



## Camp Rivercrest Report Jon Classen, Director and Tom Ehly, Development 2018 District Conference

We are thrilled to be celebrating 60 years of camp ministry this year! In 1958, the District purchased 30 acres of land south side of the Platte River, near Fremont, NE, to provide an area for camping ministry now known as Camp Rivercrest. In the early days, the sleeping quarters and all services were held in tents, and today we have been blessed with great camping facilities. There have been many changes over the years, but what has not changed is the mission to see not only youth, but also adults, be introduced to Jesus through the ministry of Camp Rivercrest. The staff feels privileged to be a part of this ministry and see firsthand what God is doing.



### Ministry Impact

Rivercrest continues to grow as a year round ministry. We have a very strong summer camp program with over 1,100 children and youth from over 80 churches attending each summer. ***In the past five years there have been 779 trust Christ as Savior, and 1,195 campers have rededicated their life to the Lord. That is a total of nearly 2,000 campers making a significant decision for Christ in the last 5 years.*** Praise the Lord! It is amazing to see what God is doing in the lives of so many campers. We are praying this summer hundreds of campers will make significant decisions to follow Christ!

The retreat season has been growing significantly. Rivercrest operates year round with churches, families, and leadership teams holding events and retreats throughout the week and weekends. We have partnered with many churches to provide opportunities for Christ-centered camping and retreat experiences. ***We are now serving over 6,000 guests each year from August through May with more than 100 different churches and organizations participating with many having more than one retreat within the year.*** We are thankful for the opportunity to provide a place for ministries to use Rivercrest to help people grow in Christ!

### Summer 2018

We are excited for the upcoming summer season as we embark on the 60<sup>th</sup> year of children and youth coming to Camp Rivercrest to learn and grow in the Lord. This year's theme is **GET FOUND**, focusing on Luke 19:10, "*For the Son of Man came to seek and save the lost.*" Summer camps are designed for 1<sup>st</sup> grade through senior high. High school students have opportunity to serve during the summer through the Leadership Development Program designed to help them grow as young leaders in knowing their gifts in ministry.



We would like to share the following quotes from parents regarding the impact of summer camp on their kids:

*“My Son told me he accepted Jesus into his heart at camp! Now he wants to get baptized. So exciting!”*

*“Our son was excited because two friends he brought received Christ, and he said he was praying for them.”*

*“The whole ride home she talked about the experience, and that it was life changing. She journals every night and keeps in touch with her cabin mates. Her worries about high school have lessened and finding out who she is as a person and what will get her through life is more meaningful.”*

*“I have seen evidence of spiritual growth through my daughter’s efforts in volunteering at church and making references to scripture. Plus, she seems more confident in herself as a whole.”*

### **Development**

We doubled the size of the snack shack and have developed a plan to remodel the chapel which has already started with a new stage, lighting, carpet, and paint. The plans include handicap accessibility and reworking the entrance to allow for easier traffic flow. We continue to pursue funding to finish this project as well as installing camper and RV hook ups for guests and volunteers.

As we look to the future for continued growth and sustainability at Camp Rivercrest, we ask for the District churches to support our programs through donations and use of the camp facilities. Over the past eight years, our biggest growth has been through our guest retreat services. In order to continue our ministry to churches we welcome your input and look forward to serving you in a professional and Christ-like manner. This is your camp, and we are very grateful to be your partner in encouraging and strengthening your congregations. If you haven’t had opportunity to visit, please come and see all we have to offer. [www.camprivercrest.org](http://www.camprivercrest.org).

### **Conclusion**

We are so thankful for the opportunity to serve the District churches in providing a Christ centered camp or retreat experience. We are all grateful for the support and prayers that the MidAmerica District has shown to Rivercrest. We are excited to celebrate 60 years of ministry and look forward to many more years of seeing lives changed. We ask for your continued prayers and support as we serve the Lord together with the goal of reaching people for Christ.

