



IN TOUCH NEWSLETTER

April 2025

Final Update on Pool & Lagoon Projects

By Steve Pinkley, Executive Director

It has been such a blessing to be part of the Hidden Acres family and experience the last two fundraising seasons. In 2024, we finished the Chris Clark Airnasium, and our staff has been able to step back and watch God use that space in awesome ways. This year we are raising funds for two important and necessary infrastructure projects: the indoor swimming pool renovation and the expansion of our sewer lagoon. The rest of this article provides an update on these projects and where we stand with fundraising efforts.

Indoor Pool

The pool remodel is completed and paid in full, and the area is once again open for guests to enjoy! We want to extend a special thanks to Jered Peterson from Evolution Pools who helped us plan and manage this project.

The pool project was divided into two parts. First, we completely replaced the pool deck flooring. The old stamped concrete floor was lifting and chipping; it wasn't safe and wouldn't pass the next inspection. We now have a beautiful, brand-new flaked polyurea floor with new drains! The new surface is a beautiful dark grey hue and includes additives to make it slip-resistant. We are pleased with the look and feel of the new surface.

The other half of this project involved replacing outdated equipment in the pool's pump room. Maintenance costs were getting high as this equipment aged, so we're excited to have a completely new system in place. We gutted the equipment room and installed white PVC board walls and LED lights. We then installed a new state-of-the-art system with new plumbing and a UV component. The UV technology kills bacteria as water runs through the piping. This new system will restore pool chemical levels much quicker after heavy use.

We also repaired our underwater LED lights inside the swimming pool, added a portable handicap lift, and purchased a robot pool vacuum affectionately named Wally by our housekeeping team.

Sewer Lagoon

The planning stage of the sewer lagoon project was lengthy. After months of work with the Iowa DNR and Snyder Engineering, we received approval to proceed with this project in January. Vanderpool Construction won the bid for this project and arrived at the beginning of April to start digging and moving dirt. They have been awesome to work with!

— Article Continued on Back Page —



Meet the Rydbergs



In the spring of 2023 we hired Chris & Marj Clark as our Advancement Team. They hit the ground running with the Airnasium project and were making great progress when the Lord called Chris home in early 2024. After taking time to grieve and reflect, we prayerfully started to look for a couple to fill the gaps that were left behind. We needed a team who would build relationships with individuals and churches and help us with future development and fundraising.

God has been so faithful to open the doors for us to hire Jon & Heidi Rydberg. Please welcome them to our Hidden Acres team! They reside in rural Arthur, IA with their four children, Addison (14), Davin (12), Treyton (9), and Roselyn (5). They are currently the junior high youth leaders in their church and they run a small agriculture business.

Their love for camp began with bringing church youth to Winter Blast retreats. Next they began attending family camp, where their love for Hidden Acres grew even more. They feel camp is a place for their family to encounter Jesus and fellowship with other believers. Jon and Heidi love meeting new people and traveling, and they are looking forward to building relationships with current and future camp attendees and supporters.



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Final Update (Continued)

I really didn't understand how much was involved in digging a big hole in the ground! There's so much engineering and tons of dirt to move, and I can now see just how massive the 4.8 acre lagoon is in comparison to the old 1-acre lagoon. Vanderpool has already removed the topsoil and will spread it out after digging is complete; this will foster vegetation regrowth in the area.

The project is about 1/3 complete to date. Crews are working daily and are staying at Hidden Acres overnight to save on travel costs. Once the lagoon is completely dug out, piping crews will arrive to hook it into our existing infrastructure. The final step of this project is an inspection. Everything should be finished by the end of May, just in time for our summer camp season!



Fundraising Needs

Our growth over the past four decades would not be possible without God's provision and gracious donors. We are so grateful for everyone who partners with us as we live out our mission as "A Place Set Apart to Encounter Jesus."

These two 2025 projects will cost us \$850,000. We have raised \$538,000 so far. We are trusting God for the remaining \$312,000. We will continue to give updates through our Facebook page and our monthly giving receipt letters. If you are able to give to this fund to help us reach our goal, use the envelope provided to send a check. You may also give online at hacamps.org/donate.

Thank you for being such a blessing to camp as friends, volunteers, guests, prayer warriors, and donors. I can't wait for your next visit to Hidden Acres so you can see all the exciting changes taking place thanks to your help! If you have questions, concerns, or even prayer requests, reach out to me at steve.pinkley@hacamps.org

Summer Camp News

Summer Camp starts in about six weeks! We're excited to learn about this summer's theme, WILDERNESS.

Current summer staff numbers are strong. We have contracted 187 high school and college students to fill counseling and specialist roles. That's our largest summer staff ever!

In late March we invited all summer staff to a training weekend and 135 attended. The purpose of the retreat was two-fold: to instruct staff how to study and teach our curriculum and to start building relationships. Pastor Damian Peasley from Madrid EFC taught the Pathways Bible Study method to the summer staff, and the

weekend was full of fellowship between new and returning staff.

We currently have 2,966 summer camp registrations, which is 143 ahead of this time last year. If you haven't signed your children up for camp yet, do so as soon as possible!

