

2022 Year In Review



President: Jerry Antonucci, Vice-President: Kitt Kurtz, Treasurer: Larry Furman, Secretary: Barb Hertrick. This foursome led Friends of Camp Christopher into an active year of service and support for a program eager to open its gates to the public after two years of covid-restricted seasons. The February General Membership Meeting continued the recent trend to hold in-person meetings at Camp along with the Zoom option for those wanting to join us online. FoCC was celebrating its 10th anniversary and wanted to have an event at Camp to welcome generous supporters who have made us so successful. Camp Christopher wanted to host a memorial to those members of our Camp family lost during the pandemic, a situation that prevented the usual gatherings so important for closure. Camp brass reached out and said, “Why not do these two events together?”

The Memorial Day weekend “Gathering of Friends” on May 28 was a typical Camp cookout gathering with lots of activities culminating in Fr. Frank Basa’s celebration of the Mass of the Ascension on the courts. (pictured below). As the liturgy ended, the names of 50 of our recently departed friends were read aloud before a moving butterfly release that made the grateful gathering look to the heavens. Ways & Means Chair Chris Miller introduced two souvenir magnets (pictured above) to our modest merchandise inventory for this event.

In addition to the \$20,000 donated to the summer’s Campership program, FoCC was active in staff support through the long summer season. Staff Support committee chairs Margie and Bernadette Sovacool and Mary Truax, former counselors themselves, were happy to provide a number of edible moments of support throughout the season, spending more than \$1,600 to underline our appreciation of Christopher staff. During the summer season, member Jon Reiman repeated his birthday fundraising for FoCC in memory of his grandmother Betty Blair (a Christopher Family Camp legend!), raising \$870 via his Facebook page.

Another successful Reverse Raffle Campaign under Chairperson Patti Longville netted \$5,681.52. Along with the cash prizes, we once again held an online auction for another original Tom Mayer painting, “Mummy Cave”, as well as selling tickets for a Browns game donated again by Joe & Bernadette Sovacool.

It’s hard putting a dollar value on the hours that members and friends of FoCC give without remuneration. Volunteer Committee Chair Phyllis Richardson figures our corps of board members, officers and friends have put in 2,827 of volunteer hours in 2022 to support Camp directly and indirectly. If the average rate for hourly help is currently about \$27.00 per hour, that’s equal to more than \$76,000 worth of value so selflessly given to the cause. Thank you, Friends! Hope to see many of you in 2023 when we return to an in-person Dinner Reverse Raffle!



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