

Friends of Camp Christopher 2020 Year In Review

(friendsofcampchristopher.org)



2020, a year in which Friends of Camp Christopher celebrated turning eight, began with optimism as we met at Camp on February 8th. The highlight of business that day was Jim Sovacool's presentation to Camp Christopher of a pledge to the Campership Fund of \$15,000.00. Our continuous ability to assist Camp in this way would not be possible without the giving spirit of members like you. When official business was over, FoCC officers and Board members became volunteers as they assembled lunches for the 3rd straight year for the Akron Snow Angels program for the homeless.

We know too well how the Covid-19 pandemic brought abrupt changes to our lives, ending in-person social functions. By March, shutdowns of schools, businesses, sports events, and religious gatherings were imminent. Camp Christopher wondered if there would be any sort of season at all. Kudos to our Ways&Means Committee for organizing our fundraiser, Dining for Dollars with City Bar-B-Que, netting \$481 just before the shutdown curtain fell.

As significant as the Covid crisis for FoCC was the death, on July 25th, of our president Jim "Suave" Sovacool, his tired body finally giving out after years of assault by cancer. In the limited time he had, Suave made the future success of FoCC a bucket list item. We who were blessed by his leadership, particularly his successor Jerry Antonucci, vow to carry on in his spirit of "peace, love & daisies."

We salute Camp Christopher for successfully running a 6-week enhanced Day Camp program, providing some 600 campers with an incredible, virus-free experience. The limited season presented the opportunity for a number of volunteer projects to enhance the grounds. FoCC calculates 1,880 volunteer hours from various friends, including member (and newly named vice-president) Kitt Kurtz who spent many hours improving camp's flower beds.

The 7th annual Dinner & Reverse Raffle morphed into a Pandemic Reverse Raffle & Online Auction. The traditional 100 tickets were sold for cash prizes along with the chance to bid on artist Tom Mayer's donated painting, "Old Man's Cabin." Our socially challenged event came to a successful conclusion on Thursday September 17, when a properly-distanced Reverse Raffle Chair Patti Longville, with several stalwart committee members, met at Day Camp to draw ten winners of a total of \$2,500 in cash prizes. Congratulations to top winner Lindsey Coombs (\$1,000) and to our auction winner, Dr. Joe Clark, whose generous \$600 bid netted the artwork. Totals in ticket sales, donations and the auction helped FoCC raise \$3,471.88!

Like many organizations, FoCC turned to Zoom meetings in the 2nd half of 2020 to conduct business – no small feat for a group of September Song age-appropriate seniors! As we deal with the challenges of these unique times, we hope you will continue to be with us from a distance as we, inspired by the no-quit attitude of Jim Sovacool, soldier on to do our best in the coming year.

