Camp Fire
River Bend

Annual Report 2024-2025

Letter from our Leaders

Dear Camp Fire Family,

This past year at Camp Fire River Bend has been full of new experiences and many changes. As we reflect on the past year, our board and staff would like to share some of the accomplishments and events of the past year.

We had successful seasons at all four of our programs, including the new before and after school program at Edwardsburg Intermediate School. We completed some big projects at camp, and continue to improve and expand our facilities to better serve our campers and visitors.

This year we operated three Before and After School programs, at Good Shepherd Montessori, Sam Adams Elementary in Cassopolis, and Edwardsburg Intermediate School. All three programs had excellent staff throughout the year, and our participation increased at all three locations as the year went on.

Our summer camp program at Camp T on Birch Lake served a total 1233 campers in the summer of 2025. We saw a major increase in our day camp numbers this season, with some weeks having more day campers than overnight!

We completed some big projects at Camp T this spring, and continue to work on renovations in the Dining Hall and Kitchen. In the spring we completed the screened porch on the Dining Hall, and installed new stainless steel countertops in the kitchen. We also built a new, larger archery pavillion and storage shed. This fall and winter we will complete the kitchen project, with the installation of a new dishwasher, fire supression system, fire alarm system, water bottle filling station, and new flooring in the kitchen!

We received a very generous grant from the State of Michigan Department of Education this past year, through the 32n Outside of School Time (OST) program. This grant allowed us to provide many scholarships, offer transportation for day camp participants, and bring in members of the Pokagon Band of Potawatomi for cultural education programs. We were also able to use these funds for staff salaries and supplies at all of our Michigan locations.

New Kitchen Countertops

Closing Camp Fire at Camp T

In September, we held our fifth annual grownup camp weekend, and were blessed with a beautiful weekend. We had approximately 50 people in attendance for the event. Participants enjoyed late night singing around the campfire, traditional camp activities, pontoon cruises on the lake, great food, and amazing weather all weekend long!

At the end of the summer, we said goodbye to two of our full time staff who have moved on to new adventures. Miss Gabby Bittner, our Camp Director for the past four years, and Miss Meghan Burmeister, our Assistant Camp Director for the past two years both left at the end of August. We are thankful for their dedication to Camp T and Camp Fire over the years!

We are also saying farewell to our current Board Chair, Mike Chapple, who has served on the Board of Directors for six years. Mike joined the board in January of 2020, and served as the Chair for the past four years. Sarah Mayeda's term on the Board is also coming to a close. Sarah has served on the board for the past three years. We greatly appreciate Sarah and Mike's service on the Board of Directors!

In addition to recent leadership transitions, our board and staff are embracing the opportunity to assess and refine our mission, vision, and brand identity in the coming months, culminating in the development of a new strategic plan. Throughout this process, we remain firmly committed to the fundamental values that have long guided our work.

Thank you to all of our donors, volunteers, and staff members for your dedication and steadfast support in making all this possible, and for your shared passion for helping our youth find their Sparks. We are excited to see what the 2025-2026 year holds!

Amber Grundy, Ph.D.
Chief Executive Officer

Financial Highlights

Archery at Camp T

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

Financial information presented here is based on the unaudited financial statements for the year ended September 30, 2025. The complete financial statements have been determined to represent fairly, in all material aspects, the financial position of Camp Fire River Bend as of September 30, 2025, and the changes in its net assets and its cash flows for the year in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles.

For regular income and expense, the program-related functional expenses represented 84% of the fiscal year expenses, while the expenses for fundraising, online store, and administration represented just 16% of the fiscal year expenses. The organization spent $113,904 on facilities improvement projects and program equipment upgrades, including a new archery pavillion and shed, a screened porch addition to the Dining Hall, and stainless steel countertops in the kitchen. A grant from the Michigan Department of Education 32n Outside of School Time (OST) fund and a bequest from the estate of Marsha June Pullman increased our revnue compared to last fiscal year.

Our Before and After School programs served a total of 245 youth over the course of the 2024-2025 school year, and Camp T served 1233 campers this summer.

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

September 30, 2025

Total Current Assets	$ 981,044
Total Long-Term Assets	$ 1,180,422
Total Assets	**$ 2,161,466**
Total Liabilities	$ 37,643
Total Equity	$ 2,123,823
Total Liabilities and Equity	**$ 2,161,466**

Extended Day at Good Shepherd Montessori

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES BY CLASS

For year ended September 30, 2025

	Admin	Camp T	After School	Camp Fire Online Store	Unrestricted Fundraising	**Total Regular Inc. & Exp.**	
Total Revenues	$50,810	$868,117	$332,950	$16,863	$169,863	**$1,438,603**	**Capital Improvements**
Total Expenses	$156,081	$731,412	$145,967	$10,506	$1,183	**$1,045,149**	**$113,904**
Change in Net Assets	$(105,271)	$136,705	$186,983	$6,357	$168,680	**$393,454**	

REGULAR EXPENSE 2024-2025

Category	2023-2024	2024-2025	% of Budget
Year Round Personnel	$239,762	$279,656	26.8%
Seasonal & Part Time Personnel	$198,420	$260,606	24.9%
Payroll Taxes and Benefits	$44,753	$53,512	5.1%
Camp Meals & Daily Living	$78,690	$85,951	8.2%
Program Materials	$14,353	$39,496	3.8%
Cost of Goods Sold	$33,261	$27,403	2.6%
Insurance	$38,956	$39,979	3.8%
Depreciation	$86,969	$84,102	8.1%
Occupancy	$24,914	$25,589	2.5%
Regular Maintenance	$17,779	$25,455	2.4%
Promotion, Professional Dev., & Travel	$28,751	$23,348	2.2%
Payment Processing & Banking Expense	$20,853	$22,242	2.1%
Outside Services	$30,045	$30,055	2.9%
Office Supplies and Postage	$693	$2,725	0.3%
Dues and Licensing	$40,613	$45,029	4.3%
Total Regular Expense	**$898,811**	**$1,045,149**	**100%**

1046 Unduplicated Participants across four Programs

53% female, 46% male, 1% non-binary

$82,415 in scholarships Awarded to youth

Building Project at Sam Adams Elementary

We Salute our Donors

On behalf of the youth and families who have benefited from Camp Fire over the last year, thank you for supporting us in fulfilling our promise, so youth can find their sparks, lift their voice, and discover who they are.

$20,000+

Marsha June Pullman Estate
Mike and Renee Chapple
State of Michigan Department of Education
United Way of Southwest Michigan

$10,000-$19,999

Caterpillar Corporation
Rob Dunlop and Kim Price
Jameson Green

$5,000-$9,999

Kiwanis Club of South Bend

$1,000-$4,999

Amber Grundy
Holladay Properties
Rich and Cindy Krupp
Carrie and Chris O'Brien
John and Barb Phair
John and Barb Phair, in memory of Pat Laing
Dan and Sharon Waxman

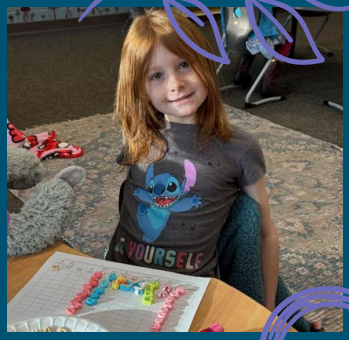
$500-$999

Becton Dickinson Foundation
Tom and Rose Eslinger
Bob and Beth Kenagy
John and Maggie Michel
Zack and Kara Nickell
Pokagon Band of Potawatomi

Gifts up to $499

Art and Joann Anderson
Manfred and Rebecca Chiang, in memory of Barbara Green
Sue Davis
MaryAnn Dewald
Diane Fedorchak and Daniel Rapp, in memory of Barbara Green
Ralph and Robin Flora
Dave and Nina Frurip
Jane Goldsberry, in memory of Pat Laing
Kathleen Kelly
Jessica Kindig
Barbara MacDougall
Bryce Milligan
John and Betsie Pendarvis
Christin Pinckert
Tricia Rszeszewski
Shannon Root
James and Janet Sartori, in memory of Barbara Green
Ann and Chris Schelle
Lauren Willis

Gingerbread Houses at Edwardsburg Intermediate School



Candlelight Serenade at Camp T

Camp Fire River Bend Board of Directors

Chair—**Mike Chapple, Ph.D.,** University of Notre Dame; Granger, IN
Vice Chair—**Melissa Diglio Healy,** Leo Burnett Group; River Forest, IL
Secretary—**Carrie O'Brien, J.D.,** retired from Reyes Holdings; Glenview, IL
Treasurer—**Ethan White,** 119th St Capital; Chicago, IL
Bob Bender, retired from Commodore Corporation; Granger, IN
Maria Carlson, Cornerstone Christian Montessori; Elkhart, IN
Jameson Green, Caterpillar Corporation; Vandalia, MI
Tara Grove, Stanley Clark School; Granger, IN
Tom Kuhn, retired from Northern Trust; Vandalia, MI
Sarah Mayeda, InStride Advisors; River Forest, IL
+John Michel, Ph.D., University of Notre Dame; South Bend, IN
***Kara Nickell,** Middlebury Public Schools; Vandalia, MI
Marti Strain, Becton Dickinson; Elkhart, IN
Patrick Welch, retired from Alphagraphics; Vandalia, MI
+Lauren Willis, University of Notre Dame; South Bend, IN

*** Elected during the 2024-2025 year**
+ Term concluded during the 2024-2025 year

Volunteers

Camp T
Becky Anderson
Jessica Barron
Toni Docherty
Bill Holleman
Sherry Holleman
Liv Portolese
Marti Strain
Brad Zesinger

Camp Fire Committees
John Engel
Yolanda Roche
Mike Sheffieck
Kim VanHuffel

Snowman at Edwardsburg Intermediate

Playground Fun at Sam Adams Elementary

Year-Round Council Staff 2024-2025

Chief Executive Officer —**Amber M. Grundy, Ph.D.**
Camp Tannadoonah Director —**Gabby Bittner (through August 2025)**
School Year Programs Director —**Carmen Garcia**
Assistant Camp Director —**Meghan Burmeister, MA (through August 2025)**
Ranger / Facilities Manager —**Brenda Wentzel**

Why Camp Fire?

Our Mission

Camp Fire connects young people to the outdoors, to others, and to themselves.

Our Vision

We envision a world where all young people thrive and have equitable opportunities for self-discovery, community connection, and engagement with nature.

You can be a changemaker. Help youth in your community grow, succeed, and thrive.

HELP KIDS THRIVE NOW

Visit donate.riverbendcampfire.org to donate today!

Your contribution helps youth get the life-changing life skills they need to be the best person they can be today.

Contributions may be unrestricted, or designated for camperships, programs, or facilities.

Crafts at Camp

Sam Adams Elementary

Camp Fire

Light the fire within

Camp Fire River Bend, Inc.
PO Box 587
Granger, IN 46530

574.387.6095
info@riverbendcampfire.org
riverbendcampfire.org

Camp Fire River Bend is a 501(c)3 non-profit.
Your contributions to Camp Fire are tax deductible.
Our Federal Tax ID is 35-0924790.

Thank You!