

The 'GATE

See what we have been up to at
CAMP ALDERSGATE

The 'GATE

Volume 5, Issue 2—Winter 2016

2016: A Year In Review

It is hard to believe that October 1st, 2016 marked the 1 year anniversary for our new Camp Director, Dan. "Wow! Where to begin? This year has been absolutely incredible; I am beyond blessed to be given this opportunity to serve you in this way. While this year has been a lot of learning and settling in, we have also been hard at work with improvement projects. I am a firm believer that 'it can always be better', and we promise to work every day trying to find ways to make our camper's and retreat guest's experience better every time. With that said, we would like to share with you exactly what we have been up to over the past year in regards to improvement projects":

Basketball Court

Thanks to a generous donation from First UMC of Carrollton, a new basketball hoop (that lowers so the younger campers can play too) was installed, court lines painted, and a new wooden fence built. Chasing basketballs into the thorn bushes is now a thing of the past! Once the wood cures, it will receive a stain.



Boat House Organized

The boat house was cleaned out and organized leaving us enough room to store one pontoon boat through the winter! We are planning to do more so that both boats will fit.

New Roofs

The Dining Hall and Maintenance Shop received new shingled roofs that will last for the next couple of decades.

New Internet

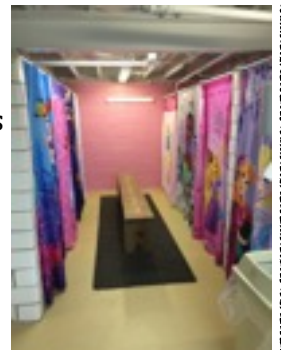
Our phone company has finally brought unlimited high speed internet to our area. Aldersgate is excited to join the 21st century!

WHAT'S NEXT?

All of these projects were finished with limited funding. Imagine what we could do with your tax-deductible donation to make Aldersgate even better for future generations! More details inside.

Bathrooms

In addition to finishing the Lower Latrines (see finished product in Facebook Video posted on April 10th), the Lodge Basement Bathrooms (Upper Latrines) were thoroughly cleaned top to bottom, received new faucets, a coat of fun colored paint, shower floor tile, and Disney princess/superhero shower curtains that brought a smile to camper's faces as they walked in.



New Cabins Finished

The new cabins were power washed and received a protective stain.



Water Drainage Project

When a heavy rain storm would come through, water flowed down the parking lot and into the Dining Hall entrance and Maintenance Shop. A new drain was installed in front of both buildings to protect them for years to come.



International Staff Tradition

There are many long-time, beloved traditions at Aldersgate. One such, is the employment of international staff. For many years, Aldersgate has worked with organizations who connect international staff to a camp for the summer; here we are in 2016 and the tradition continues! In the summer of 2016, Aldersgate was blessed to host 4 international staff: Jojo from the Netherlands, David from Ireland, Callum from South Africa, and Ash from Australia. They provided service with kind hearts, dedication, laughter, and a whole lot of love for the campers.



Hosting international staff is a wonderful opportunity for a variety of reasons. For one, it allows these staff to come to America and experience, some for the first time, what our culture is like. Ash said that the most interesting cultural difference was “free refills, everywhere!”, while Callum claimed it was the surprisingly large size of our “crisps [potato chip] packets”.

Having international staff also provides a unique experience for the summer campers. In addition to the already amazing experience they get at camp, they also get the opportunity to meet someone from a different country. Campers learn about a foreign culture, foods, traditions, and of course try to mimic their cool accents.

While these staffers may have had some doubts about leaving home, they quickly fell in love with Christian camping, the children they served, and Camp Aldersgate. Ash stated, “Being away from my family and friends was hard at the beginning, but I made new and more friends and ‘family’ here.”

They also realized they have become part of a great ministry. Jojo says, “A Christian camp isn’t like a 24/7 church service, but an amazing place where you work together with fellow Christians while still experiencing the American summer camp tradition. Working at a Christian camp will also help you grow in your relationship with Jesus and will help you grow in your faith. And most importantly, you get to teach children about God and Jesus and the Bible in a safe environment, which might be something that is not possible at their homes.”

Who can forget the amazing relationships that one builds while on staff at Aldersgate? “I saw God most probably in the camp staff relationships, through seeing us grow together as friends, also in faith. [It] was great to see God working in this way through each other, and then taking that on to the campers,” says David. Jojo states, “At camp you work and live together for 3 months: You cry together, laugh together, learn together and experience so many things together. You get so close to people at camp in such a short amount of time, that lifelong friendships start to exist. After camp is over, I keep in contact with my camp friends through Skype, Facebook, mail, etc. and then they’re not just camp friends anymore, but actual friends that are there for you when you need them.”

Finally, working at Aldersgate is not only a place for campers to grow in their faith, but also for the staff to grow. **“When I was sitting on a kayak on the lake, surrounded by the beauty that God has created, it re-affirmed for me that I am loved and wonderfully made,”** reflected Ash. Callum also felt a change in his faith: “I feel I came back with a much larger strengthened relationship with God.”

Aldersgate plans to continue this tradition of hiring high-quality international staff in the future.

Summer 2017 Plans

As you read on page one, we have been working hard on improving the facilities at Aldersgate. We are also introducing a few new improvements to the Summer Camp 2017 program:

Early Morning Activities

If campers would like, they may choose to get up a little earlier for two new options: joining the Road Runners for a run, or Polar Bear Swimmers for a brave plunge in the lake that is sure to wake you up!

Electives

Campers will be presented with a list of electives to choose as their focus area for the week. Campers will return to this activity most days, enabling us to go deeper with activities than was previously possible. An example is Outdoor Survival Skills: Day 1- Fire Building, Day 2- Shelter Building, Day 3- Maps and Compasses, etc. Other possible electives will be Sports, Arts and Crafts, Swim Lessons, and more.

Camper 1-on-1s

Each camper will have a set time throughout the week for a 1-on-1 chat with their counselor. This time will be a chance for counselors to give campers individual attention that kids crave, discuss any questions campers might have, and check in to make sure that they are having an awesome week!

New Schedule

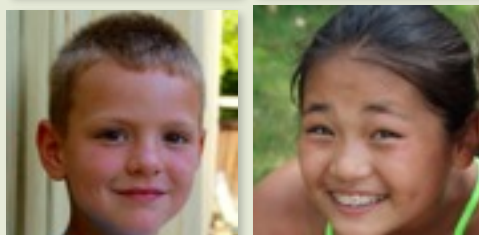
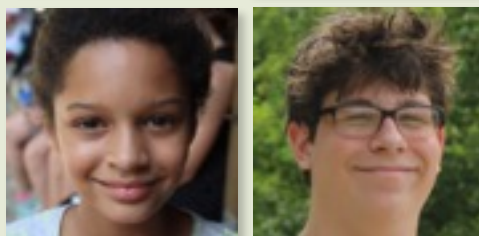
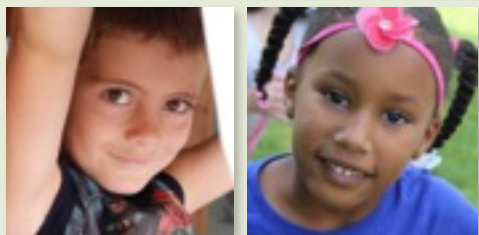
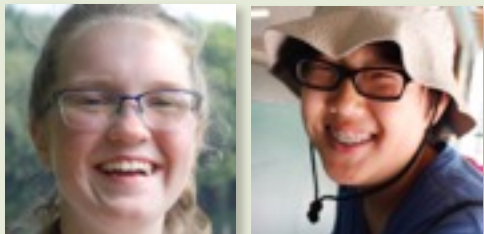
In order to introduce these improvements, the summer daily schedule was rearranged. Check it out on our Summer Camp Website.

NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR SUMMER STAFF 2017

Apply at CampAldersgate.org

Thank You To Our Donors!

Aldersgate has an amazing group of supporters, alumni and donors. All the support you give helps us go further, faster into the work God has called us to do. Thank you for your generosity that is helping us provide life-changing experiences for amazing kids like these:



Help Aldersgate Go Further Faster!

As you have read, we have been hard at work improving Camp Aldersgate for our campers and guests. However, there is only so far we can go with our limited financial resources and time.

Has camp been powerful and formative in your life or in the life of someone you love? If so, please consider one of these giving opportunities to help us go further faster and make Camp Aldersgate even better for all!

- 1) We would love to equip each of our cabins with a **Window Air Conditioning Unit** that will help our campers and guests sleep more comfortably. A good night sleep is important for a successful camp experience, especially for young children. AC will also benefit our campers who struggle with Asthma. We are looking to purchase 6 window AC Units at a price tag of \$400 each. Would you consider giving a whole or partial gift towards a window unit?
- 2) Aldersgate's current greatest material need is **reliable vehicles**. Our camp vehicles are reaching the end of their usable age. Would you consider donating a reliable used van or funds to help purchase one? Having dependable vehicles is important for the summer program to run smoothly and in case of emergencies.
- 3) Another great way to give is with a partial or full **Campership**. (\$355) Sadly, many families cannot afford the price of this life-changing experience. By giving a Campership, you help a child experience camp that otherwise could not.
- 4) A great way to get involved is to organize a **volunteer work crew** from your church or business. The biggest need for the coming year is firewood cutting, trail/ campfire spot clearing, and carpentry projects. Camp can accommodate work crews of up to 10 people, ages 12+. Call to discuss projects and dates!

Two Ways To Give:

Online at www.campaldersgate.org or

Mail to camp at 3276 Dyewood Rd SW., Carrollton, OH 44615

Gifts are tax-deductible.

2016 Camper Evaluation Quotes

- "I learned that Jesus would always love me" - 6th Grader
- "My counselor taught me that we can always talk to God, whenever and wherever we are" -8th Grader
- "I learned to take time to look around at the world God created" -9th Grader

THE ALDERSGATE NATION

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**Aldersgate's
Open House!**

Saturday, April 1st from 2-6 PM

Get a tour of camp, see the new latrines, and meet the new camp director! Have a friend who you think would love camp and wants to check us out? Invite them to the Open House!

This is a free event.
No registration is required.



**Registration for
Summer Camp is
Now Open!**

**Register before
May 1st for the Early
Bird Discount and a
Free T-shirt**

**Rent Camp
Aldersgate**

Camp Aldersgate is a great location for your group's church retreat, family reunion, college staff training weekend, scrapbooking event, etc!

Open for rental groups August-May.
Get a quote online at
www.campaldersgate.org.

**Online
Camp Store**

Looking for a perfect birthday gift or surprise for that Aldersgate fan of yours? Head to store.campaldersgate.org to buy a T-shirt or Hoodie online today!

