

Fall/Winter 2016

Pine Valley Camp

A LEGACY OF LIFE CHANGE



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Thank you for investing in the ministry of Pine Valley. Please consider continuing to support Pine Valley towards our summer expenses and our on going year round ministry.

For over 20 summers now we have seen incredible life-change and growth in our campers and staff who serve them!



Pine Valley Camp

Building character through Christ

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Thank You

THE STORY HARVEST

Over 700 balloons, over 700 faces, over 700 stories of encountering Gods love at camp. Thank you for joining us at our annual Story Harvest Celebration. It was a pleasure to introduce you to some of our children, teens and staff. If you missed it our Story Harvest guests got to sit across from kids and hear their stories of how fun builds a bridge to the heart of a kid, of how camp is like family, a place where they are loved and they are safe, and how faith in Jesus brings peace, hope, and freedom. Thank you for celebrating stories of life change with us.



To see the Experience Pine Valley video go to:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kXVBDL64ct0>

Counselor Stories

Faith

I was at horses and one of my campers came up and didn't want to ride but instead wanted to talk. I wasn't busy so I asked if she wanted to talk for a bit. She did and we sat down by the creek. I started to talk about Jesus and asked if she knew about Him and she said she didn't, but wanted to learn about Him that week. She was all ears as I shared the Gospel and prayed with her. Later in the week, she decided to give her life to Jesus. Moments like this make the whole summer worth it, knowing that loving the one in front of you can change everything.

By: Miss Katie



Family

During the firework show we had on the 4th of July, one of my campers started screaming and shaking, so I carried her over to the gazebo where I held her tightly. When we got up to the cabin, she shared with the group that her dad died setting off fireworks last year and now she is in foster care.



Her story led the rest of the cabin to share theirs and it turned out that ALL of my campers had lost either a mom or a dad. All the girls then group hugged and encouraged one another. The Holy Spirit was definitely moving when He put all those girls into the same cabin.

By: Miss Son

Fun

On trip day one week, a bunch of the campers discovered clay in the shallow water of Shenango Lake. Their creativity sparked an idea that this clay could also be used as a full-body head-to-toe mud treatment. I was offered these spa services at

the low price of completely free! How could a girl turn down a spa treatment? So of course I said yes. As soon as I agreed a swarm of girls surrounded and began to pamper me: a mud hair mask, dirt and sand exfoliation, skin firming clay covering my arms and legs, and of course you can't forget the face mask! I was even blessed with the cleanse treatment as they attempted to "de-mud" me. Working at Pine Valley has opened my eyes to what love looks like and how love is demonstrated to our precious campers. This week I learned that sometimes love looks like allowing yourself to be covered in mud.

By: Miss Mia



A Big Brother's Love Miss Susan

Thanksgiving is my big brother's favorite holiday. I think of him a lot this time year. Of all of God's gifts in my life... my big brother's loving example is one that I treasure more and more over the years. I only had my big brother for the first 21 years of my life until he was killed, but for the past 33 years since he's been gone, his example has inspired me to stay the course in my walk with the

simply watching him. I watched and watched.

I watched countless hours of his sports...where he modeled what it meant to be both heroic and humble.

I watched him in the halls of our school where he modeled compassion in the winsome way he identified with "the least of these."

Pine Valley was a place he spent a good bit of time watching young men modeling what a good big brother might look like. Even though he never had a big brother himself...

I watched him leading and teaching youth group where he modeled wisdom. He was a man of few words and we clung to every word.

I watched him at home... as he modeled dedication to family and friends and had a maturity beyond his years.

A favorite memory of mine is of watching Eddie out our dining room window. He would come home from long days of school and practice to a hot meal waiting for him in

the oven, but he would drop his gym bag on the porch and head for the neighbor's yard where the children were jumping up and down shouting, "Eddie! Eddie! Eddie!" I watched this all-star athlete crawling around on his hands and knees giving horsey back rides and throwing kids in the air. I knew he was hungry but I knew this would fill him in a way that far outweighed the comfort of a hot meal.

Lord. I looked up to him because he modeled steady and uncompromising commitment to the Lord.

Eddie lived out his faith and I watched him intently, all the time, I followed him, I copied him, and I quoted him. I used to sneak into his room to see what he had highlighted in his Bible so I could highlight it in mine. I figured it was working for him.

The truth is, that although we grew much closer as young adults, most of my vivid memories from childhood are of

I now have the privilege of living in a place where God has called young people to live out a sacrificial love for

our campers. I watch them model this kind of love knowing that as a result these campers will have deeply embedded memories that will have transformational power.

This summer I spent a couple hours one day with a teen camper who has been coming to Pine Valley a long while. He is a quiet kid who watches, really watches others! I knew his story was marked by heartache and loss. As a young child he saw his dad die and this left him with no one to watch and follow. He is the oldest in his family and carries a heavy burden. He was an only child for a long time and recently he has found it a challenge having a much younger “annoying” little brother. I knew that Pine Valley was a place he spent a good bit of time watching young men modeling what a good big brother might look like.

Even though he never had a big brother himself, I was calling him to consider being a heroic big brother. As I told him stories of the power of watching my big brother Eddie, I could see the intensity in his eyes and the conviction rising as he took on the challenge of becoming that which he himself never had. At the end of the week I watched him greet his little brother with un-characteristic tenderness. I watched him approach Mr. Matt to thank him for the influence of Pine Valley on his life.

My prayer since then is that he will keep watching the right people...and that he will always remember that his little brother is watching him. I pray that he has the courage to live a life worthy of watching.

I can just imagine the eternal impact that he will have on that wide eyed little brother.



Thank you Jim and Amanda

When I think of Jim I think of a distinct stride, broad shoulders and an attentive posture, walking beside a young man, discussing the deeper things of life and faith. Jim has taught us how to slow down and to honor people, be it through mentoring a college student or disciplining a defiant camper, Jim taught us how to have a composure that will effectively influence people. Jim is Discerning, engaging, and intentional. Amanda is sweet, thoughtful and hospitable, and boy can she cook. Jim and Amanda will continue to invest in the lives of others through the ministry of CCO and Westminster PCA church of Butler.

Jim, we will miss your engaging smile, your big laugh, and your timely discernment. Amanda, we will miss your tender spirit, your delicious food

and those precious boys you always have by your side. Jim and Amanda, we admire your love for our Lord and for His Word and we know that God has great things in store for Butler through you. We are praying for you.

Much Love, Matto and the PV Family

To learn more about Jim and Amanda's new places of ministry check out:

ccojubilee.org

www.westminsterpca.com

Thank you Mark and Kate

We are excited to announce that Mark and Kate Gray just spent their first summer directing Pleasant Hills Outdoor Camp. We are so excited that God has honored their faithful service in camping with this Full time Camp Director role in Ohio. We know that

Every ending has a new beginning...





May God our Father richly bless you, your family and your ministry. We Love you!

Matto and the PV Family

If you want to know more about PHOC check them out at phoc.org

God is going to do great things to advance the ministry at PHOC. We ask that you join us as we pray for Mark and Kate in their new venture.

Mark and Kate, we thank God for you because you have improved Pine Valley as an organization, you have grown a strategic ministry step for our teens, and you have matured us as a team through your sacrifice and service to Pine Valley camp over the past 3 ½ years. Mark, we will miss your powerful perspective, your innovative processes, and your tender heart for people and love for the Lord. Kate, will miss your sweet disposition, your timely wisdom and your investment in the young ladies of Pine Valley.



Miss Lori, Thank you

She heard them sing at her church and it melted her heart. She could relate to their stories and she wished she had a place like Pine Valley when she was their age. Miss Lori loved and served our campers so well. She could see some of herself in some of their stories, and she tirelessly worked to get more boys and girls to camp so they could hear that God made them, and that He loves them and He wants to be their heavenly Father. Thank you miss Lori for loving our campers well, for loving our team, and for improving our internal processes so we can reach more kids with the love of their heavenly father.

Matto and the PV Family



Meet Emily



“I had no clue how much I would love it, simply because I love this ministry and the people that are here...”

In the Spring of 2012, I was a junior at Penn State University seeking summer employment, and I made a phone call that I had no idea would change my life. The organization I was working for at the time called for me to work at a non-profit in the summer. I had two options to choose from: Pine Valley Bible Camp or the Special Olympics. Should I choose Pine Valley because our church had supported them for years and I knew that it was close to home or, the Special Olympics because I was minoring in Special Education. I made my first call to Pine Valley Bible Camp and landed myself an interview. During that interview I remember thinking “Wow, this is incredible. These people are so nice.” They asked a little about me and what I was willing to do that summer. Little did I know I was entering into

the largest family I could ever imagine. Not only was Pine Valley more than happy to have me but I was going to be running/managing the store and the crafts department! I was more than excited for this new adventure! On the first night of staff training I met a girl named Julie who immediately introduced herself and asked if I knew anyone. I didn't, but she be-friended me immediately. She was in charge of caring for the horses that summer and the time we spent together was incredible. She loved Jesus and it truly made an impact on who I am today.

I continued to be a summertime employee until Summer 2015. I really wanted to get more involved with the ministry of Pine Valley so I decided that I was going to fully devote my whole summer and live at camp. There were

seven of us on Support Staff who lived together that summer and we spent day in and day out just loving each other and loving kids who needed to know Christ. Because I am a tomboy at heart, I have never been one who chooses to hang out with girls so my initial reaction to the living situation wasn't the best. But I can honestly say that I wouldn't have had it any other way and would go back and do it again every single summer. I made some of my best friends that summer.

Along with managing the store this summer, in my spare time I helped out in the office with registration and paperwork. I realized that this was actually something I did enjoy and wouldn't mind helping out with on a year round basis. When summer was over, I decided to help in the office during the off season and took on the registration duties for camp, which opens in January. In June, we had an unexpected transition and little did I know that the Lord was preparing

me in that off season to sit in the office manager's seat all summer. I had no clue how much I would love it, simply because I love this ministry and the people that are here. After much prayer and consideration, I am here full time and plan to be for the long haul until I am called by the Lord somewhere else. I love this place and I couldn't imagine myself anywhere else. I had someone say to me recently "I can't imagine that that is your dream job." my immediate reply was, "Well actually it is!"

Some personal things about myself. I am an Ellwood City native and I LOVE to be involved in the community. I am a Sunday school teacher, and the worship leader at my home church, Providence Baptist. I attended Penn State University and am a die-hard Penn State Football fan! We ARE!! I love my family and friends, enjoy playing volleyball, and coaching in my spare time! Most importantly I love Jesus and am blessed to be where I am in my walk with Him today!





Waiting for the Rebuild... Mr. Matt

Plowing to Repurpose: Our needs haven't changed, in fact they've only become greater! Much has happened since we launched our campaign four years ago. We have received materials from a gym and a large house, enhanced our chapel stage, transplanted a field of blueberry bushes, moved the Seneca Hills chapel structure to camp, and most recently, obtained appliances from an Eat-n-Park restaurant commercial kitchen. As a result we have repurposed doors, windows, wood, insulation, bathroom fixtures, kitchens, etc. for both our Rebuild Campaign and other pressing capital needs. We have transformed my old basement into a beautiful apartment for staff housing. We have rebuilt the Seneca Chapel for our Teen Camp area, replaced a leaky roof on Matto & Jen and their six kid's house by adding two bedrooms and a bath, and we are building the Duplex Cabin so we can demolish the Lodge.

Sowing tiny seeds: We are faithfully planting seeds of our needs to our friends in hope and belief a day will come when New Life bursts forth! In Hope! No Matter what! I'm believing we will see Fruit from our waiting! As we walk through trials and testing to better serve these children, these trials are the refreshing rains and warm sunshine so badly needed to cause growth. It's God's grace that will allow us to see movement someday!

Expectant Miracle of growth: We can't make seeds grow, we can only plant and wait! As we face this we realize waiting patiently as we work hard is the best way to overcome the impossible! We will

continue to scatter seeds (if you haven't invested would you consider giving?) While we are waiting we understand some view the efforts with skepticism but we are no less sure that God will do the impossible. This entire ministry is humanly impossible, it exists only because of the Lord! Our priority as we raise funds has always been for the Camp Program Operating Budget. We stand amazed at how God continues to provide there.

Waiting on the Lord: Our largest need is still a new Dining Hall. We continue to use the well-loved lodge by patching the leaking roof with a durable tarp and expanding our limit capacity with an additional outside dining shelter under a tent with picnic tables, and we converted one of the Lodge dorms into our Teen dining room. WE ARE BULGING AT THE SEAMS!!! What a great and pressing problem!

Reaping the Harvest: As we TRUST GOD, we continue to take the next step and do our best with the needs before us, while believing that the Lord's timing is always perfect. God proves himself to have a purpose in the delays, so in Hope we keep on working, believing that we will reap a Harvest!

My soul waits in silence for God only. Ps 62:1

A sudden unexpected recent movement of God that is energizing our efforts, and we will be so excited to report on all of that in the near future.

For an exciting report on how God has provided for Matto, Jenny and their six kids check out the website!

Did You Know?

137



FIRST TIME CAMPERS



708

TOTAL CAMPERS

99



FIRST TIME
COMMITMENTS
TO CHRIST



8981

VOLUNTEER HOURS



\$15K

OVER **\$15K** SAVED
BECAUSE OF FOOD DONATIONS

Thankful for Helping Hands

Mark Parker

During the summer and fall seasons of 2016, progress in our construction and projects is a huge part of what keeps Pine Valley Camp moving towards the goal of bringing more kids to camp to hear the word of God and to get to know their Savior Jesus Christ. This progress comes from people like you coming and giving your own time to serve these kids in a manner that the kids will never fully know. With that in mind we would like to update you on the progress of some of the construction projects going on here at Pine Valley Camp, as well as offer up more opportunities for you to serve. The Duplex Cabin that we have been working on for a couple years now is beginning to look like a



off! Another area of need is to help complete the fencing and deck. The other part of this project is the addition itself. We have been working inside and outside to

get this done so that Matto's family of eight can have adequate space to live. Within the addition we have a few areas of need. We are currently working on getting the drywall for

the ceiling hung to finish the insulation. Most importantly we are in need of volunteers who don't mind heights; we are in the process of hanging the siding, soffit and fascia. Once these steps are done we will be continuing with dry wall, flooring, and other interior work!

A final structure that was being worked on here at camp was the 548 house (where the Maintenance/Project Director Mark Parker and his family live). A small addition had been added on to the back of the house to increase storage space for the house. That job has been completed! Additionally, a shed and lean-to was constructed to provide more outdoor storage space.

Here at Pine Valley Camp we have been so blessed by so many hands helping us to complete these projects and we would like to THANK YOU for the time you've given!

...progress comes from people like you coming and giving your own time to serve these kids in a manner that the kids will never fully know.

building! Volunteer block layers are almost finished with the foundation. Once this is complete we will be in need of carpenters in many fashions -- starting with frame work we will then move on to areas such as roofing, siding, insulation, drywall and flooring. To finish, we will be in need of plumbers and electricians to complete this building.

Another area of work is the addition on the 480 house (where the Camp Director Matto Reichart and his family live). This project has many different aspects to it that not only affects Matto and his family, but our summer program as well. The remodeling/addition has many steps and we are in need of help to complete those steps! We have been tearing out and replacing the pool and deck at this house in preparation for the upcoming summer. This pool is used as a location for our Teen Camp program as well as our Mini Camp program. It is also a hot spot for summer staff to hang out on their nights

Light of the City

by Elle Molinari

Past: Light of the City was birthed out of the desire to see and disciple our children beyond the summer season. A few counselors started spending time with the children and it grew into an entire children's choir! For over six years through the Light of the City program, we have had the privilege of seeing children grow in their relationship with Jesus while also connecting with the body of Christ. We believe children who follow Jesus truly are the light to our world, hence the name "Light of the City."

Present: We just started our first Light of the City weekend of the season in October! We had 34 choir members (primarily ages 10-12), 5 C.I.T. camper volunteers, and over 10 veteran staff and volunteers from the summer! On Saturday, our choir members enjoyed painting pumpkins, rehearsing, playing games, and learning more about this Jesus we serve. Highland Presbyterian Church of Slippery Rock hosted us with such joy, humility, and so much yummy food. The congregation and pastor truly blessed the Pine Valley family with their warm greetings and hospitality.

Opportunity: You can donate needed food or craft items! You can volunteer to help run a game or activity! You can host the choir! If your church has never had the opportunity of hosting the Light of the City choir, see the available dates below. Contact our Program Director, Elle Molinari for more information if you're interested in any of these opportunities. Elle's email is emolinari@pinevalleycamp.org or leave her a voicemail on extension 13.

See back cover for upcoming dates and locations.



Give a Gift! 10 Bucks for Toys

We are working toward
buying a water trampoline

Total Cost:
\$1300.00



(To make a donation, write "trampoline" in your memo.)

Pine Valley Camp

Office 724-752-1661

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smile.amazon.com,
The Nehemiah Project at Pine
Valley Bible Camp

save the date

Light of the City

December 11: Concord United
Methodist Church

January 22: First Baptist Church,
Beaver Falls

February 19: TBD

March 18: Passavant Community

March 19: TBD

April 23: TBD



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