

# Camp Harmattan

**We've had a great summer and want to tell you all about it!**

*Day camps being offered at Camp Harmattan. No overnight camps being allowed in Canada. Family Camp with parking available. Face shields and masks being worn by staff. The multiplex and other indoor spaces not open to the public. All rental groups cancelling.*

Who would have believed any of those statements when we started 2020? As with all of you who are reading this, this year has not been what any of us could have expected or even planned for. In spite of this, any time that we partner with what God is up to in the world, we can experience a silver lining in any and all situations. God's economy is certainly not our economy.

This summer, Camp Harmattan has continued to have a role to play in the lives of the children, students and families that are connected to it. We have even seen many new connections to the community that makes Harmattan what it is. God is still providing new opportunities in the midst of a season that seems void of opportunities.

This summer's program saw us run 10 days of day camps and we received over 350 registrations! Many of our campers loved it so much they came back for 4, 5, and even 7 times. The commitment of parents, church sponsors and others to drive their child(ren) out to camp is something that we are beyond thankful for. The opportunity to have kids on site as well as to hear the sounds of children playing camp games is something that we will cherish from this season of camp. We also provided a week-long camp style programming on our youtube channel to include some of the children and students who were unable to attend camp this year because of distance or other external factors.

The overnight camping community in Canada has been ravished by the COVID-19 pandemic. There are reports that over 1000 overnight camps will not be able to operate coming out of this season with many other camps laying off 95% of their workforce this fall to try and survive into next year. Many of these camps who have made this decision are working

## WALK-A-THON

See page 2 for details!

## GIVING

Please see our website to give. For more information see page 2.

## CASUAL CAMPING

See page 4 for more details.

## SUMMER CAMP UPDATE

See page 3 for details!



to figure out if they can even open for the 2021 season when they will have an entire staff that they have to rebuild to even have a hope of salvaging next year's camp season.

We have adjusted our operating budget to just under \$525K. Many of these costs are fixed costs that are non negotiable such as insurance premiums, infrastructure, facility costs, and staff costs. We have been able to secure some funds from government subsidies, casual camping, and day camp registrations but these amounts are not enough income to sustain us for an entire year. To put our income picture in perspective, the months of June, July and August usually bring in 60% of our entire total income for the year. We have lost \$125K in rentals and \$125K in registrations with being unable to offer overnight camping as we have each year. This year's summer staff team was our smallest team with 6 students being hired to work for 7 weeks at Camp Harmattan. We represented a lean yet strong team this summer.

We are grateful for our monthly Canada Helps and mail-in cheque givers. This group of almost 80 people contribute \$6500 consistently each month. These consistent gifts are something that has been able to sustain us in the off-season of camp and is truly a foundation that we can build towards in the future. Thank you – thank you – thank you!

Our fall and winter fundraising goal is \$150K which is an ambitious goal for us and yet it is very attainable. This amount will enable us to continue to do the maintenance required this fall, and more importantly plan for a truly epic summer in 2021. We know that this will involve many sacrifices from our Harmattan community and ourselves. The community has always risen up in times of physical crisis and although this is not a crisis like we have seen before, we know our community can and will respond. If you are looking for ways to give – you can search for us on Canada Helps or contact the camp office to find other ways to give. Please know that your support is  
*(continued on page 4)*

## DAY CAMP/MICRO FAMILY ADVENTURE RECAP!



When the green light came to create a summer program that would fit both the needs and the necessary restrictions for health and social distancing our team jumped into rapped action! We were hopeful and yet also uncertain as to whether families and campers would appreciate what we offered. Now, looking back over our July, with our Day Camps and Micro Family Adventure completed for this 2020 season we can joyfully and confidently say we made the right choice! Kids had a blast, old camp friends were reacquainted, new friends were made, Jesus was proclaimed, and kids were reminded that Camp Harmattan is a place for them to be loved, encouraged, and invited to walk with Jesus.

Our theme verse for all three Day Camps was Zephaniah 3:17 from the NLT:

"For the Lord your God is living among you.  
He is a mighty saviour.  
He will take delight in you with gladness.  
With his love, he will calm all your fears.  
He will rejoice over you with joyful songs."

Day 1 was themed around science. We learned that Jesus is our 'Mighty Saviour' and that while science is amazing and powerful, it doesn't come close to the power of Jesus.

Day 2 was themed around art. We learned that Jesus knows us and 'takes delight in us with gladness'. Every artist loves their masterpieces and God made us - we are his masterpiece.

Day 3 was themed around discovery. We learned that Jesus is our guide and that he 'is living among us'. If we learn to look for God's fingerprints in creation, in scripture, and in lives we will discover that He is always guiding us.

Our Mirco Family Adventure was an intimate camping experience with a set amount of families. There was worship, interactive learning, and classic Kids Camp activities. It was the perfect experience for new families to build intentional relationships with others and the extended Camp Harmattan community to try new things!

To all those families who joined us this past July - thank you for helping make our summer a success.

Trent McDowell

(continued from page 2) truly a gift to us and the many children and students that we serve each year. We will keep you updated throughout the fall on our progress towards this goal.

Finally, there is a simple and exciting way to help us raise funds for Camp Harmattan this summer. On Saturday, August 22 we will be holding our first ever Camp Harmattan walk-a-thon which will be a 2 km, 5 km or 10km walk or race on the grounds of Camp Harmattan. You can raise money as an individual or as a team. Come join us for a weekend of fun!

Thanks for your prayers and financial support – we couldn't accomplish what we do without you!

- Matt Wilks

## Harmattan Apparel



This summer we are thrilled to offer two beautiful apparel designs. These designs are created to evoke a sense of connection and community. The 'Harmattan Family' has long enjoyed moments of celebration, revival, and connection on these grounds.

The funds raised through this campaign will be utilized to continue to build upon the legacy of Camp Harmattan and help ensure that children and their families will be able to attend the various camps that happen on the grounds regardless of their economic status.



## Casual Camping

Camp Harmattan has been open for Casual Camping since mid May. It has been a joy to see many of you take part in casual camping this summer! Our camping season will end on Monday, October 12, 2020. If you would like to come camping please visit our website and book under casual camping. We cannot accept any "walk-on" campers.

If you enjoyed our August long weekend Special Event Camping, or you heard great things- you are in luck! We are excited to host another Special Event Camping long weekend on September 4-7! We will have cinnamon buns for sale, physical distancing church on Sunday morning and the Ice Cream Shack and Coffee Cabin will also be open for limited hours during this time! The multiplex bathrooms will be open if we have 35 sites booked for the weekend. You will need to book your ticket online and the sites will be first come first serve. There will only be a full weekend package available.

## **Camp Harmattan Walk-A-Thon**

We are excited to host our first ever Harmattan Walk-a-thon! We are looking for walkers, runners and everyone in-between that are willing to join us as we fundraise for Camp Harmattan on Saturday August 22nd. There will be a 2km, 5km, and 10km option. All proceeds will go to helping fund kids camps! Would you consider joining us?

Our goal is to raise \$10,000! We know this is a big goal but we also know that when community bands together, amazing things can happen! You can set up your personal page for your friends and family to support you, visit our website for more details. Just think- if 50 people raised \$200 each, we would meet our goal! Camping at Harmattan for the weekend will be free for those who are registered to participate on the 22nd. We will also be providing lunch for all of our participants. We hope to see you out!

## **Ohana Update**

This summer we hosted a one day mini Ohana camp. This day looked different than our normal Ohana camp but we saw many silver linings and were happy to offer the day for the moms and kids that attended. Six moms and 15 children were able to attend; they needed to be able to drive themselves out because we could not provide transportation for them this year.

## **From our board chairman Keith...**

This has been, and continues to be an interesting year. Who would have thought that a small bit of protein, in a special configuration, could bring the world to its knees as has been the case in 2020. Certainly we were not prepared to run camps in the manner we have, however we have been delighted with our management and staff and the efforts they have put forward to be sure we have delivered the best possible product with-in tight parameters. As you can no doubt imagine even with these efforts it has been difficult to replace the revenue usually generated over this time period. With that in mind, and knowing the shortfalls this pandemic has caused in many areas including Camp Harmattan, your continued support is appreciated and coveted.

On Behalf of the Board,

Keith Brower  
Chairman