



Loving & Efficient: Meet the Housekeeping Team

I have always observed that healthy ministries have two things in common: a heart for ministry and a good business model. I focus on these as I lead Hidden Acres. We need to honor God in every area of our ministry, checking each program and retreat against our mission statement and making sure that what we do allows people to encounter Jesus. However, we are also a business with income and expenses, and we need to be good stewards of the money coming through our camp from retreats, guest groups, retail sales, and individual and church giving.

I believe that these two things—the ministry and the business—exist in harmony at Hidden Acres. I think this happens because we have the hand of God on our camp and a team of talented people serving to make everything function together toward a common goal. Our staff members are the hands and feet carrying out the ministry and business of Hidden Acres, so we always prayerfully consider each hire. I am blessed to lead this amazing team, and I wanted to take time to introduce a few staff members to you.

Hidden Acres has multiple departments, one of which is Housekeeping. Their mark is everywhere, and their work affects every single guest and summer camper. They are responsible for your first impression, your ability to relax during your stay, and your memories of this place once you leave. They clean, take care of light maintenance repairs, arrange furniture and meeting spaces, and restock kitchenettes and coffee supplies. When everything in your building works and you are able to find the right supplies, it's because the housekeepers have anticipated your needs.

The fearless leader of this department is **Teisea Kostner** from Boone. She has been married to Patrick for 20 years, and they have a son, Max. They attend Cornerstone Church in Ames. She has been cleaning off and on since she was 14 and even owned her own cleaning company. She started at Hidden Acres in 2019 as seasonal staff, but God had other plans! When asked why she chose to stay, she smiles. "Driving down that gravel road into camp provides a feeling of peace and of coming home. I look at my co-workers as family."

Teisea's goofy personality, excellence in standards, fun-loving spirit, and love of Jesus make a normally boring and thankless department a blast. She finds purpose and joy in leading her team, and they have fun while remaining productive. They play games like carpetball or rock-paper-scissors to assign tasks, listen to Christian music while working, and start each day with a Bible verse. At the end of each week, they pray for each

other and the groups coming in. Our department directors describe Teisea as faithful, selfless, willing, genuine, diligent, compassionate, a servant, a prayer-warrior, a good friend, a good example, and a Proverbs 31 woman.

There are seven other housekeepers. **Jennifer Seaton** is married to Marcus. They live in Ellsworth, have four children and one grandchild, and attend the MAC Life Church in Blairsburg. **Ella Henderson** lives in Ames and attends Christ Community Church where her dad pastors. **Jacob Slininger** lives in Farnhamville and attends Mission Community Church in Harcourt. **Christa Hinze** is married to Finn, who is also on staff. They live on-site and attend Stonebridge Church in Boone. **Hannah Sigler** lives in Stratford with her parents and five brothers and attends Countryside Church there. **Avery & Ally Anderson** are siblings who work part-time when their busy college schedules allow. Please pray for these amazing staff members. They are such a blessing to our camp. Thank them for all they do for our ministry during your next visit to Hidden Acres.



The housekeepers exemplify how a loving ministry heart and an efficient business model work together. If we hire amazing staff who love Jesus, pray for our guests, have high standards, and work hard, then we can have a thriving ministry set apart for guests to encounter Jesus!

Thank you for your continued support and your prayers for the ministry of Hidden Acres Christian Center.

Flip '23 Curriculum

By Taylor Mugge

Our curriculum this summer is "Flip: Stories of how God flips the world right side up."



In the Garden, Adam and Eve's hearts were made to follow God, but they chose to follow their own desires. This flipped their hearts upside down; they would now choose to follow things other than God. They couldn't draw near to God. We inherited their upside down hearts and can't flip our hearts right side up on our own.

God did not leave us alone in our condition. He sent Jesus to earth to flip us around. Our theme verse is 1 Peter 2:24: "He Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross, so that we might die to sin and live to righteousness; for by His wounds you were healed." Through Christ's sacrifice on the cross, our hearts can be flipped from sin to righteousness. He was wounded so we could be healed. We can draw near to God again!

That's what we'll be teaching this summer. We'll also talk about God flipping weakness to strength in the story of David and Goliath, and how God flips sorrow to joy in the story of Joseph in Egypt. We'll also look ahead to when Christ returns and flips faith into sight! Join us in praying for changed hearts and a huge response to the gospel.

We're still hiring! If you know any high school or college students who want to gain ministry and leadership experience, send them our way!

In Touch is published by:

Hidden Acres Christian Center

3837 Union Ave,
Dayton, IA 50530
www.hacamps.org
515-547-2751
steve.pinkley@hacamps.org



Update on Higher Education Programs

By Eric Smith



The Ministry School

This May will conclude our fifth year of The Ministry School, our gap year program for college-age students. We had nine students in the program this year, making it the largest class of students yet! The Ministry School is designed for students to grow in four key areas: academically, personally, spiritually, and vocationally. Our students have worked incredibly hard in all four areas, and it's been fun to see their growth over the course of the school year.

After this school year, some of our students will go on to college, while others will begin working full-time.

We pray that this year will have equipped them for serving God wherever He leads them next.

The Residency

This year was also our largest class of students in our Residency program, a one-year integrated master's degree program designed to educate, equip, and empower the next generation of servant leaders for a lifetime of Christian ministry. All our residents have thrived in their ministry placements, two at our camp and two in local EFCA churches. It's been a privilege to see them grow in their leadership skills and contribute in meaningful ways to the work God is doing in the Central District.

Our residents are all in the process of applying for jobs for next school year, and we're excited to see where God leads them next. We're thankful they have allowed us to invest in their lives during this school year!

2023-2024 Applications

We're still accepting applications for the 2023-2024 school year for both The Ministry School and The Residency. If you know a student graduating from high school or college and interested in learning about ministry at Hidden Acres, encourage them to apply!

New Hire: Joshua Constant

Our Summer Camp Department is growing! For several years, Eric Smith and Taylor Mugge have done the majority of planning and hiring for summer camp. Eric also manages our higher education programs, and soon he will move to that full time. This left us with a position to fill.

After months of prayer and interviews, God presented the right person. It was tough; many great applicants stepped forward. However, by mid-March we offered the position to a young man named Joshua Constant from Winona Lake, IN. Joshua grew up loving camp ministry. In high school and college, he spent his summers serving at Twin Lakes Camp & Conference Center in Hillsboro, IN. Joshua felt called to camp ministry specifically and hoped to serve in that field professionally.

Joshua married Maya in June 2022. They met working in the dish room at Twin Lakes. In May, Joshua will receive his M.Div. from Grace College & Theological Seminary, then he and Maya will move to Iowa. Pray for the Constants to transition well. They are excited but will have hurdles like finding an apartment, moving, and starting new jobs. Look for them next time you visit Hidden Acres and introduce yourself!

