



Camp Fire

Light the fire within



2013 Annual Report



**[At camp] I am
surrounded by
friends to help me
no matter what**

- Camper



**Camp makes me
more confident.**

- Camper

**She always feels
surrounded
by people who
are kind and
accepting of
differences**

- Parent

**He is most
authentically
himself when at
camp. He matured
and gained so
much confidence.**

- Parent

Our Promise

Young people want to shape the world. Camp Fire provides the opportunity to find their spark, lift their voice, and discover who they are. In Camp Fire, it begins *now*. Light the fire within.

Our Council

Camp Fire River Bend 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 90 years, Camp Fire River Bend has given thousands of kids an opportunity to grow.

National

Camp Fire is one of the nation's leading not-for-profit youth development organizations, serving nearly 750,000 children and youth annually. Camp Fire National Headquarters in Kansas City, Mo., provides all-inclusive, coeducational programs across the United States. Camp Fire's outcome-based programs include youth leadership, after school groups, camping, environmental education, and child care.

*In Camp Fire,
it begins NOW.*

President's Report

Camp Fire River Bend has been like a phoenix rising from the ashes: part by part coming back to life looking a lot like the good ol' days, but revitalized and responsive to the needs of children and families of this time. We are embracing business practices that the nonprofit culture of today supports, and being good stewards of the assets we hold.

In March of this year, Bret Robertson passed the honor of Chair of the Board of Directors to me. Under his watch, he, along with the Executive Director, Amber Grundy, the board of directors, committee members, donors, and volunteers, continued the process of strengthening programs, camp operations, facility standards, and council operations. The programs and operations of the camp are running smoothly and finances are stable.

As we strategized the next steps for the council, we sought input from donors, parents of campers, our Birch Lake neighbors, staff members, volunteers, and a variety of professional contractors and landscapers. We also had a benchmark study completed by IUSB, all to help us understand what needs to be done with the facilities to ensure growth and sustainability for the future.

Our focus this coming year will be to align the quality of the facilities with the quality of the programming, to continue to refine the operations of the board and committees, to engage support from the community both private and corporate sectors, and to increase the number of children and families benefiting from our programs. In this process, our goal is to build strong relationships to help support, guide, and sustain this awesome service for many years to come.

Thank you to Bret Robertson as well as Rich Mullin, former Finance Chair for your service to the council. And on behalf of the board, thank you to all who have supported Camp Fire River Bend and Camp Tannadoonah. Get ready, we are just getting started...there is so much excitement ahead.

Maureen Koscielski

Board President

Board Officers

President	Maureen Koscielski
Vice President	Bret Robertson
Treasurer	Rich Mullin
Secretary	Neil Waechter

Council Staff

Executive Director	Amber Grundy, Ph.D.
Camp Tannadoonah Director	Amber Grundy, Ph.D.
Club Program Director	Peggy Laskowski

Members at Large

Joe Bellina	Cindi Boesler	Diane Coiro	Glenn Geiser
Chas Grundy	Bill Karban	Cindy Krupp	Tony Laskowski
Patti Russwurm	Andy Wesdorp	Sue Williams	



Executive Director's Report

This year we continued our efforts to strengthen our council, and raise the bar in terms of the programming we are offering, as well as the facilities at Camp Tannadoonah. We also worked to further develop our school-year activities and club groups.

We had over 600 youth and parents who participated in our activities throughout the school year, including the traditional club program, a harvest party, bowling outing, craft workshop, weekend camping trips, service projects, and our annual Fun Run and Fun Fair. In the coming year, we will be starting a Camp Fire teen program, in order to get more youth input on program development, and to provide more opportunities to give service in the community.

At camp this year we added many new programs and activities for campers, and made a number of important facilities improvements. Our iconic waterfront stairs were completely rebuilt in the spring, we finished the shower house floor with a colorful acrylic coating, installed all new toilets in the shower house, put new roofs on several cabins, built a Gaga Pit, moved the archery range, and got a beautiful new front entrance sign and gate. We also purchased 6 paddleboards for the waterfront, with help from a grant from PaddleNation.

Although our camp numbers were down slightly from last year, it was still one of the three highest attendance figures over the past 20 years at camp, with 635 total campers. We are thrilled with the ongoing growth of our summer camp programming. We were also able to provide \$22,000 in campership funding to 77 campers throughout the summer. We continued our partnership with Beardsley Elementary School in Elkhart, bringing 23 youth from that school to camp through the campership program.

This year was a special year at Camp Tannadoonah. Every five years we celebrate the Patteran, a tradition dating back to 1940. During Patteran years, the last week of camp is always Gypsy Week. Throughout the week, the campers learn special Gypsy songs, tie-dye bandanas with their cabin, and get clues to the location of the Patteran. On Thursday night, we went on a treasure hunt and dug up the Patteran, which was buried in a secret location at Camp Tannadoonah. Inside the jar are scrolls containing information about what camp was like in the past, and the names of campers who attended camp during Patteran weeks in the past. We had a great time finding the names of the parents, grandparents, and other relatives and friends of our current campers and staff!

We are very grateful to the tremendous volunteers we have, who help us make it possible to offer such high quality programming to our youth. This summer at camp we had more than 30 people who volunteered a week or more of their time to lead programs. During the school year we have countless individuals who volunteer to lead club groups, help at events, and serve on our board and committees. Thank you all for your time and efforts to help River Bend Camp Fire *light the fire within.*

Amber M. Grundy, Ph.D.
Executive Director





CAMP TANNADOONAH

We love that they are led by some really wonderful young role models.

- Parent

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, nature, drama, sports, games, and lots of outdoor enjoyment.

Director's Note

2013 was a fantastic summer at Camp Tannadoonah! We had one of our best staffs ever, and that really makes a difference for the campers. We added a number of great new activities, including Stand up Paddle Boarding, Geocaching, Glee!, Flag Football, and Gaga Ball. Our wonderful crew of volunteers continue to make it possible for us to develop great new programs to offer to our campers!

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Total Campers	459	451	571	647	706	635
Unique Campers	352	391	457	483	528	479
Campership Awards	\$14,362	\$12,007	\$23,703	\$25,767	\$22,150	\$22,000

School Year Activities

Activity	Youth	Adults
4 Club Groups	40	9
Goodwill Dolls	22	4
Fall Camp / Family Camp	26	20
Harvest Party	18	12
Camp Work Days	14	9
Craft Workshop	26	21
Valentines for Vets	22	7
Bowling	21	21
Fun Fair	200	100
Fun Run	15	18
Spring Group Camp	11	13

Our school-year activities bring families and communities together in youth development, service projects, and fun family events. Our Club groups meet monthly or bi-monthly with their leaders, as well as doing service projects and monthly activities arranged by the council.



Director's Note

Our numbers may seem small, but the excitement that the kids show at the group meetings and family events is huge! This year, our kids kept busy with service projects. They cleaned and dressed 48 dolls for the Goodwill Doll project, made 230 Valentines for the Valentines for Vets project, participated in a camp work day, went caroling at a nursing home, and raised over \$1,800 for the Council at our Fun Run.

We also had fun at our monthly family events, including the Harvest Party, Craft Workshop, a bowling outing at Strikes and Spares, the Fun Fair, Outdoor Progression Training, Spring Group Camp, and our Grand Council Fire Celebration. We had over 600 total participants in our school-year activities this year! And our Fun Fair in February raised nearly \$2,000 for the Council.

Peggy Laskowski

School Year Programs Director



*Camp Fire River Bend***Balance Sheet, September 30, 2013****ASSETS**

Cash		
Petty Cash	\$	25.00
Checking		198,552.56
Temporarily Restricted		2,650.00
Undeposited Funds		855.00
Accounts Receivable		1,850.50
Fixed Assets		144,354.62
TOTAL ASSETS	\$	<u>348,287.68</u>

LIABILITIES AND EQUITY

Accounts Payable		-266.41
Unearned Revenue		2,759.00
Payroll Liabilities		1,439.58
Accrued Retirement Benefit		20.00
Total Liabilities	\$	3,952.17
Retained Earnings		339,252.77
Net Income		5,082.74
Total Equity	\$	<u>344,335.51</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	\$	<u>348,287.68</u>

Camp Fire River Bend

Income Statement, October 1, 2012 through September 30, 2013

Revenue

Donations - Restricted (Facilities and Equipment)	\$	14,500
Donations - Restricted (Program Support)	\$	24,500
Donations - Unrestricted	\$	10,823
Program Fees - Net of Adjustments	\$	216,307
Merchandise Revenue	\$	18,700
Other Revenue	\$	1,882

TOTAL REVENUE	\$	<u>286,712</u>
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Expenses

Personnel - All Year and Seasonal	\$	118,810
Camp Meals and Daily Living	\$	36,316
Program Materials	\$	11,785
Camp Store Merchandise	\$	9,920
Insurance	\$	17,416
Depreciation	\$	15,529
Occupancy - Utilities	\$	14,038
Occupancy - Maintenance	\$	13,824
Occupancy - Office Rent	\$	6,960
Promotion, Outreach, and Travel	\$	11,530
Payment Processing and Bank Fees	\$	4,716
Outside Services	\$	3,441
Office Supplies	\$	2,134
Organization Dues and Memberships	\$	15,210

TOTAL EXPENSES	\$	<u>281,629</u>
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NET INCOME	\$	<u>5,083</u>
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