

Executive Director's Message

Promise Camp 2017

Philip Spina

It is hard to believe another camp season has come and gone. Promise Camp again provided the hope and love of Jesus Christ to many deserving children this summer. Camp Director Brett Probert and his team worked tirelessly to ensure a wonderful camp experience for 373 kids from the Pittsburgh region. Here are a few highlights from this year's camp season:

More Mentee Campers

We had a total of 39 mentees attend Promise Camp this year, up 27 from last year. That's a real testimony to our mentoring team's hard work to help and encourage the mentees to attend camp.

More Partner Campers

For the first time ever, we had more campers engaged with our partners than campers from the general public. Aliquippa Impact, TRAILS, Light of Life, the Open Door, and The Pittsburgh Project all sent more campers this year.

More Returning Campers

For the first time ever, we had more returning campers than first-time campers, a testament to the quality and attractiveness of our ministry and programming.

More Boys

The number of boys attending camp this year increased from 166 to 172. We're thrilled with this increase - boys need camp just as much as girls.

Lower Dropout Rate

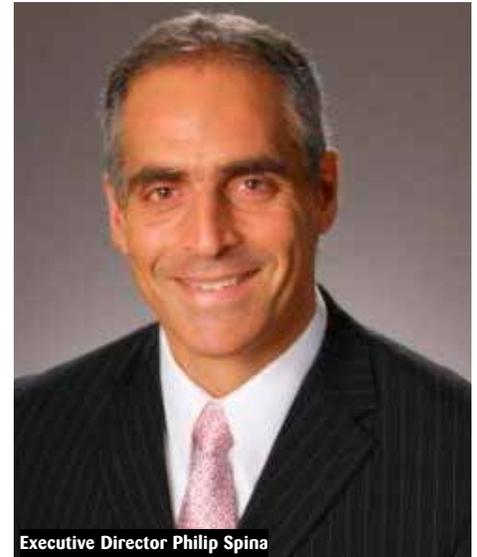
We only had 34 campers back out this summer, down from well over 100 last summer. The improvement is a remarkable testimony to the diligent work by our new staff.

Urban Impact

Urban Impact sent 73 campers this year and they all attended together during the last week of camp.

Camper Demographics

80% of our campers came from Allegheny County, and 14% were from Beaver County. 92% of our campers came from low-income households, from families that normally would not be able to afford such an awesome camp experience.



Executive Director Philip Spina

We are grateful for our Lord's grace and for friends like you that help to make this all possible.

We're looking forward to and making plans for 2018!

Blessings to all,



Philip Spina, Executive Director



My Jaw-Dropping Camp Visit

Light of Life intern Carolyn Ebel has a life-changing experience on her tour of Promise Camp. Pg2



Summer's Fruit

See the faces and read the stories of the bountiful harvest of Promise Camp 2017. Pg3



The Miracle of Mentoring

A celebration of what God has done in the lives of thousands of children through One2One Mentoring. Pg5

My Jaw-Dropping Visit to Promise Camp

Carolyn Ebel

A Camp Unexpected

Light of Life scheduled a visit to Promise Camp for our team to tour the facilities. The car turned and twisted along what seemed like a two-mile road. Dense brush on each side and nature everywhere, it was obvious to me we were getting closer to the camp I had heard so much about during my first few weeks as a Light of Life Rescue Mission intern. I was expecting a very small campground with the basic structures required for every camp blueprint: bunkhouses, a dining hall, and a camp fire pit. Promise Camp, however, caught me off guard. From the moment we arrived on the freshly graveled drive and meandered our way up, my jaw couldn't help but fall to my chest. Campers were scattered throughout the beautiful grounds with smiles, some on rock climbing walls, some swimming and splashing in a gleaming pool, and others playing and leaping on the basketball court. The porch of the activities center was lined with rocking chairs, all donated from The Blessing Board which I would find out later in the day. After exiting our vehicles, Camp Director Brett Probert approached us with a smile and gave us IDs for our camp tour.

Through a Camp Director's Eyes

As a camp director myself, I have never seen such an extraordinary camp environment. I was particularly inspired by the amount of engagement the counselors brought to the kids and was also in awe of the presence of the Holy Spirit. The campers were encouraged to be themselves and use their many gifts and talents to please the Lord. It was quite obvious to me that these kids did not shy away from being themselves, especially as I noticed them singing and dancing poolside with the staff. The counselors shared the specific process that occurs from the moment the campers step foot on the grounds to the moment they leave and disperse back to their homes and often less than ideal situations. Many campers come to camp confused, neglected, and unsure about their place in society. The counselors stressed the need each child has for encouragement, not only at the beginning, but throughout the entire week. The staff was busy writing special awards for the campers to be given at the end of the week! Kids are much more willing to open up when they feel both safe and important.

The Perfect Mix

Seeing the kids interact with each other and with the staff made me aware of how I should model the camp I direct in the future. It is much easier said than done to conduct a camp that is both safe and engaging for underprivileged kids with a limited amount of resources. Promise Camp is the perfect mix. I strongly encourage



Light of Life Ministries Intern Carolyn Ebel

others to get involved with not only Promise Camp, but Family Guidance. I loved working with the Family Guidance staff that are closely affiliated with Light of Life Ministries and am sad to be leaving such a strong team as my internship will be ending shortly. I hope that I'll be able to mentor for Family Guidance after I graduate in the spring of 2018 and spread the word about Promise Camp so others can experience a camp and conference center that was both refreshing and vital to my summer ministry experience.

Thank you to all Family Guidance staff, major donors, and companies who make camp experiences such as this possible!

To learn how you can help to bring hope and a future to Pittsburgh's most vulnerable children. Contact Kelly Pirl at 724-396-4241 or kpirl@familyguidance.org.





Meet Stephanie

My name is Stephanie Parker and I'm so excited to be the newest Mentoring Supervisor at Family Guidance. I'm a lifelong attendee of ACAC Church on Pittsburgh's North Side which is where my love for the city grew. After graduating from Grove City College with an education degree, I taught middle school at St. Agnes. Feeling a call to work in ministry, I was excited when a position opened at Pine Valley Camp, a camp similar to Promise Camp and where my brother still serves. I loved camping ministry but missed Pittsburgh, so I returned to direct a non-profit family support center. With a continued desire to serve God in ministry, I began studies at the PA Bible Institute this past January. Now, I am thrilled that God has called me to the ministry of mentoring! I enjoy learning from Joanne Galinowski and Kathleen Grehl who, together, have over 25 years of mentoring experience! We're gearing up for school-based mentoring at Faison Elementary and matching more children in the community. I am beyond grateful for the hundreds of mentors who serve the Lord through building relationships with children in such need of experiencing Christ's love, and I look forward to supporting them and covering them in prayer.



Summer's Lasting Fruit

Kelly Pirl and Brett Probert

Summer is the season of picnics, festivals, and of course, camping. The longer, warmer days seem to escape right before our eyes just as we become accustomed to the beautiful greenery, sounds of chirping crickets and flashing fireflies. Although the summer of 2017 is nearing its end, we are so grateful for the fruitful summer at Family Guidance's Promise Camp.

With 373 campers attending over the six-week season, Camp Director Brett Probert and staff have many stories to share. Here are just a few.

Promise Camp is My Favorite!

Darrin came back this summer for his sixth consecutive year with Promise Camp. In past years, he's been a very challenging camper but we have seen the

Lord work in amazing ways in his life. He's 14 now and doesn't have to come to camp with the ministry partner who always sent him, but he came this year because he wanted to. He's gone to other camps but he shared that Promise Camp is his favorite because he feels free to be who God desires him to be. He is really stepping up in leadership in his cabin and is growing day by day in his faith walk with Jesus. One night as I shared some of my own difficult testimony in our Club service, Darrin hung on every word and clapped for the Lord's deliverance in my life after I was finished.

Growing in the Lord

Larry is one of our mentees but he hasn't been to camp for a few years. We were so excited to see him back for another year but remembered that the last time he came, had almost no clothes with him, no sleeping bag, and

the few things he brought were way too big for him. We are always thankful for our many donors and those who have provided extra clothing for us because kids like Larry really need it sometimes. We were thrilled to see how Larry is growing into a young man! He is as kind as ever, and it is so much fun to see how God is growing him up on both the outside and the inside.

Transformative Grace

Samantha is back for her second year and we were a little hesitant to see her name on the list. Last summer she was combative towards some other campers and even her counselors. We put her in our smallest cabin so that she could receive individual attention and hopefully respond better. Well, praise the Lord she is a different girl this year. Her counselors are loving on her and truly giving her the chance to live our summer theme of GO! (again)

and helping her to see God's grace and mercy and how He always gives us second chances when we seek to repent!

Pray for the Children

Please continue to lift up the children who now have returned home, that the seeds sown - many of them unknown - will take root. It has been a challenging summer but we are thankful for God's abundant grace and faithfulness that has allowed Promise Camp to become a beacon of hope and an instrument of change for so many young lives.

Plans have already begun for next year and we appreciate all the prayers and support that will make it happen all over again, hopefully in even greater ways!

Your support helps us to share the hope of Jesus Christ and provide a life-changing camp experience for Pittsburgh's most vulnerable children. To sponsor a child, visit donate.familyguidance.net.



Golf for Kids

On Monday, September 18th, Family Guidance will host the annual "Helping Kids out of the Rough" Golf and Dinner Classic at St. Clair Country Club. Participants will have the opportunity to enjoy a round of golf while supporting the life-transforming programs of Family Guidance, including:

one2one Mentoring

At-risk youth, a rapidly growing segment of our population, have special needs. They require special programs that build confidence, help them to develop positive relationships, and instill values that will help them make good decisions. We are helping one child at a time, giving kids hope and a future through the love and grace of Jesus Christ.

Promise Camp

For more than 30 years, Promise Camp has been providing a quality summer experience for Pittsburgh area kids. Accredited by the American Camp Association, Promise Camp is located 25 miles outside the City of Pittsburgh in Clinton, PA. Each year hundreds of children, ages 7-17, learn about the promise of Jesus Christ while experiencing a variety of activities and making lasting friendships.

For more information, or to register or sponsor this event please contact Kelly Pirl at 724-396-4241 or kpirl@familyguidance.net.

UPCOMING EVENTS

→ September 18, 2017

Helping Kids Out of the Rough Golf and Dinner Classic

Register now for an amazing day of golf at beautiful St. Clair Country Club. Non-golfing spouses and guests are invited to join us later for a fun evening of music, auctions, and a delicious gourmet dinner. For info, contact Kelly Pirl at 724-396-4241.

→ November 15, 2017

Rooftop Harvest

Join us from 6pm to 8pm for a pumpkin-spiced evening of good food, live music, and great people at Smith Brothers Agency Left Field Loft overlooking PNC Park. All proceeds benefit our work with vulnerable children. For details and tickets visit RooftopHarvest.org.

→ December 2017

Christmas Giving Tree

Two area churches include Family Guidance mentees in their Christmas Giving Tree ministry, providing gifts for our dedicated mentors to give their mentees. To find out more contact *Kathleen Grehl* at kgrehl@familyguidance.net.

→ April 13, 2018

5th Annual Spring Gala

Don't miss the 2018 Gala with returning Broadway Star Ivan Rutherford. The "Les Miserables" veteran, who played lead Jean Valjean over 2000 times, and who has a "soft spot for kids," will wow the crowd once again. To sponsor this great event, contact Kelly Pirl at 724-396-4241 or kpirl@familyguidance.net.



Keynote Speaker Erricka Fearbry Jones with daughters Sabrina and Ella

The Miracle of Mentoring

Carolyn Ebel

Our team of dedicated volunteer mentors spends countless hours pouring God's love into the hearts of their mentees. They love what they do, they love the kids, and they do it quietly and steadily week by week and year by year.

On August 12, Family Guidance hosted a dinner at the LeMont to honor these special individuals and to celebrate what God has done in the lives of thousands of vulnerable children through the One2One Mentoring Program.

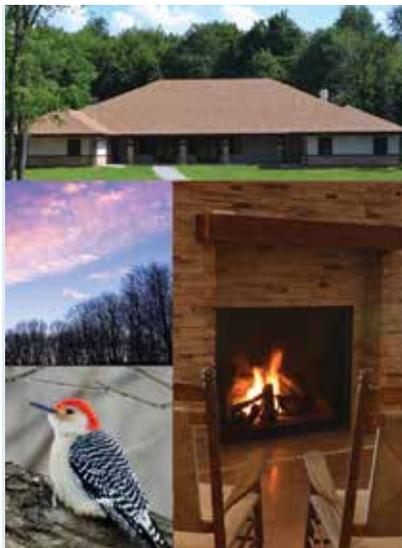
New hire and Mentoring Supervisor Stephanie Parker described the event as "one of the best nights to celebrate the work of the Holy Spirit...It was so inspirational." The evening began with a welcome and prayer from Family Guidance Executive Director Phillip Spina, and

Prayer from Dr. Bryan McCabe, the Pastor of Transformational Urban Leadership. After dinner, the evening transitioned into a time of moving testimonies and heartfelt stories given by Greg Wilson and his mentee, Laurentij, and Leo Wisniewski and his current mentee, Qiydar. Leo, who has mentored for over 20 years, said that mentoring has not only changed the lives of so many vulnerable children and teenagers battling hard situations but has changed his life as well. Keynote speaker, Erricka Fearbry Jones, talked about the importance and impact of the One2One Mentoring Program and its long legacy of preventing delinquency and troubles among children and young adults. After an amazing evening of great food, shared laughter and tears, the event ended with a moving video that showcased the true miracle of mentoring. You can view the video at www.familyguidance.net.

To find out how you can bless a child's life as a mentor, contact *Kathleen Grehl* at kgrehl@familyguidance.net.

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Rent Promise Camp

Just 27 miles west of Pittsburgh, Promise Camp Retreat Center provides an unparalleled setting for your group getaway. Our facilities are perfect for church retreats, family reunions, picnics, parties, team development, and other events. Features include:

- » New dining hall with state-of-the-art kitchen
- » Multipurpose Activities Center
- » Two all-season bunkhouses
- » Warm-Weather cabins • Picnic Pavilion
- » Large Pool • Covered Basketball Court
- » Many campfire areas stocked with firewood

Rental contact: Kelly Pirl
724-396-4241 | KPirl@FamilyGuidance.net
227 Lance Road • Clinton, Pennsylvania 15026

Please accept my gift of:

- \$25
- \$100
- \$250
- Other _____

Please apply my gift towards:

- one2one mentoring
- Promise Camp
- Where needed most

I would like to be involved by:

- Becoming a mentor
- Becoming a volunteer
- Committing to pray for Family Guidance

Ways to Give

- My Check is enclosed. *Please make checks payable to **Family Guidance**.*
- Please charge my credit card for a one-time gift of \$_____
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No one seeking help at Family Guidance is denied services based on race, creed, gender, disability or national origin. Official registration or financial information may be obtained from the PA Department of State by calling toll free within Pennsylvania, 1-800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.

Thank you for helping Pittsburgh's most vulnerable kids.



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