



Camp Fire

Light the fire within



2014 Annual Report



**Camp is my safe
place... I smiled
more in one week
at camp than i had
in the past year.**

- Camper

***I can be a different
"me" at camp than I
am at school.***

- Camper

**She had a
great learning
experience,
became more
confident, and met
new people.**

- Parent

**I love that he came
home a bit more
flexible than when
he left.**

- 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 more than 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

Since my involvement began in 2006, I have been impressed and encouraged by the number of people I meet in my daily life who have a deep felt connection to Camp Fire. They vary in age from single digit to nearly triple digit, gender, experience (camp, club, or events), context (participant, leader, volunteer, staff, Board member, vendor, donor or family member of one of the aforementioned), and location (Camp Fire experiences from Councils across the country), but commonly express that Camp Fire significantly impacted who they are today. This is true for me as well.



Camp Fire has been part of Michiana for nearly a century. Camp Fire kids today may have parents, grandparents, great-grandparents, and even great-great-grandparents who participated in the Camp Fire. Every person that has had the fortune to be part of the Camp Fire experience has ownership in the council. It does not belong to any one era, any one generation, any one Board, or any one staff. It belongs to those who have come through, those who are present, and those who will come in the future.

River Bend Council, having struggled through some trying financial difficulties in recent years, is now experiencing greater financial stability and growth in program numbers. Opportunities to expand programs throughout the Michiana area are once again a real possibility. The challenge now will be for the Council to respond to the need for growth by maturing its practices, structure, and skill sets, to guide the Council responsibly and carry the Camp Fire message forward for future generations.

Today marks the completion of my term as President and marks the end of my term on the Board. I have been honored to be associated with the members of the Board present and past, as well as the staff and numerous volunteers, but especially the kids we have served.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I thank Board members for their service to the council who left the Board during the past year: Cindi Boesler, Glenn Geiser, and Andy Wesdorp.

Maureen Koscielski
Board President

Board Officers

President	Maureen Koscielski
Vice President (Feb - Nov)	Diane Coiro
Treasurer (Nov - July)	Greg Wuszke
Secretary (Feb - Nov)	Patti Russwurm

Council Staff

Executive Director, Camp Director	Amber Grundy, Ph.D.
School Year Activities Director	Peggy Laskowski
Facilities Manager	Cullen McKinley
Assistant Camp Director	Sue Felix

November 2013- October 2014 Members at Large

Cindi Boesler (Nov - March)	Glenn Geiser (Nov - Jun)	Chas Grundy
Bill Karban	Cindy Krupp	Tony Laskowski
Neil Waechter	Andy Wesdorp (Nov - Jul)	Sue Williams

Executive Director's Report

Over the past year, we continued our efforts to strengthen our programming and make improvements to the facilities at Camp Tannadoonah. We had one of the biggest years in our history for camper numbers at Tannadoonah, and we made substantial upgrades to buildings on the camp property. We also continued to develop our school year activities.

We had over 700 youth and parents who participated in our activities throughout the school year, including the traditional club program, a harvest party, magic show, craft workshop, weekend camping trips, service projects, nature hikes, and our annual Fun Run and Fun Fair. The 17 youth who took part in the Fun Run raised over \$1300 for the council.

We started a Teen group in the fall, and they named themselves the "Embers" because they "keep the fire burning." The Embers participated in service days at The Mishawaka Res and at Camp Tannadoonah, provided valuable input on our programming, and helped generate new ideas for Camp and school year programs. These teens are the upcoming leaders for our council!

We made a number of major facilities improvements at Camp Tannadoonah this year. These improvements were largely made possible by generosity of donors who supported these projects. The shower house was renovated, with new tile, ventilation improvements, stalls in the boys' showers, new paper towel dispensers, and new sinks and countertops. We also added beautiful interior pine siding in the four Adventure Cabins and added electricity to those buildings for the first time ever! A new drainage system was installed at the waterfront and repairs were made to the seawall. The Staff Lounge in Main Lodge got a facelift, with lots of cleaning and new furniture. Many more facilities improvements are planned for the coming year.

Our camper numbers at Tannadoonah were the highest we have seen in many years (if ever). We had a total of 818 campers for the 2014 season, a nearly 30% increase from last year. We are thrilled with the ongoing growth of our summer camp programming. We were able to provide over \$29,000 in campership funding to 74 campers throughout the summer. We continued our partnership with Beardsley Elementary School in Elkhart, bringing 24 youth from that school to camp through the campership program.

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 brought out new-found confidence we haven't seen in her.

- 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

2014 was one of the biggest summers we have ever had at Camp Tannadoonah, with more than 800 campers! We had many experienced counselors this year, with nearly 80% of the 2013 staff returning. New activities this year included Wakeboarding, Lego Robotics, Knight Camp, and a Theater program. Our wonderful crew of volunteers continue to make it possible for us to develop great new programs to offer to our campers!

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Total Campers	451	571	647	706	635	818
Unique Campers	391	457	483	528	479	628
Campership Awards	\$12,007	\$23,703	\$25,767	\$22,150	\$22,000	\$29,108

School Year Activities

Activity	Youth	Adults
4 Club Groups	41	9
1 Teen Group	14	1
Service Day at The Res	8	1
Goodwill Dolls	10	2
2013 Fall / Family Camp	70	29
Harvest Party	24	29
Magic Show	27	21
Craft Workshop	25	22
Caroling	10	4
Valentines For Vets	40	9
Ice Skating	12	2
Fun Fair	200	125
Fun Run	17	10
Rum Village Hike	11	11
2014 Spring Camp	21	13
Spring Group Camp	26	21
2014 Fall / Family Camp	32	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

Over the past year, our Club youth and Leaders provided service for: Goodwill Industries (Dolls), Saint Francis Convent (Caroling), Fort Wayne Veterans Hospital (Valentine's), The Res (Tree Sale), Park Clean up, Fun Run, and a Camp Tannadoonah Work Day, just to mention a few. The Club Youth, Leaders, and Families enjoyed monthly activities such as our Halloween Party, Craft Workshop, Bowling, Fun Fair, Fun Run, Hike at Rum Village, Spring Group Camp, Grand Council Fire Celebration.

The Club program may be small (but it is growing!), and if we can touch the lives of the wonderful kids in the program in an important way, it's worth it!

Peggy Laskowski

School Year Programs Director



*Camp Fire River Bend***Balance Sheet, September 30, 2014****ASSETS**

Current Assets

Petty Cash	\$	25
Checking		275,858
Temporarily Restricted		19,650
Undeposited Funds		125
Accounts Receivable		-3,583
Inventory Asset		5,817

Fixed Assets		184,845
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TOTAL ASSETS	\$	<u>482,737</u>
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LIABILITIES AND EQUITY

Accounts Payable		412
Unearned Revenue		5,586
Payroll Liabilities		1,440
Accrued Retirement Benefit		20
Total Liabilities	\$	7,458

Retained Earnings		353,695
Net Income		121,584
Total Equity	\$	<u>475,279</u>

TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	\$	<u>482,737</u>
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Camp Fire River Bend

Income Statement, October 1, 2013 through September 30, 2014

Revenue

Donations - Restricted (Facilities and Equipment)	\$	47,326
Donations - Restricted (Program Support)	\$	39,503
Donations - Unrestricted	\$	16,880
Program Fees - Net of Adjustments	\$	314,108
Merchandise Revenue	\$	19,306
Other Revenue	\$	18,429

TOTAL REVENUE	\$	<u>455,552</u>
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Expenses

Personnel - All Year and Seasonal	\$	127,159
Camp Meals and Daily Living	\$	46,805
Program Materials	\$	12,891
Camp Store Merchandise	\$	11,539
Insurance	\$	17,999
Depreciation	\$	20,551
Occupancy - Utilities	\$	13,963
Occupancy - Maintenance	\$	26,977
Occupancy - Office Rent	\$	5,566
Promotion, Outreach, and Travel	\$	11,657
Payment Processing and Bank Fees	\$	7,660
Outside Services	\$	10,380
Office Supplies	\$	3,164
Organization Dues and Memberships	\$	17,656

TOTAL EXPENSES	\$	<u>333,967</u>
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NET INCOME	\$	<u>121,584</u>
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