



The Gift of the Danielson House

As you drive into camp and look down the road toward Lechler Lake, you will notice a beautiful 1912 century farmhouse. This new camp house was donated by Randy and Cindy Danielson from Dayton, IA.



The outside of the Danielson House

When someone showed me a Facebook post advertising a free house in Dayton, I got excited! I love finding a good deal, so much so that the staff have called me "Freebie Stevie" at times. True to form, I couldn't pass up investigating this house further!

I made a phone call to our Head Summer Camp Nurse, Amber Graves, who lives in Dayton. She confirmed that the offer was real and even called Cindy to tell her Hidden Acres might be interested. I later found out that we were the first party to reach out, which was good—she had many other inquiries in the following days. I believe God spoke to Randy and Cindy, and they agreed to hold the house long enough for the camp to make arrangements with a moving company.

One of camp's values is investing in the next generation of leaders. From 2018 to 2021, we saw growth in our two education programs, The Ministry School and The

Residency. By 2021, we knew we needed more housing to accommodate future students. We believe that this house was the perfect gift from God that came at the perfect time.

Many arrangements were made to move a house nine miles. We had to find a moving company, determine a route, contact and coordinate with two power companies to cut lines, and build a new basement to fit the house. Moving day was fun, as many staff and local people watched the beautiful house travel down gravel roads to reach its final destination at Hidden Acres.



The living room on the ground floor ready for students!

Over the last year, our staff has been busy renovating the house, updating much of the interior and designing it in a way to fit the needs of our students. This past July, we were able to have Randy and Cindy and a few other Danielson family members come look at the house before new students moved in. It was so rewarding and such a blessing to see how happy they were to have the house used for ministry. Cindy shed a few tears of joy as she walked through the house, thanking us for saving her home! The interior is completely finished, and our construction team is finishing a little work on the outside, adding porches and new siding in areas.

Thank you, Jesus, for providing this gift that will be used for many years in ministry at Hidden Acres. We now have four Ministry School students and one Residency student living upstairs, and one Residency student and her husband living in the basement. Five Ministry School students and one Resident live nearby in the Pavilion.

Please continue to pray for Hidden Acres as we move forward with these programs. Feel free to reach out to me if you have questions or want to visit or volunteer!



A view of the basement kitchen

Welcome, Mandy!



Please join us in welcoming Mandy Stenberg to the Hidden Acres team!

Mandy is a southern girl who moved to Iowa for a job in 2003 and never left! She's worked in children's ministry and event planning, and she loves sweet tea and Chick-fil-a.

Mandy is married to Mark, an Ames native and accountant partner at Hicks Tax & Accounting. Together they have three red-headed boys (Callen, Jack, Bennett) who are active in football, baseball, basketball, soccer, wrestling, cross country, and track.

Mandy joins us as the Assistant Retreat Director. She will help Michelle Reimer with guest groups, which involves booking new groups, rebooking return guests, scheduling, and handling details so our guests can have an awesome experience while here. From meal numbers and activity times to bonfires and sound equipment, Mandy and Michelle make sure each group is served well so their attendees can relax and learn about Christ!

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



Higher Education Programs

By Eric Smith

This August we welcomed our largest class of Higher Education students at Hidden Acres! We currently have nine students in our gap year program, The Ministry School. The students are being trained in each of our departments at camp and learning more about everything that goes into camp ministry. They are also taking online classes through Emmaus Bible College, participating in weekly life skills seminars and Bible studies, and enjoying the Christian community at camp. We've enjoyed learning alongside them this school year and are excited to see them continue to grow in their year at camp.

The Residency, our one-year master's degree program, has four students this year. One unique aspect of the program is that each

resident receives a personalized ministry placement, in which they work for 20 hours each week, receiving hands-on leadership training. We have two residents doing their placements at camp and two in local churches. Kenzie Kraling is working with our summer camp team, and Brittany Wardie is working with our guest services team. Chloe Hildreth is doing a children's ministry placement at Ankeny Free Church, and Eli Doss is doing a youth ministry placement at Madrid E-Free Church. We're so thankful for our partner churches and their investment in the next generation of servant leaders!

Applications for the 2023-2024 school year for both The Ministry School and The Residency are available now on our website.

Summer Camp 2023 Planning

By Taylor Mugge

It's never too early to start thinking about summer camp! We are busy planning another big summer of fun, fellowship, and lives changed for Christ. It may seem early, but there's still plenty to do, and we'd appreciate your prayers. You can specifically pray for these areas:

Staff Recruitment

This year, we're hoping to hire our biggest summer staff ever. To reach this goal, we've been traveling all over the state to schools, churches, and colleges. Pray for God to change plans and open doors for high school and college students to be able to work on summer staff, pray for safety as we travel, and pray for us to fill positions quickly.

If you know anyone who would be a good candidate for summer staff, please send them to our website for more info and applications: hacamps.org/summer-staff

Curriculum

Every year we write our own summer camp curriculum, which forms the basis for all our chapel

messages and cabin Bible studies. Please pray that these lessons will come together smoothly and will make a gospel impact in the lives of our campers and staff.

Speakers

We're currently in the process of lining up chapel speakers for the summer. Please pray that we'd be able to find everyone we need and that God would give the speakers ideas for ways to connect the gospel with every one of our campers.

Campers

Finally, pray for our campers. We're expecting around 3,500 overnight campers this summer, and every single one of them is going to hear the gospel every single day. Pray that even now God would be cultivating the soil of their hearts so they'll be receptive to hear what God will say to them at camp. Pray for their safety, their families, their churches, their friends, and for everyone else God will use to speak to them this year. Registration opens November 1 at hacamps.org. We're excited to see what God will do!