



Camp Fire USA
RIVER BEND COUNCIL

2009 Annual Report





**"Camp is my
piece of heaven
here on earth."**

- Kristin, parent

River Bend Camp Fire is creating new experiences for the youth of our community. All of our programs are co-ed, youth-oriented, and inclusive. Our kids develop the self-reliance and confidence that comes from exploration and creation. We teach youth about community and how they can make the world a better place. For over 80 years, River Bend Camp Fire has given thousands of kids an opportunity to grow.

National

Camp Fire USA is one of the nation's leading not-for-profit youth development organizations, currently serving nearly 750,000 children and youth annually. Camp Fire USA, with national headquarters in Kansas City, Mo., provides all-inclusive, coeducational programs in hundreds of communities across the United States. Founded in 1910, Camp Fire USA's outcome-based programs include youth leadership, self-reliance, after school groups, camping and environmental education and child care.

*Today's kids.
Tomorrow's leaders.*

A Camp Fire Story

Last summer, DeQuarius came to Camp Tannadoonah on financial assistance. His large family did not have the funds to pay for him, so two of his teachers pitched in to pay for his week at camp. On the first day, we learned that he was not only unable to pass the required swim test, he was terrified by the lake. In one of the hottest weeks of the summer, he refused to get into the water. Throughout the week, working with our talented counselors, he gradually grew more comfortable with the water - first dipping his toes in, next standing up to his knees, and eventually dunking his whole head. On the last day of swim lessons, with the help of his counselors and newfound friends, he jumped off the diving board into the deep water. The thrill and pride he felt was evident. This wasn't just a victory for DeQuarius, it was a victory for us all.



*2009 Board of Directors**

President	Chas Grundy
Vice President	Maureen Koscielski
Treasurer	Bret Robertson
Secretary	Marty McKiernan

Members-at-Large: Joe Bellina, Jim Dominello, John Engel, Glenn Geiser, Patti Russwurm, Ani Johnson (Youth Representative)

* As of December 31, 2009

Council Staff

Executive Director	Jenny Ogg (April-October)
Camp Tannadoonah Director	Amber Grundy, Ph.D.
Club Director	Peggy Laskowski
Camp Tawanchi Director	Morgan Brown (May-August)
Bookkeeper	Stacy Koebel-Harder, C.P.A.
Office Manager	Linda Makielski (May-September)

President's Letter

As each year passes, we often breathe a sigh of relief for what we have survived, of satisfaction for what we have accomplished, and of optimism for what will come. This past year brought many changes to our council, and with them, many lessons learned. Through adversity, we found clarity in our mission and managed not only to persist in a tumultuous economic environment, but we continued to serve and provide a wonderful experience to our youth.

As a council, we made significant progress toward improving our own operations through strategic planning, finance, and marketing. We accomplished much in 2009:

- ❖ We completed our multi-year campaign to build the Murphy Memorial Sports Complex, finishing the tennis courts, building a new equipment shed, and constructing a memorial wall to mark the more than three decades of service that Jo Murphy gave to Camp Fire and Camp Tannadoonah.
- ❖ We hosted the Camp Fire Hog Roast to acknowledge and thank our supporters, bringing over 150 friends, volunteers, and donors together to celebrate.
- ❖ The council moved to a new office in Mishawaka, providing a safer environment and better resources for council operations.
- ❖ In September, we held our inaugural Fall Dinner where we honored Maureen Koscielski for her generosity and unwavering dedication to our council in some of our most difficult years.

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Most importantly, we made a difference. There are many stories and memories from this year of how a life was changed for the better. We donated 19 of our camperships to *Camps 4 Champs* to benefit homeless youth. An autistic camper overcame his fears and built the confidence to stay away from home for a whole week. And we hear from DeQuarius's teacher that he has been working extra chores and saving up to come to camp again next summer.

In 2010, we will celebrate the Camp Fire USA centennial. Anniversaries are an opportunity to reflect on our past and acknowledge all the hard work and contributions that have brought us to where we are today. But anniversaries are also a chance to look forward to how we will continue our mission and prepare for another year, another decade, and another century of building caring, confident youth and future leaders.

Chas Grundy

President, Board of Directors



Camp Tannadoonah



Our resident camp is a traditional overnight camp, set in a wooded area along the shores of beautiful Birch Lake in southwestern Michigan. Camping activities for boys and girls include sailing, swimming, archery, games, and lots of outdoor enjoyment. We provided 66 full or partial camperships, and had a 65% camper retention rate from 2008.

Director's Note

Some of our most popular activities this year were new ones: fishing, advanced nature, and the expanded Iron Chefs program. I am particularly proud of how many campers and counselors choose to return year after year. And for the first time since I was a camper many years ago, we had a waiting list for a week at camp.

	2007	2008	2009	
Campers	351	459	451	↓ 1.8%



Camp Tawanchi

Located in the heart of Mishawaka in beautiful Merrifield Park, our day camp provides supervised summer activities and games, including archery, swimming, crafts, and more.

Director's Note

Camp Tawanchi was pleased to have the three Rendall brothers, Josh, Matt and Jacob, return as staff for their second summer. They spent many summers, along with their sister, as kids enjoying Camp Tawanchi. It says a lot about Tawanchi that our campers come back and want to work as counselors.

	2007	2008	2009	
Campers	254	303	265	↓ 13.6%



Camp Fire Club

9 Leaders

36 Youth

6 Club Groups

The Club group program brings families and communities together in youth development, service projects and fun family events. This year the kids volunteered their time for the Fun at the Res event, Service at Tannadoonah, Fun Run, Goodwill Doll Project, Zoo Boo, Valentines for Vets, made hats for the Christ Child Society, and Breakfast with Santa. They enjoyed spring and fall group camp at Tannadoonah, Bowling, Car Wash, Pizza Sale, National Art Competition, and the Grand Council Fire.



Director's Note

I have really enjoyed watching the Saint Joseph School, Mishawaka Club group grow and do such wonderful things the past few years. They set ambitious goals and reach them, participate in nearly all of the council activities, and are always willing to give a helping hand. They are everything that Camp Fire stands for!

Camp Fire USA River Bend Council

Balance Sheet, December 31, 2009

ASSETS

Cash

Petty Cash	\$	50.00
Checking		1,321.53
Savings		378.32
Restricted		15,000.00
Investments		425.74

Inventory 3,441.24

Fixed Assets 119,449.98

TOTAL ASSETS \$ 140,066.81

LIABILITIES AND EQUITY

Accounts Payable 40,069.33

Payroll Liabilities 342.53

Accrued Retirement 16,371.98

Loan 26,569.72

Line of Credit Land Sale 30,000.00

Promissory Note 8,000.00

Total Liabilities \$ 121,353.56

Retained Earnings 37,530.92

Opening Balance Equity 10,488.70

Net Income (29,306.37)

Total Equity \$ 18,713.25

TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY \$ 140,066.81



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