



2017 Annual Report

"Camp means connecting with God and being with friends."

So says one of the campers who shared in the abundant activities, engaging worship, new and renewed friendships and beautiful outdoors at Clearwater Forest in summer 2017.

As we close out 2017, and begin anew in 2018, the Board of Directors and I would like to take this opportunity to share with you highlights of 2017 and thank all of you for your continued support that helps makes these stories possible. Our camp programs are the focus of our mission and in 2017 we shared the excitement and joy that is Clearwater with summer campers, Grands, families, Creative Arts campers, Chrysalis and Camp in a Van campers. We were blessed once again to have an incredible summer staff, a comment frequently made by campers as the best part of camp. Adults and youth alike commented on being able to "unplug" from the hectic pace of the world around us and for the opportunity to develop a closer relationship with God.

"I enjoyed the setting, the building and grounds, the comfort of the space while still being able to "get away" from everything else, the "God-sense" that exists there. We all also enjoyed the new worship space--beautiful!"

Highlights of our facility upgrades for 2017 included many program enhancements such as renovation of the new adventure building, a new initiative course, adding elements to the high ropes course, construction of a hammock circle, updating and enhancing our Grouse Circle and Loon Point campgrounds, completing the worship space adjacent to the labyrinth and new carpet and furnishings in Eagle and Leaning Tree lodges.

The Board of Directors has been dreaming and visioning our future. There are plans underway to renovate the dining hall to bring the kitchen up to code and make it more user friendly, update restrooms and add administrative space, enlarge the dining space, all while keeping with the current character of the

building. They will be reaching out to our ministry partners for input on needs and wishes for Clearwater as we consider the addition of a smaller retreat space that could serve additional families and groups.

We look forward to a strong summer program under the direction of our Program Director and former camper/staff, Cassie Gabe. Cassie is already recruiting staff and building a program that encourages youth to take healthy risks through fun, challenging and adventurous activities with the theme, Light the Fire.

2018 will be a year of new opportunities for Clearwater Forest. We ask for prayers of wisdom and grace, we thank you for your continued support, and encourage you to come visit us this year!

Blessings,

Jon Kirschhoffer
Board President,
Clearwater Forest



THANK YOU GRANDMA KAREN!

Karen Gashe has spent part of each year since 2012 at Clearwater in a variety of positions, & most recently a full-time volunteer in mission serving as host & summer program naturalist, support to staff, & everyone's Grandma. She has now retired from her volunteer work & has relocated to St. Paul.

Below is her story at Clearwater Forest.

"Every day is a journey, & the journey itself is home." (Basho)

Beginning in May of 2012, the path of my personal journey

brought me to Clearwater Forest Camp as a long-term volunteer. After two summers as the camp host for groups using Eagle & Leaning Tree lodges, I wanted to fulfill a life-long wish to live in the woods for a full year, so I volunteered to work during the winter as well. What a wonderful choice that was! I have learned so much & been given gifts by everyone who has been a part of my life during these five years.

As part of a staff whose goal has been to offer radical hospitality, I have been privileged to host family groups, sometimes of five generations, as they celebrate reunions, anniversaries, milestone birthdays, & even times of memorial for loved ones no longer with them. Church retreat groups - both youth & adults, business retreats, program specialty groups such as quilting & scrap-booking, & casual groups of good friends have rounded out our guest list. My goal has always been to be helpful & to help them

THANK YOU KAREN (CONT) stay safe. They have given me joy as I witness first-time visitors fall in love with these woods & waters, & hear snippets of stories from those who may be here for their 50th (or more) visit.

During my first spring I became a Minnesota Master Naturalist. What a gift that was! I probably would not have done that if I hadn't lived at camp & been close to the Northland Arboretum in Brainerd where the classes were taught.

A special place in my heart is reserved for the stellar camp staff we have had every year I have been here! They have always, 24/7, done their jobs with outward cheerfulness, patience, energy, & compassion, even when they felt exhausted or frustrated inside. My hat is off to each & every one of you! You have reminded me of how important those qualities are when shown consistently. They have shown me time & time again how it is possible to be steadfast & true to providing every camper with an experience they will never forget, even if this is the 120th camper you have that summer! Thank you all!

Those are a few of the outward events on the part of my journey spent at Clearwater Forest. But there has been an inward journey I've been on as well. The question I get asked the most is, "Don't you get lonely living there all alone?" The second most-asked question has to do with being scared or "freaked out" by being alone in the woods.

There is a difference between being alone & being lonely. If being lonely means I miss friends & family from other parts of my life, then, yes, there are times when I miss important people in my life. But the feeling passes & I am not frozen into inaction. When I think of being alone, I am alternately calmed & excited by those thoughts. It is freeing to be able to explore in thought & action whatever I am interested in at any given time. Being alone for an extended period of time is to be aware of & tap into my inner resources & feel my strengths & acknowledge my weaknesses. It is a time to explore & experience those deep places in my heart & to be open to the "Thin Places" in my life.

Now it is time to move into another phase of my journey as I leave Clearwater Forest volunteer service to move back to the Cities to be closer to my family. I will be moving into a retirement community in St. Paul & I look forward to becoming part of that community, even as I know I will miss the camp community. But the good part is that I can come back & visit! It is, after all, only two hours up the road!

- Karen Gashe

An incredible thank you to our amazing ministry partners who made this year an exceptional year for donations to our annual fund, scholarship drives, capital funds, memorials and honorary gifts! Over \$

Guiding Lights (\$25,000 & up)

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Presbytery of Northern Waters
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Westminster Presbyterian,
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Jonathon Passick
Wayne Phelps
Carol Reid
Pauline Richards
Gary Scott
Rita Vaughn
Kathleen & John Wiestenberg
Pam Williams
Lu Wilmot
Chester Zolondek
We received memorials for:
Elizabeth Bole

Jim Carter
Dar Daily
Bud Day
Robbie Madison
Bob Metz
Barb Reiter
Harriett Strohbehn

We received honor gifts for:
Nancy Emmerson
Doug & Lucy Snaza

If your name is inadvertently missing, please contact us to correct our records. Thank you!





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 Deerwood, MN 56444
 218-678-2325
 www.clearwaterforest.org

Clearwater Forest is a ministry of Christ called to provide faith-building Christian programming, nurture active Christian community, and be a faithful steward of God's creation.

RETREAT SNAPSHOT	2017 guest group by category	
2017 Retreats continue to grow. We served 172 different groups which is a 30% increase in number of groups compared to 2016. We served 12 new family gatherings & several additional events. Many of our family reunions continue to bring multiple generations including at least six that had five generations represented! It is our joy to be part of memories & growth for all of our groups.	Campground Groups (family & church groups)	48
	Family Reunions/Gatherings	37
	Church Retreats	32
	Hermitage Use	22
	Clearwater Forest Groups/Events	6
	College/School/High Ropes Events	18
	Non-Profit Groups	5
	Community/Business Events	3
	Work Groups	3
		174

Income	
Donations	\$ 84,329.44
PCF Programs	\$ 266,685.19
Retreat & Conference Services	\$ 156,824.25
Support	\$ 46,097.16
Other Operating Income	\$ 4,035.53
Total Income	\$ 557,971.57

Expense	
Human Resource Expenses	\$ 379,754.01
Food Service	\$ 38,323.43
Program	\$ 26,753.26
Publicity	\$ 7,903.21
Energy	\$ 31,189.55
Property and Equipment	\$ 23,988.36
Office, Admin. & Insurance	\$ 68,537.12
Total Expense	\$ 576,448.94

Donations Summar	Donation Total
General & Designated Donations	\$129,839.81
Presbytery Support	\$46,097.00
Scholarship	\$19,845.76
Dining Hall Renovation/Retreat Building	<u>\$175,675.00</u>
	\$371,457.57

Net Ordinary Income	\$ (18,477.37)
Other Income/Expense	
4700 · Non-Operating Income	\$ 96,563.48
Investment income & expense	<u>\$ 43,481.05</u>
Total Other Income	\$ 140,044.53

Other Expense	
6900 · Depreciaton expense	\$ 76,260.28
Total Other Expense	\$ 76,260.28
Net Other Income	\$ 63,784.25
Net Income	\$ 45,306.88

Clearwater Forest is a ministry of the Presbytery of Northern Plains, Northern Waters, Minnesota Valley, Twin Cities Area, and the Synod of Lakes and Prairies.