



## New 'Camp Advancement' Team

As I observe how other large camps operate, I've noticed many have a development or advancement team. This is a person or group of people whose main focus is the advancement of their camp's ministry. Hidden Acres has never had a development or advancement team, and in the past we've relied on retreat income and generous donors to keep our camp running full-speed. However, as the camp continues to grow, our leadership knew we needed to devote more time and resources to developing new donor relationships and increasing fundraising. Our weekly directors' meetings have addressed this topic several times over the past year.

Once we knew we needed to devote more resources to "camp advancement," the next focus was finding the right person or group of people to lead our advancement team. I prayed over this need and spoke to our board members, especially Chris Clark, a long-time friend of Hidden Acres. They provided good counsel and we began looking for the right advancement team.

Have you ever had God put the perfect person right in front of you without you noticing? As we kept searching and praying, my mind kept coming back to Chris Clark and his wife, Marj. They own their own business and have recently sent both of their children off to college, so

they found themselves in a unique time of life. As I was praying about our advancement team, they were asking God to show them what was next in their life.

I felt led by God to approach Chris and Marj about this position and they accepted my offer! They now serve part-time on staff as Camp Advancement Directors. Chris and Marj live outside Ida Grove, IA and are parents to Truman and Ruth. They feel blessed by



Hidden Acres' ministry over the years and want to build and nurture relationships with current and future donors. They hope their work will enhance camp's sustainability for many years to come. Their first project as the Camp Advancement Team is to help raise funds for our new Airnasium Project, which is discussed below.

Thank you so much for your support over the years. I'm excited to see how the Clark Family and the Airnasium improve Hidden Acres for years to come!

## The Airnasium Project & Fundraiser

By Chris & Marj Clark

Thank you for coming to camp as our guest over the years! Hidden Acres has always been a special place for our own family, and we have been very blessed by the summer camp and retreat ministry. We now have a new opportunity to bless future guests. You may have heard of our plan to construct a canopy over the outdoor basketball court, which is called an "airnasium." The outdoor basketball court is the concrete pad just south of the Family Life Center. We have had a string of hot summers, and airnasiums are common in warmer southern U.S. states to combat heat and intense sunlight. We honestly see an airnasium as a unique way to expand the ministry of Hidden Acres more than just providing shade against the hot sun.

Hidden Acres now has over 20,000 annual guests along

with 3,700 summer campers (K-12 students). Our ability to care for and extend hospitality to that many guests has become more of a challenge when large groups desire to use camp. While we have used the basketball court as our outdoor chapel for worship and teaching time, Hidden Acres has growing events like our Men's Retreat, Sportsmen's Retreat, and Family Camp where the extreme heat or cold makes using an outdoor space tough. We now also have churches, colleges, and youth ministry groups that want to bring large groups of 700-900 guests at one time. While that is an awesome opportunity, we simply do not have adequate facilities to allow larger groups to be together in one place for worship and teaching time. However, never fear, the Lord has impressed upon our hearts a solution: an airnasium at camp!

*(Continued on p. 2)*

## The Evans Family

We're excited to introduce you to our newest staff, Jesse and Nichole Evans! Jesse is our new Higher Education Director and manages the Ministry School and Residency programs. Jesse is also our camp chaplain, guiding and teaching our full time and summer staff. Nichole will serve in the office and also offer counseling to staff.

Jesse Evans enlisted in the United States Air Force out of High School. While stationed at Little Rock AFB in Arkansas, he met his wonderful wife, Nichole. Jesse's plan was to serve at least 20 years in the Air Force, but God had other plans. After 10 years of service, God called Jesse to pursue ministry. Jesse attended Liberty University in Lynchburg, VA, completed his MDiv, and is working on his Doctorate in Ministry Leadership.



Jesse has served as Chaplain at a 95 -bed nursing home and has filled the role of Senior Pastor at two EFCA Central District churches in Iowa. Nichole has been by his side, serving in ministry with her gifts of worship singer, youth leader, and Biblical counselor throughout the years. Jesse and Nichole have six children (Nicholas, Kaelyn, Brooke, Lily, Abigail, Ziva) and four grandchildren. Together, they have a passion for discipleship, sound Biblical teaching, and encouraging believers to live out a Biblical worldview. They look forward to serving the camp and the students enrolled in the education programs here at camp.

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## The Airnasium Project (Continued)

Throughout this letter are photos of the anticipated Airnasium over the existing basketball court. Phase one of the project is to construct the shell of the building, including one solid wall, three open walls, and large garage-style doors that will allow us to enclose the Airnasium. This flexible building style will allow us to provide a large gathering place or gym space in any season of the year. Phase two of the project will include interior finishes like utilities, sheetrock, seating, and a stage area. Overall, this structure falls right in line with the new mission statement of Hidden Acres as "A place set apart to encounter Jesus!"



### Expected Costs:

- \$700,000 for exterior shell, insulation, and doors (\$300,000 has already been earmarked in our development fund – praise the Lord!)
- \$150,000 to finish the interior

### Fundraising Goal: \$850,000

There are many ways to reach this goal! Here's one example:

\$300,000 earmarked already	+	\$100,000 200 people give \$500	+	\$200,000 200 people give \$1,000	+	\$100,000 50 people give \$2,000	+	\$150,000 larger gifts from churches and individuals
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Now is the time when Hidden Acres would be very blessed with your financial support for the Airnasium! Please pray about how to help us fund this project. Enclosed is a donor card to help you contribute to the Lord's work at Hidden Acres. Please join us in donating and supporting this project that will enhance our ministry to future guests. Feel free to reach out to us at 712-369-1531, or call the Hidden Acres office at 515-547-2751.

Warm Blessings!

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