

2018 – THE YEAR IN REVIEW

In January, the newly elected officers – Jim Sovacool (President), Jon Reiman (Vice-president), Larry Furman (Secretary) & Margie Sovacool (Secretary) -- assumed their duties. As a result of changes to the Bylaws made the year before, the officers and board members began for the first time serving two-year terms. According to the same Bylaws revision, the FoCC board added two at-large positions to which Diane Wendelken and Barb Hertrick were elected. The year got off to a fine start when a donation of \$10,000 was approved at the Membership meeting and presented to Catholic Charities for Camp Christopher's Campership Fund. The generosity of our members made this possible and underscores the importance of January's Annual Mailing Campaign. Through the Membership Committee's work, 405 solicitation letters were mailed to our Camp Friends.

Friends of Camp Christopher is sustained and enriched through the volunteer hours given by its members. Volunteer Committee Chair Phyllis Richardson would monitor more than 2,000 hours given in service of our mission over the course of the year. Under President Sovacool's leadership, board members and officers looked beyond the organization to the needs of the greater community. On February 17th, during the Winter Camp weekend, FoCC members donated their personal time and dollars, reporting to Camp to make 200 lunches for the Akron Snow Angels and distribute them to Akron's homeless the next day.

Spring of 2018 marked the 6th anniversary of FoCC. The ongoing donations made by members through the years, particularly through memorials in honor of departed friends, reached a point allowing the organization to open an endowment fund with Huntington Bank in the amount of \$10, 543.00. This restricted fund is the first step in developing a steady revenue source for future camperships. Spring also saw the completion of renovations to Cabin James Gibbons, a project to which FoCC happily contributed \$5,000.00.

The Resident Camp season unfolded with an FoCC presence. Staff Support Committee Chair Libby Thomas made sure that staff members from all the Christopher programs enjoyed edible treats as a token of our appreciation. Membership Chair Michelle Dolensky, with her team of volunteers, oversaw our FoCC hospitality table on Registration Sundays where cold water, information packets and our signature tees proclaimed that our organization was indeed part of the Camp Community. And in July, the final touches of the Adopt A Brick Project were put into place as a protective coating was added to the brick surfaces of our new flagpole area. The flagpole site was funded entirely by this two-year project which raised \$21,400.

Our final farewell to summer was our 5th Annual FoCC Dinner/Reverse Raffle. The primary fundraising event for our organization, once again helmed by Committee Chair Patti Longville, was another successful blend of fellowship, food and arm-twisting which netted \$6,230.00 in contributions to our cause.

The year ended in a strong look forward to 2019. At our November General Membership meeting, Ways & Means Chair Janet Corey helped open the door to a fundraising source already out there in the free market: AmazonSmile. Online purchases made through this venue can return a donation to FoCC of a half cent on every dollar, a modest return to the FoCC treasury with no expense nor risk to our organization. Now with fellow Amazon customers, we can truly shop as Friends!