

# Annual Report 2024



GROWING  
TOGETHER FOR 75  
YEARS



## A MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

“...in quietness and



Dear Friends,

Each year, writing this letter is a highlight for me. It's a moment to pause, reflect, and truly appreciate the incredible journey of Crystal Lake Camps—where we've been, where we're headed, and the boundless love and support that make it all possible.

As we look back on 2024, there is so much good to celebrate! Nearly all of our core programs were at or near capacity, and interest in our adult and family programs continues to grow. One of our youth summer sessions reached full enrollment, and to better serve our campers and families, we're adjusting our three-week session into a two-week and a one-week option—making camp even more accessible and aligned with school schedules.

But numbers only tell part of the story. What truly made last summer extraordinary was the deep sense of dedication and love among our staff. Their commitment to Christian Science shone through in every aspect of camp life—from moments of healing to the joyous harmony that filled each day. We couldn't be more grateful for them! Right now, we're actively seeking staff for the upcoming season—so if you or someone you know is interested in working or volunteering, we'd love to connect!

In this report, you'll also hear from two cherished members of our camp family: Jesús de la Cruz, our new Program Manager, who has been part of CLC since 2012, and Mark Catlin, a longtime staff member whose love for camp continues to bless our community in so many ways. Their stories are just a glimpse of the deep impact camp has on those who pass through our gates.



# in confidence shall be your strength:" (Isaiah 30:15)

We're also thrilled to welcome Mark Stillman, our new Development Officer! Mark brings a deep love for camp and a passion for strengthening the connections that sustain and grow this special community. We're so grateful to have him on board and excited for the work ahead.

And speaking of impact—your generosity has been nothing short of awe-inspiring. The outpouring of love and support for CLC has been remarkable, and we are seeing more individuals than ever actively joining us in this mission. While it's the healings and transformative experiences of camp that fuel our work, your support is what makes it all possible. We simply cannot thank you enough!

As we move into 2025, we are committed to strengthening these steps of growth, ensuring that the foundation we build today will sustain CLC for generations to come. We also continue to explore ways to share the spirit of camp with even more people—and with your love and support, we know that anything is possible.

With heartfelt gratitude,



Nathan Bowen  
Executive Director

## 2025 Programming

### Spring Cleanup Weekend

May 2-4

### Crystal Lake Outdoor Center Annual Trail Race

May 10

### DB and CLC 20s/30s Spring Retreat

May 15-18

### June Adult/Family Camp

June 21-26

### Youth Camp Session 1

June 28 - July 11

### Youth Camp Session 2

July 12-18

### Youth Camp Session 3

July 19 - August 1

### August Adult/Family Camp

August 4-10

### Fall For All

October 10-13

### Fall Cleanup Weekend

October 24-26

### Winter Camp

December 29 - January 1



**Would an event  
at CLC support  
your church  
community?**

# PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS



## MAP Turns Five: A Celebration of Spiritual Growth

### Scavenger hunts, Bible story reenactments, and crafting in the Longhouse—what do they have in common?

They're all part of the Metaphysical Activity Period (MAP), a CLC tradition that strengthens campers' spiritual foundations.

**Summer 2024 marked MAP's fifth anniversary**, offering campers opportunities to engage with metaphysical ideas through activities like building, creating, and acting. Camp Director Becca DeNicholas notes, "It's inspiring to see how campers help and push each other."

MAP complements Bible study and Sunday School, with key takeaways like **"building a relationship with God," "my identity as God's child,"** and **"expressing the Christ."** Translation ensures global participation.

CLC is expanding MAP beyond camp, bringing it to Christian Scientists in England, Mexico and the Philippines, with U.S. camp shows planned for 2025.

If your church community would benefit from a camp show featuring a MAP, contact Camp Director Becca DeNicholas at [becca@crystallakecamps.org](mailto:becca@crystallakecamps.org).

## LEADING THROUGH LOVE AND TEAMWORK

Individual growth through community support is at the heart of every CLC program, and Summer 2024's Leadership Training (LT) program showcased this perfectly.

Each year, LT participants take on challenges such as a multi-day hike, a canoe trip, and a solo overnight experience. These activities help them build teamwork, initiative, and trust in Divine Love—qualities they carry with them long after camp.

During the canoe trip, when flooded trails blocked their route, the group worked together to find a solution. LT Coordinator Jesús de la Cruz (now CLC's Program Manager) observed, "They relied more on Christian Science than on human thought or force."

One LT participant shared, "This experience opened my eyes to how I could pray for myself and others." At CLC, this is what it's all about—helping individuals grow spiritually within a supportive community.



## The Heart of Summer Fun: Honoring Our Dedicated Staff

If you're a CLC alum, you likely remember the staff who made your summers unforgettable—whether it was the riding instructor, the swim coach, or the kitchen staff member with a welcoming smile.



Each year, our staff works tirelessly to foster the practical and spiritual growth of every camper, and this year's team was no exception! As one participant shared, "We were impressed by the deep care for others...This team rose to the occasion, expressing such joy in service."



Despite challenges like power outages, rainy overnights, and unexpected weather during August Adult/Family Camp, the staff went above and beyond to ensure every guest had a joyful experience. Youth campers consistently felt loved and supported, with staff checking in to make them feel part of the CLC family.

**We're thrilled that many of this team have already applied to return for Summer 2025!**

## SUMMER STAFF



# "IT JUST CHANGES PEOPLE'S LIVES"

A conversation with Mark Catlin



From Rochester, New York, Mark Catlin discovered camps for Christian Scientists in 2012, on the eve of his retirement from a 25-year career in the Boy Scouts. After attending a work weekend, he fell in love with CLC. Since then, he's graciously served in various roles on staff, volunteered for both summer and year-round programs, and donated generously to help keep the camp experience available—as well as participating in planned giving. In this interview, Mark shares what keeps drawing him back to CLC, the unique aspects of working at camp, and why he believes it's so important to support camps for Christian Scientists—plus a healing that had a significant impact on him.

## What keeps drawing you back to CLC?

It's what it does for the kids. I mean, I have seen young people's lives just totally changed for the good at this camp. I've seen kids who were in a shell, and before the camp session is over, they are enthusiastic and making friends and joyful.... It just changes people's lives ... and I want to continue to be a part of all of that.

"Don't forget  
and smell t

## What have you found to be unique about working at CLC?

Just like anything—in any leadership position—there are challenges. But in this environment, in this camp, everybody works together to overcome those challenges. And it's done through prayer. It's done through trusting that God will give you the guidance to solve whatever issue needs to be solved.

## Why is it so important to you to support CLC financially?

It's a non-profit, and so they depend on generous gifts from people from all over the place to make it possible for this camp to be in existence and to do all the good that it's doing for young people. A camp cannot operate without a full-time staff. There has to be a core staff that's on the job year-round, and that has to be supported financially. And then you can imagine the cost of maintaining the infrastructure, not just in the summer but year-round. So it's really critically important that people give generously. And when they do, they're not supporting a thing. They're supporting an idea.





HOW WOULD YOU  
DESCRIBE CLC IN  
ONE WORD?  
"LOVING"

## Would you share a healing that you've experienced at CLC?

Several staff members seemed to be dealing with flu symptoms and Mark was handling the belief in contagion when he seemed to get symptoms himself. And I went to the practitioner, kind of discouraged, and said, "I'm not being a very good porter at my door of thought." And she stopped me right there in the tracks and said, "God doesn't make someone unable to be a good porter. You are a good porter."

get to stop  
the flowers"  
-Mark

And then she gave me an idea to help me along, and it was to think of a room where you're sitting in it, and a radio is blaring, and it's halfway between the tuner. And so it's static, and it's disruptive. You can either sit in the room and listen to the static or you can go over and turn the radio off.... I used that idea and it really helped me, because I thought about it: "I don't have to listen to all this static of error, of these beliefs, of symptoms, of flu." ... And then I got the idea that maybe instead of just turning the radio off, I can tune into God's message of love and care for me.

Within a day, Mark and the other staff members were free of the symptoms.

It was an important healing for me because it helped me understand that I didn't have to bow down to beliefs in contagion, and that by leaning on God and listening to the right thoughts, I could recognize my God-given health and happiness.



"Everything that goes on at Crystal Lake Camps is guided by metaphysics, is guided by spiritual inspiration. And that's what sets this camp apart from sports camps or other kinds of camps. This is a church camp where we learn how to follow Jesus' example."

# Your Support in Action!



Growth, Joy,

# A Year of:



# Friendship, and Family!

# NEW TEAM MEMBERS

As the Program Manager at Crystal Lake Camps, I have the privilege of working closely with our camp values and fulfilling our mission by providing the resources and support needed to plan and run meaningful camp activities. Each program is designed to cultivate spiritual growth in our campers, staff, and families, and I am constantly inspired by the individual and collective progress I witness in our Christian Science community.

The impact of Crystal Lake Camps extends far beyond the summer months. The friendships and connections formed here transcend time and distance, creating a lifelong network of support and inspiration. The spiritual growth nurtured at camp—through activities, prayer, and fellowship—becomes a foundation that helps each of us overcome life's challenges with grace and confidence.

Seeing the joy, resilience, and spiritual progress of every camper, guest, and staff member is what motivates me each day. It is an honor to contribute to an environment where Christian Science is lived, explored, and strengthened, and I look forward to continuing to support and grow this incredible community.

## WELCOME JESÚS!

### PROGRAM MANAGER



## WELCOME MARK STILLMAN

### DEVELOPMENT OFFICER



As the Development Officer at Crystal Lake Camps, I am honored to support the camp's mission by fostering meaningful connections with our incredible community of

donors, alumni, and friends. My role goes beyond fundraising—it's about building lasting relationships that sustain and grow CLC's programs, ensuring future generations can experience the life-changing impact of camp.

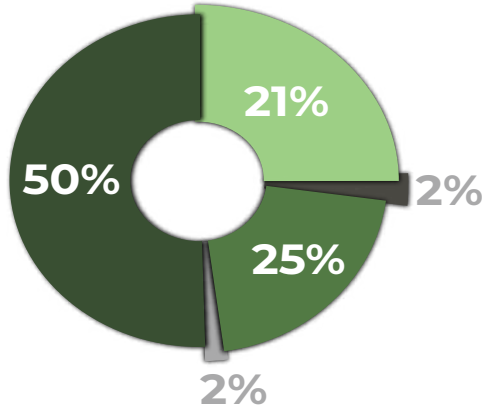
Crystal Lake Camps is more than just a summer camp; it's a place of spiritual growth, lifelong friendships, and a deep connection to nature. I'm continually inspired by the generosity and dedication of those who believe in this mission. Every gift—whether time, resources, or financial contributions—helps keep camp accessible, enriches programs, and preserves this special place for years to come.

Thank you for being part of this journey. Together, we are ensuring that Crystal Lake Camps continues to be a beacon of joy, growth, and discovery for all who step onto its trails.

# FINANCIAL REPORT

## 2023/2024 Fiscal Year

### 23/24 INCOME



- Donations
- Edowment
- Program Fees
- Retreat Center
- Investment & Other Income

Core Program Income

**\$800,500**

Supplemental Board  
Designated Funds

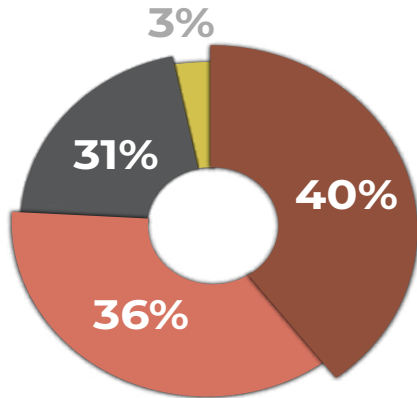
**\*\$400,000**

\*One time yearly payments  
across 3 years (2024-2026)

Total Gross Income:

**\$1,200,500**

### 23/24 EXPENSES



- Program
- Core Support
- Facilities
- Outreach

Total Gross Expenses:

**\$1,195,750**

From First-Time to Lifetime:  
Participant Retention Rate

**55%**

The Cost of Impact: One Week, One  
Camper, a Lifetime of Growth

**\$7,500**

What It Takes: The Cost  
Of One Programming Day

**\$13,744**

Hands in Action:

Service Impact at CLC

Individual Supporters **41**

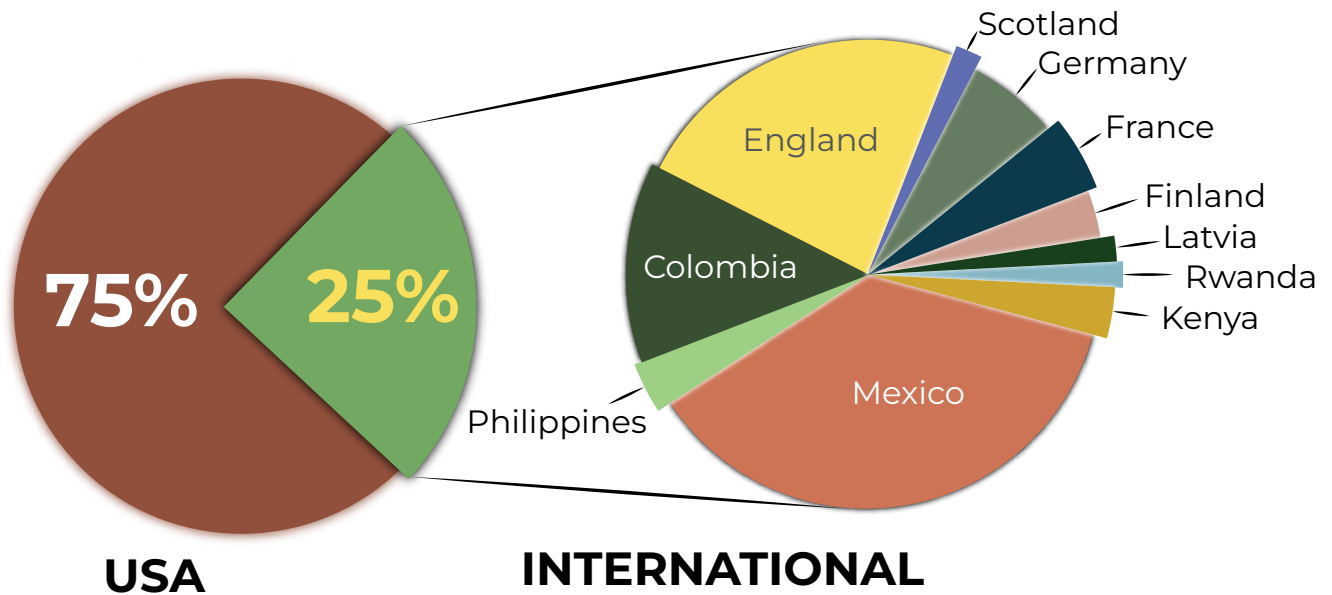
Cleanup Days **4**

Service Days Contributed **105**

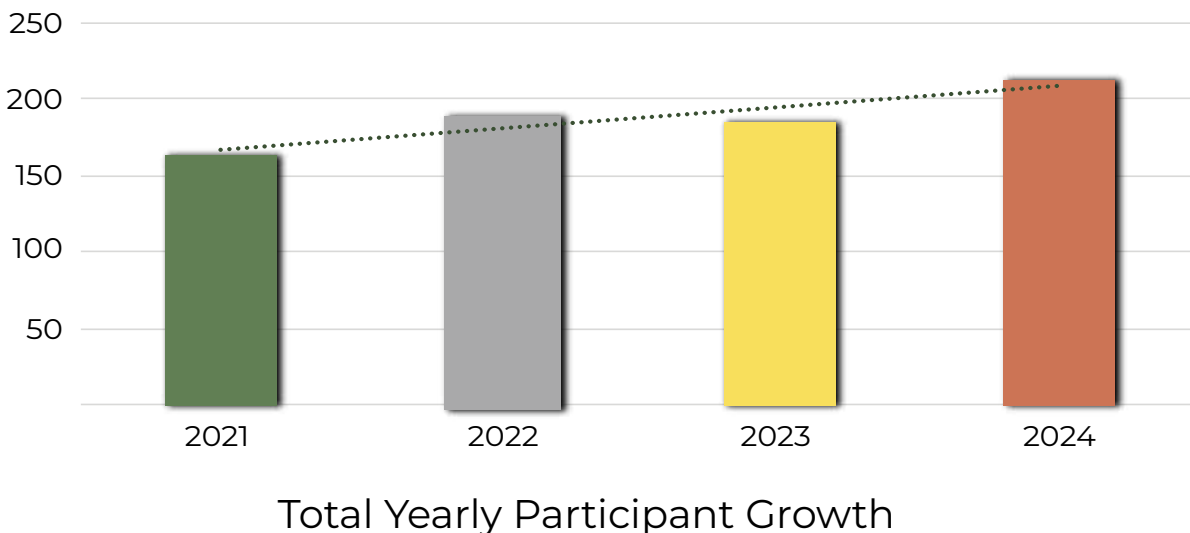
Owl Clan members' monthly gifts help bring stability to our year-round operations, enabling us to offer high-quality programs while planning for the future. Thank you, friends!



# Reaching Far & Wide: Geographic Impact in 2024



## Building for the Future: Year-Over-Year Growth



We welcome support events creating a community. Director Becca  
becca@crystal

Crystal Lake Camps is growing, reaching more campers and expanding our impact. To sustain this momentum and meet long-term needs, increased financial support is essential. Together, we can ensure a strong future for camp.

# THANK YOU TO OUR BOARD AND SERVICE SUPPORTERS

L-R:  
Jim Keeley  
Cosy Schneberger  
Nancy Boyer-Rechlin  
Evan MacDonald  
Kathy Bailey  
Nancy Montone  
Jenna Fisher  
Not pictured:  
Elisabeth "Babe" Root



Supporters at the Spring and Fall Clean-up Weekends, along with those supporting our other programs, worked tirelessly to prepare and maintain the camp, ensuring a welcoming and well-functioning environment for our campers. From clearing trails to upgrading facilities, your hard work and dedication have made a lasting impact. Thank you all for your incredible efforts and commitment to the camp community!

... everyone year-round to support  
... and facility improvements,  
... lasting impact on our camp  
To get involved, contact Camp  
... ca DeNicholas at  
... allakecamps.org



**We'd love to  
have you join us!**

# THANK YOU 2024 DONORS!

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With heartfelt gratitude, we celebrate the generosity of our 2024 donors. Your support nurtures growth, fosters community, and ensures that Crystal Lake Camps continues to be a place of joy, discovery, and spiritual enrichment for generations to come. Thank you for making a lasting impact!



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Call us: (570)584-5608



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