted trophy! Thanks to all those who participated! We hope that you'll join us again March 12, 2016!



Family Camp & Rally Day



Family Camp was held this year over Rally Day weekend. Starting Friday night beautiful weather prevailed. Games on the lawn, pool time, a hayrack ride, s'mores, family time, campfires, and worship with singing and a speaker filled the weekend. What a perfect way to

kick-off the summer and the Menno Haven summer camp season!! Family camp culminated with Rally Day on Monday.

With an attendance of over 200 people this year, Rally Day was a resounding success! It was energizing seeing the camp so full of people enjoying each and every aspect that this property has to offer! Whether people were boating, having a good time at the climbing wall, or simply sitting around enjoying lively conversations with old or new friends, it was delightful to be able to experience it with all who attended.

We introduced some new events this year! While this is the 3rd Annual 5K Run/2K Walk—this year we added **COLOR!** The Run/Walk had over 35 people, which helped to raise money for our camper scholarship fund! The pie eating contest had over 30 messy and eager participants, and many more just as excited observers!!



Thank you so much to those of you who came to help, enjoy, and support us this year for Rally Day! Including donations given on Rally Day, \$4,330 was raised throughout this year to give full or partial summer camp scholarships to campers who do not have the funds to pay for a full week of camp.

We hope to see you again next year on May 27 - 30, 2016 for Family Camp & Rally Day!!



Staff Transitions

Good-bye Ryan — Ryan Miller served as a Volunteer from September 2014-May 2015. Thank you for your countless hours on the dorm room renovation, working in the kitchen, on the trails, in the office, at the climbing wall and your favorite -on the tractor pushing snow. We wish you many blessings as you transition to being a full-time student at Goshen College this fall.

Farewell Scott — Scott Litwiller served as Program Director from December 2013-August 2015. Thank you for your hard work developing programs and leading campers and retreat participants to deepen their walks with Jesus. We wish you many blessings as you transition to being a full-time student at Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary this fall.

Hickory House Dorm Renovation—It is Finished!!!!



Families, youth groups, and church groups were greeted with smells and sights of “new” as they entered the renovated dorm rooms this spring and summer. You could often hear people say “This used to be the bunkrooms? It doesn’t even



look the same at all!” And it doesn’t. If you are visiting Menno Haven, ask the host if you can get a tour. We’d love to show off what

was done. Take a look at our website (mennohaven.com/dorm-renovation-photos) to see pictures of the renovation. The renovation includes: 4 dorm rooms with attached bathrooms, a shared handicapped bathroom, and a commons room.

Thanks to all of the volunteers who put in countless hours on this project— doing demolition, dry walling, framing, electrical work, and flooring. Thanks also to Paul Yoder, the project manager, for his countless hours on this project. After resigning from Facilities Director position, Paul agreed to stay on for the fall and winter to complete this project. To all those who helped—your hard work is so greatly appreciated by all who see and use this new and improved facility!!



Shared handicapped bathroom



Dorm bathrooms



Commons room — angle 1



Commons room — angle 2



Dorm room

Oak Lodge Dorm Renovation Update

It had been our plan to start the Oak Lodge dorm room renovation fall of 2015; however, God seems to have different plans and timing. With the project not fully funded and a project manager not acquired as of September, we felt God was saying “wait” to start the physical work. This may be a blessing as now we will be able to concentrate on other maintenance projects that were put on hold or that cropped up over the past year. We want to be good stewards of all of our facilities ... and aging facilities take time and attention. So this fall you may see us replacing windows, installing a new cross at the Cross Campfire site, doing landscaping around the hotel buildings, building a deck, or doing preparation work for the next dorm renovation to make it go smoothly next fall. This extra year will also give us more time to fundraise and find a project manager for the next renovation in the fall of 2016. After seeing how much our guest groups have loved the new Hickory Dorm Rooms we are excited for the Oak Dorm Rooms to be completed. So we wait.....expectantly and actively.

Interested in Helping?



Come volunteer anytime! Just give us a call at (815) 646-4344. You could:



Help host guests during a weekend • Do trail maintenance • Learn how to lead on the adventure course

Build a retaining wall • Clear invasive plants • Split wood • Help with a mailing • Replace windows • Wash windows

Summer Staff:

Back Row: Cynandra Luttrell, Mackenzie Cox, Jordan Hodges, Lucas Amstutz, Cody Luttrell, Daryll Obedi, Zech Begly, Stanley Mercer, Scott Litwiller, Andy Lanier, Reise Vaughn, Kenny Lane, Katie Landes, Angela Lane, Leah Landes, Beverly Mercer, Jaedyn Gale, Doc Johnson

Middle Row: Shukuru, Caroline Kaufman, Sawyer Biddle, Brandie Lanier, Alex Delgadillo, Ciara Gale, Tim Gale, Carol Gale

Front Row: Ella Lubienski, Meredith Satchwell, Annika Myers, Anika Lindsey, Sarah Lake-Rayburn, Sophia Lanier, Anna Lanier, Ellie Gale, Josiah Gale

Not pictured: Susan Cater, Deena Elizalde, Melika Hersberger, Caleb Johnson, Lydia Johnson, Sheena Johnson, Serena Muñoz, Evie Yoder, Paul Yoder



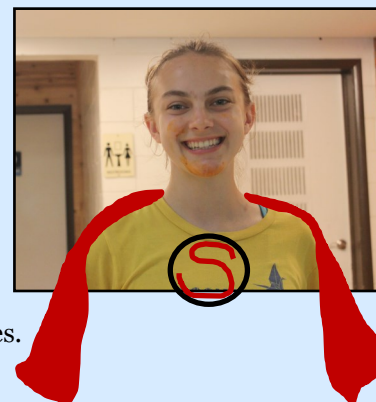
HELP WANTED: SUPERHERO

Qualifications:

- * Endless Energy
- * Infinite Positivity
- * Fearlessness in Dire Situations (such as being in the vicinity of insects)
- * Top-Notch Comedian
- * World-Class Hair Braider

Written by Ella Lubienski

Head Cabin Counselor/Photographer/Superhero



As Summer Staff at Menno Haven, we have a very unique and awesome job. For one week (and one week only), we get to mean the world to a group of amazing children. In a sense, we are their superheroes. We eat, sleep, and laugh with them. We teach them survival skills - often just weeks after we learn them ourselves. We play an exhaustible amount of games with them. We learn about God with them. We grow with them.

This summer, we explored the idea of being beautifully broken. Many campfires, chapels, and conversations with staff and campers alike have helped me come closer to understanding this, and understanding my relationship with God. However, experiencing beautiful brokenness firsthand is the best way to learn.

This summer was a rainy one, so we often had to turn to Plan B, and many times make ones up on the spot! One week, we were unable to have Home in the Woods outside, but were still excited to cook s'mores over a fire. However, when we got to our campsite, the wood was very wet and the variety of tactics we used did nothing to light a fire. However, my creative girls were not deterred, as they quickly came up with new ways to make s'mores (mainly taking a match straight to the marshmallows). Although things did not go as we had hoped, we still had tons of fun that night, made many wonderful memories together, and bonded as a cabin.

However, even though things can get hectic at times, there is pressure to never show any weakness as a summer staff member. We are told time and time again how much these campers look up to us. We must be strong, we must be brave, we must be superhuman. But that's not what we are. We're only human. And some of the best moments with campers happen when you show your humanity, when you admit your brokenness. It's only then that they see how beautiful you are.

Prayers & Praises

- Thank you to all the campers and staff who helped us have another successful summer
- Prayers for the campers and staff as they return home, that they may remember what they learned and share it with others
- Prayers for the Menno Haven Staff as we enter into another time of staff transitions
- Praises for all of the donations given to help improve and sustain Menno Haven



Menno Haven Camp & Retreat Center

Ph: 815-646-4344

Fax: 815-646-4301

info@mennohaven.com

www.mennohaven.com

Menno Haven Year Round Staff

Doc (David) Johnson
Executive Director
Tim Gale
Facilities Director
Kenny Lane
Guest Group Coordinator

Evie Yoder
Grounds-Keeper
Andy Lanier
Food Service Manager
Beverly Mercer
Housekeeper