



mdc goldenrod report

summer 2015

Camp Amigo 2015

"Make A Joyful Noise... Psalm 100:1-2"

*Shout for joy to the LORD,
all the earth.
Worship the LORD with
gladness;
come before him with
joyful songs.*



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And Wow, did we ever! Camp Amigo 2015 was a HUGE success! On June 1st through June 3rd our community members joyously journeyed to Amigo Center in beautiful Sturgis Michigan. Each year we are eager with anticipation of good times, laughter, crafting, boating, archery, fishing, fellowship, devotions and worship, awesome food, and just plain old FUN! We are truly blessed to be invited back each year!

NOW, let's talk about the fun! Stephen and James settled their long-standing archery tie, James being the victor. Lisa and Ashley taught scrap-booking and crafts to our creative crew. Drew and Missy settled some scores in our annual Amigo Water Fight. I am not certain who won that one. Everyone got WET!

Amigo Staff introduced us to Shrinky Dinks. That was a HUGE success! I must make mention of everyone's favorite part, of course involving food, Popcorn cooked over a campfire complete with Amigo Staff songs. Such an incredibly dedicated, wonderful staff they are!





Arthur and Bill sang beautifully and the talent abounded...and I mean abounded! Sammy sang and plucked his Ukulele, Emily and Heather danced, staff serenaded the audience, we even have a stand-up comedienne! What talent MDC Goldenrod and our community members possess!



Campers made their own instruments out of recycled household items and crafting supplies. They made tambourines, shakers, rain-sticks, microphones, guitars and drums. Kris takes the cake when it came to crafting his guitar out of paper plates, paint sticks pipe cleaners and string. The creativity and artsy skills that our members embody is both incredible and humbling! What joyful sounds ensued! I felt truly blessed to have experienced such a time.

I had been gifted a moment to sneak away and rest. The trails in the woods are captivating, so I wandered off. I chose where I would rest. I set my Bible down in the stones at the start of the pier and practically galloped to the edge. I kicked off my sandals and dipped my feet into the ice cold lake. I shrieked in delight, and chill. I felt such an overwhelming urge to cry out in praise and thanksgiving to God for all the He allowed me to witness at Camp Amigo. My head swam with praises and shouts of joy until God admonished me and said "Stop. Hush. Listen." I stopped. I paused and breathed. In the distance, I heard faint

laughter, what a joyful noise. I heard friends encouraging one another on a stroll through the woods, a joyful sound. Songs of praise wafted in the air, beautiful. I heard God speak in singing birds, wind dancing through the leaves, and crashing waves on the side of the pier. Oh, how joyful it was to my ear. I turned around to head back to our group when I saw my Bible at the start of my path. *"Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path."* Oh, I must share this moment! God said again, "Hush." Peace enveloped me and I remembered a familiar song from my youth: *I love you, Lord. And I lift my voice, to worship You, oh, my soul rejoice. Take joy, my King, in what You hear. May it be a sweet, sweet song in Your ear.* This was my joyful noise to my Lord. When I returned to the group, completely renewed, I was privileged to share this and we sang together. What a quiet and beautiful moment!

Each year we set aside this time to experience what God has for us in nature and in our relationships with friends. But, it became very obvious to me that in everyday life, we need to stop, listen, and respond to what joy we have surrounding us. What do you experience? Kids giggling? Dogs barking? Birds singing? Babies cooing? Friends chatting over coffee? Music? Crickets? Frogs? A lonesome train whistle? Take the time to stop and absorb God's favor upon us and then return joyful praise to Him for the abundance of joy He gives.

Kimmie Trethewey, Activities Coordinator



Adopt a House

Can you use a paintbrush? Hammer a nail? Weed a flower bed? If so, we need your help! We are asking church families to consider "adopting" an MDC Goldenrod residence and assist with upkeep and maintenance. If this is something your Sunday School class, Bible Study group, or Small Group would be interested in, give us a call.

Volunteer

Share your time, energy, skills and talents and get to know MDC Goldenrod community members!

Visit our website: www.mdcgoldenrod.org to find a copy of our volunteer application or call our office 574-533-9720 to find out about current volunteer opportunities.

Getting to Know Greg! Director of Outreach and Development

Greg Leatherman Sommers comes from a family of builders, church leaders, and financial managers. He holds a master's degree in public administration from the University of South Carolina, a bachelor's degree in Bible/religion from Goshen College, and a two year degree in sign language interpreting from Spartanburg (SC) Tech. His professional career started while in Mennonite Voluntary Service in Chicago and has been focused on nonprofit management and administration since then.

After serving five years as Administrator of Warwick River Christian School in Newport News, Virginia, Greg and his family moved back home to Goshen where he became Conference Administrator of the Indiana-Michigan Mennonite Conference in 2010.

Greg serves on the Coordinating Council of North Goshen Mennonite Church, serves as a mentor, and performs regularly with GoProv, a local improv group. Greg and his wife Sue live just a few blocks from MDC Goldenrod's office with their two children, a dog and two cats. They are members of North Goshen Mennonite Church.



Donate

Make a gift, change a life! The work of MDC Goldenrod is about caring for people. This work depends heavily on donations and gifts of support.

Single handedly you can provide hope!

Together we can create a community of joy and support!

Mail in your gift or call the office to find out how best to support the MDC Community.



Mark Your Calendar!

Disability Awareness Day at the Elkhart County 4H Fair—July 27

South Bend Cubs Game—August 8 @ 7:05pm

Kimmie Trethewey, Activities Coordinator for MDC Goldenrod is working on an activity calendar for Community Member monthly activities. Keep an eye out for updates!

If you would like more information regarding MDC Goldenrod and the wonderful work we do, please send a request to info@mdcgoldenrod.org



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www.mdcgoldenrod.org

From the Board of Directors

Wrapping Up Fiscal Year 2015

We are approaching the end of the 2015 fiscal year. It was a busy year with CARF accreditation, finding an interim Executive Director, hiring a permanent Executive Director and working to improve our services to the MDC Community. Thank you to all who supported us in so many ways through our transitions.

As a board, we are encouraged by changes made in 2015 and see great potential for 2016. We are finding ways to improve staffing and staff satisfaction and ways to improve and expand our services. Some of our current properties are aging and in need of more extensive maintenance over the next several years. We will begin a process of strategic planning to guide our decisions now and in the next several years. As a board, we want input from our community members, our supporters and all interested in the future of MDC Goldenrod. Please let us know your ideas, your concerns, your suggestions for possible board members and your vision for the future of MDC Goldenrod.

Mary Graber, Board Chair

MDC Goldenrod Community Needs

- Woodchips (for landscaping)
- Bicycle Rack (for locking bikes on campus)
- Picnic Tables
- MM SLR digital camera - standard and zoom lenses
- 4-door fuel-efficient car
- Mini van
- Funds for lift installation at the Middlebury Campus
- Funds for paving the road at the Middlebury Campus
- Volunteers for landscaping work

Contact our office at 574-533-9720 to make a donation. Thank you !