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Indiana church camps to improve facilities programs with grants from Lilly Endowment

Twenty-one church camps around Indiana will spruce up facilities and expand programs after receiving some \$12.4 million in the Indiana Camp Ministries Enhancement Program of Lilly Endowment Inc.

Announced in March, the competitive grants program aims at furthering the mission of religious education and spiritual formation of young people. The camps receiving grants served nearly 25,000 young people this year in a variety of programs.

“Several studies and mountains of anecdotal evidence point to the fact that attending a church camp can be a profoundly significant event in the Christian formation of a young person,” said Craig Dykstra, Endowment vice president for religion. “Church camp also seems to be among the most critical influences on people who later pursue vocations in the ordained ministry.”

Noted Dykstra: “Young people who have enjoyed church camps often become dedicated lay leaders in their congregations and important contributors to their communities.”

Over the past two years, the Endowment has committed nearly \$200 million in a series of national programs to encourage, develop and nurture a new generation of effective pastoral and church leaders. “This camp ministries enhancement program certainly fits within that theme,” Dykstra said.

The Endowment received 64 proposals and chose to fund 21. Each camp could apply for up to \$600,000. Those receiving Endowment grants are the following:

(more)

Indiana Church Camps

Add 1

◆ Camp Azusa of the Apostolic Bible Students Association of Indiana, Syracuse

\$600,000

Funds will be used to begin expansion of its operation to a year-round program, thus broadening the opportunities for more inner-city youth to participate. The camp provides a rural setting for children from low-income families. An initial phase of the project will involve construction of a multipurpose building that will include a dining hall, conference room, commercial kitchen, and three large dormitory rooms.

◆ Capitol District Christian Men's Fellowship, Trafalgar

◆ Camp Allendale

\$600,000

The camp's primary mission is to work intimately with school-age young people in small-group environments that help each child receive lots of personal attention. The grant will enable the camp to maintain and advance its small-group emphasis by building new facilities and improving the training of counselors.

◆ Catholic Youth Organization (CYO), Indianapolis

◆ Camp Rancho Framasa, Nashville

\$600,000

Programs of this camp aim to provide children and youth with positive, life-changing experiences that enable them to grow in their faith, leadership capacities, communication skills and self-esteem. A new lodge is planned to extend the Rancho Framasa experience to a year-round ministry, and new cabins will mean an increase in the capacity of the summer camp season.

(more)

Indiana Church Camps
Add 2

- ◆ Diocese of Indianapolis, The Episcopal Church in Central & Southern Indiana, Indianapolis
- ◆ Waycross Episcopal Camp and Conference Center, Morgantown
\$575,160
Waycross expects to improve the quality of camping experienced by children and adults and to create year-round systems of deeper engagement and ongoing mentoring. Plans will be based on age and maturity of the campers, a teen servant-leadership camp will be established, and more staff will be added to accommodate the new emphases. The diocese also will upgrade its plans for a new assembly hall.
- ◆ Indiana Regular Baptist Youth Camp, Hillsboro
- ◆ Twin Lakes Camp and Conference Center
\$597,875
The camp primarily serves churches associated with the Indiana Fellowship of Regular Baptist Churches – some 121 churches in Indiana. The grant will allow Twin Lakes to launch a significantly enhanced leadership development program for campers, pastors, and summer and permanent staff.
- ◆ Indiana-Kentucky Synod Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, Indianapolis
Lutheran Outdoor Ministries (LOM)
LOM includes three camps: Lutheran Hills in Morgantown, Lutherwald in Howe and Lake Luther in Angola
\$599,410
LOM believes there is a direct correlation between its strong camp programs and the number of young people sensing a call to ministry. (There are 93 ministry candidates in the synod in some phase of the process that leads to ordination.) LOM expects to make significant advances in program, staff recruitment and training, and technology and facilities enhancement.

(more)

Indiana church camps
Add 3

◆ Lake James Christian Assembly, Angola

\$599,410

More than 1,300 young people attended this camp last summer in the popular summer resort area of northern Indiana. The grant will allow camp officials to expand summer programming, increase the indoor teaching areas and conduct year-round programming.

◆ Lutheran Camp Association, Albion

Camp Lutherhaven

\$600,000

Plans call for expansion of summer camp youth programs to encompass the entire year. The grant will be used to add and enhance ministry programs, personnel and facilities. The camp's vision is to form partnerships with congregations to offer retreat experiences that will support the formation of faith in youth, thus supplementing the churches' existing confirmation programs.

◆ Merom Conference Center, Merom

\$582,389

The 56-acre facility overlooks the Wabash River in Sullivan County and is a ministry of the Indiana Kentucky Conference of the United Church of Christ. The grant will fund modernization of and upgrades to the facility that will create additional sleeping capacity. Funds also will be used to inaugurate a program on environmental stewardship.

◆ North Indiana Conference, United Methodist Church

Pine Creek Camp, Pine Village (near Battle Ground and Lafayette)

\$596,335

(more)

Indiana Church Camps

Add 4

The camp nurtures Christian discipleship among elementary and middle school-age children in a resident camp environment. Since its first “institute” event for high school youth 84 years ago, the conference has found its camping ministry to be the single most effective ministry for attracting children and youth to a life of Christian faith and service. Pine Creek Camp is a “ranch-camp” ministry and wants to move toward becoming a premier ranch ministry. Grant funds will be used to build a facility that can accommodate a full range of year-round ranch equestrian training, including a new indoor horse arena that will serve children with special needs.

◆ Northeastern Indiana (NEI) District Church of the Nazarene, Marion

Northeastern Indiana (NEI) Nazarene Camp

\$600,000

Plans call for shoring up staff and facility infrastructure, building additional dormitories, and developing marketing and administrative skills so that the 60-acre camp may accommodate more than 200 campers each week and be used year-round for camping, meetings and retreats.

◆ Pearson’s Mill Christian Assembly, Converse

Rainbow Christian Camp

\$600,000

Sixty-four congregations of the Church of Christ/Christian Church support the Rainbow ministry. The grant will allow the camp to complete its 26,000-square-foot conference center containing a gym/dining room/auditorium, kitchen, meeting rooms and offices.

(more)

Indiana Church Camps
Add 5

◆ Presbytery of Wabash Valley, Rochester

◆ Geneva Center

\$600,000

Grant funds will further develop the camp's existing youth program, strengthen the leadership development of its volunteers and paid staff and bring its facilities and site up to contemporary standards. Youth programming will be expanded to a year-round format with quarterly retreats. A proposed multipurpose pavilion will allow greater flexibility in programming.

◆ Presbytery of Whitewater Valley, Indianapolis

Camp Pyoca, Brownstown

\$599,697

The 65-acre camp, which primarily serves 143 Presbyterian congregations in Indiana, occupies a mostly wooded area in the rolling hills of south central Indiana. The grant will be used for staff and program development activities, long-range fund development, facility renovation and construction and equipment upgrades.

◆ Quaker Haven Foundation, Syracuse

Quaker Haven Camp

\$600,000

Camp officials believe the camp can make an important move forward in its service to young people by building a facility that will allow the camp more flexibility in programming, provide meeting rooms and a recreation shelter, and extend the camp's ministry to a year-round schedule.

(more)

Indiana Church Camps
Add 6

◆ Salvation Army, Indianapolis

Hidden Falls Camp and Conference Center, Bedford

\$598,690

The Salvation Army has provided camping experiences in Indiana for nearly 80 years, and Hidden Falls Camp has a capacity of about 160. The grant will be used to make physical enhancements to the camp and allow more integration of the camp's natural setting into the overall camp program. Also, plans call for a new discipleship and leadership training program for teenagers.

◆ South Central Lutheran Camp Association of Indiana, Seymour

◆ Camp Lakeview

\$597,325

More than 1,200 campers attended the camp in 2000. Looking for ways to accommodate increased demand and to expand programming, camp officials will be able to complete the "Pathways of Promise" campaign. The results will be a larger summer residential camp program for youth and an expanded ministry to all ages on a year-round basis. A new retreat complex will free up cabin space now being used to house summer camp support staff.

◆ South Indiana Conference of the United Methodist Church, Bloomington

◆ Camp Indi-Co-So, Springville

\$566,634

Serving primarily 708 congregations from Indianapolis and southern Indiana, the camp offers many facilities, from an open-air tabernacle to an archery range. More

(more)

Indiana Church Camps
Add 7

than 700 campers and volunteers attended summer camp programs this year, and more than 1,400 attended non-summer retreat programs. On the agenda for the grant funds: replace and upgrade infrastructure, build more cabins and a shower house, add a pool lift for campers with special needs, offer a leadership development retreat for senior high young people, create a scholarship program for potential counselors and support other programs.

◆ South Indiana Conference of the United Methodist Church, Bloomington

◆ Camp Mone'to, Nashville

\$600,000

Mone'to is a Shawnee word meaning “spirit of God” or “God’s resting place,” and the 720-acre camp is lodged amid the forested hills of southern Indiana. The grant will enable camp officials to undertake a number of facilities enhancement projects to accommodate growing camp populations.

◆ South Indiana Conference of the United Methodist Church, Bloomington

Camp Rivervale, Mitchell

\$460,914

Located between Spring Mill State Park and White River, the 73-acre camp sits on a high bluff overlooking the river. The grant will enable camp officials to renovate and upgrade the tabernacle (a historic site used for Methodist meetings since the 1920s); improve the quality of leadership training needed for decentralized, small-group camping; conduct a camp for inner-city youth, and replace some shelter houses.

(more)

Indiana Church Camps
Add 8

◆ Spring Hill Camps, Ewart, Mich.

InPursuit Camp, Seymour

\$600,000

InPursuit is a new ministry in Indiana whose mission is to create environments and develop communities in which young people experience the message of Christianity. It is an interdenominational camping ministry started by several Evangelical Free Churches in 1969; it has become one of the largest Christian youth camping ministries in the world. InPursuit opened the Seymour camp in 1999 and welcomed 1,600 campers its first season. The grant will enable construction of a new dining hall so the camp can serve 900 more campers.