

2023 Year In Review

Friends of Camp Christopher supports the ministry of Camp by providing funding for camperships, staff support, and camp facility enhancements through volunteering, fundraising and donations.

2023 was a satisfying season of fundraising and support for Camp Christopher's campers, staff, and programs. As our 12-year-old organization continues to grow and mature, we saw the need to take some important steps. One of these was to create a formal mission statement, an accomplishment directed by VP Kitt Kurtz and proudly displayed above. Another important growth step was to formally align with the Akron Community



Foundation to establish a Friends of Camp Christopher Endowment Fund. As we put your generous donations to work each year in service of Camp Christopher, we felt it important to secure some of those sizeable memorial donations in a long-term fund that will allow another source of financial growth and stability for FoCC. The Akron Community Foundation has an impressive record for assisting non-profit organizations like ours. At its suggestion, FoCC has also voted to purchase a liability insurance policy as a necessary safeguard for our operations.

The evolution of The Staff Support Committee has been fun to watch. The relatively new committee, while singing the praises of our campership support each season, knows how important staff morale is to a successful summer. This past season, FoCC committee members Margie & Bernadette Sovacool along with Mary Truax made weekly incursions into Resident and Day Camp and the SumFun program with edible, tasty pick-me-ups that Christopher staff appreciated deeply.



After a four-year hiatus, it was exhilarating to add Dinner to our annual Reverse Raffle fundraiser. The return to an in-person event was greatly enjoyed by 100 Friends who gathered on September 21st at Guy's Party Center in Akron. Chairperson Patti Longville and her great crew of volunteers were once again overwhelmed by the generosity of not only those present, but also of the many donors to the event who could not be physically with us. When the dust settled and all expenses were accounted for, the evening was a fundraising success to the tune of \$7,900.00!

In our year-ending biennial election, FoCC was blessed to have our current leadership team: Kitt Kurtz (Vice-president), Jerry Antonucci (President), Larry Furman (Treasurer) & Michele Dolensky (Secretary) re-elected to serve in 2024-2025. Membership also elected Jeanne McGuire and Mary Truax as at-large Board Members. Congratulations to these newly designated leaders and thanks for your willingness to pilot the good ship FoCC!



Our organization is nothing without the volunteer help that is so abundantly and generously donated by our members and others eager to lend a hand. 75 students from Kenston Middle School performing cleanup tasks and Immaculate Heart of Mary parishioners bringing their community service to Bath, Ohio, are just two examples of the volunteer forces who selflessly gave 2,617 hours to Camp.

And our year's end reflection always must include our deep appreciation for the generous support of members like you! Thank you!

