



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Angola, IN—**Lake James Christian Assembly** has received a \$1,000,000 grant from Lilly Endowment Inc. through its Capital Project Initiative for Residential Youth Camps. This is one of 69 implementation grants being awarded through phase 2 of the initiative, which aims to help Indiana residential youth camps improve the overall camp experience and outcomes for youth through new, enhanced and expanded facilities integral to quality youth camp programming.

With the grant, Lake James Christian Assembly known as Lake James Christian Camp and Retreat Center, will build one of four new sleeping lodges that will accommodate campers and guests year-round. This first two-story lodge will house 64 campers. Currently the camp can accommodate 400 campers in the summer months but only 190 in the winter months. When the new lodges are completed the camp will be able to house 350+ campers year-round.

In addition to the new lodge a neighboring strategic property will be purchased to move all maintenance operations from the middle of the camp property. The new facility's location will significantly reduce interference with camper movement and programming by relocating disruptive maintenance operations away from high foot traffic areas. This strategic purchase will enable safe, efficient, and uninterrupted maintenance work and storage during both peak-season and off-seasons.

“Our mission is to create experiences that inspire and prepare the next generation to be followers of Jesus. We are so grateful for this Lilly Endowment grant as we will be able to address some key facility deficiencies that will enhance our camper experience and further our vision to be a premier destination for spiritual transformation,” said Matthew Love Executive Director of Lake James Christian Camp and Retreat Center.



This is the second Lilly Endowment grant the camp has received this year. The first grant, a \$150,000 planning grant, was awarded in July to help assess facility needs and prepare proposals for phase 2 and 3 grant funding.

Lake James Christian Camp and Retreat Center has been working the last few years with Kaleidoscope Inc. a consulting firm from Westerville, Ohio that specializes in strategic and master site planning for camps. “Our master site plan work concluded in mid-April; just two weeks later we found out about the Capital Projects Initiative....God’s timing is perfect,” added Love.

These Lilly Endowment grants are a catalyst as the camp launches a Capital Campaign, with the help of Generis consultants, called the *Inspire Initiative* to further fund the multi-million dollar sleeping lodge project. The aim is to have one of the new two-story lodges and several related projects completed for the camp’s 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2029.

Love explains, “Now more than ever, people are looking for sacred spaces to connect with God and each other without distractions. This is what we do best, and we’re committed to improving this experience for the camp’s next 100 years.”

Lake James Christian Camp and Retreat Center’s core values are to serve the next generation, educate and equip, build authentic community and inspire abundant joy. Established 96 years ago as Lake James Christian Assembly on the Lakes’ south shore, the camp offers diverse experiences year-round. Programs include Summer Youth Camps for grades 1-12 and weekend retreats, fostering community and spiritual growth in a beautiful natural setting. They also rent out their facilities to churches, college ministries and non-profits throughout the year to help them accomplish their mission. For more information, please visit <https://www.ljca.org/>

### **About Lilly Endowment**

Lilly Endowment Inc. is an Indianapolis-based private foundation created in 1937 by J.K. Lilly, Sr. and his sons Eli and J.K. Jr. through gifts of stock in their pharmaceutical business, Eli Lilly and Company. Although the gifts of stock remain a financial bedrock of the Endowment, it is a separate entity from the company, with a distinct governing board, staff and location. In keeping with the founders’ wishes, the Endowment supports the causes of community development, education and religion. The Endowment funds programs throughout the United States, especially in the field of religion, and maintains a special commitment to its founders’ hometown, Indianapolis, and home state, Indiana.