

NEWS FROM ARROWHEAD

November 2011

New! New! New!

It has been a big year here at Arrowhead with new and exciting changes everywhere you look. Most visible are the new 24 foot long five row bleachers with a safety fence around the top and sides, center aisle and hand railing which were purchased with a grant we received from the George A. and Margaret Mee Charitable Foundation. The new bleachers have been an accessible and safe addition for all campers, especially in front of our completely renovated bocce ball courts. Bocce ball continues to be one of our campers' favorite activities. With re-grading, drainage, a compactable surface and 6x6 boarded sides, our new bocce ball courts are some of the best handicap accessible courts in the Southern Tier. The new courts have also



allowed us to better partner with dozens of Special Olympics athletes for scrimmage games and tournaments.

Just across the basketball court tucked in by the pine trees is our new 9-hole mini golf course. With more re-grading and resurfacing the addition of our low profile, wheel chair maneuverable mini golf course was a non-stop area of activity. Built into our morning rotations, campers and their counselors also found mini golf to be their preferred choice of free time. It was a thrill to see our first camper with two of our counselors on the course in early June paving the way for a busy summer on the front 9 at Arrowhead!

Growing and Expanding

We were also blessed with last summer's successful launch of a week long one-to-one session, for campers requiring individual care, which lead to an additional one-to-one week this summer. God has used these unique weeks of camp to impact the lives of our campers, their families and care providers. Here is what one parent had to say from her (and her son's) Shepherds Camp 1:1 experience:

"As a Foster parent with a disabled child, you are always worried about their wellbeing and how they are when they are with other people. On June 6, 2011, my foster child Justin attended your week one-on-one camp..."

On Friday when I went to pick Justin up, the counselors were all talking with everyone who had been there that week as they waited to leave. Justin was with his counselor although he came over to me and gave me a hug, he went right back to his counselor. Several of the counselors relayed how much fun they had with Justin. I again was impressed that everyone must have worked together and took the opportunity to know each person who attended. When we left, we were given a picture of everyone at the camp that week, both counselors and campers. Since we have been home, Justin has daily pointed at that picture and signed "please" along with "let's go". Arrowhead Bible Camp was a great experience for Justin."

Our Golden Anniversary

Looking forward, 2012 is going to be a very big year for Arrowhead. From a passionate beginning in 1962 with just one week of camp, 2012 marks the 50th anniversary of Shepherds Camp. We now offer eight weeks and two weekends of residential camp for adults with developmental disabilities. What a blessing to serve over 250 individuals and their families, care providers and group homes.

As we look forward to 2012 and the 50th anniversary of Shepherds Camp we are also looking forward to the future. As ways to celebrate we have two goals for 2012. The first is to reconnect with Arrowhead Alumni. Check out our Alumni page on the website [www.arrowheadbiblecamp.org] to find out more about how to reconnect and the exciting Alumni events in 2012. Second, with the new year we will also be unveiling our new logo and branding for Arrowhead. We are excited for the new look that will compliment all the continuing growth and impact of Arrowhead Bible Camp.

Investing in the Secret Service

“Where’s Ben! Where’s John! Go get Mr. Reed!” used to be a saying around camp when I first got here. Even though we are sitting comfortably on 11 acres with a line of sight from one end of camp to the other, emergencies are no less urgent. Whether it is a leaky water pipe, the sound system not turning on or a camper who needs the nurse, communication is critical. That classic saying followed by a few staff members searching the usual places around camp was short lived. Over the past eight years we have utilized high quality hand held radios which have made communication between leadership, medical and counseling staff both efficient and reliable.



At first it seemed strange and “over the top” to carry around the radios with most people within shouting distance. Some of the staff with a clip-on microphone looked more like police officers than maintenance staff. There was also the personal purchase of an ear piece accessory, which I am somewhat leery of admitting... which induced a few laughs about my childhood dream to be a secret service agent. The radios of course quickly became a useful tool. It made sense to have a microphone clip by your ear when mowing on the tractor. And, for the most part, I was able to convince the staff that I was not trying to be a government agent. Over the past eight years our radios have kept those leaky pipes from causing serious damage, communicated which switch to flip for the sound system to regain consciousness and provided the critical timely response of leadership and medical staff for campers in need of immediate help.

We want to ensure that the quality of communication here at Arrowhead continues to be efficient and effective. Please consider making a year-end investment for the purchase of a new radio system. The cost of 10 new radios, two base stations and licensing is \$4,400.

I would be delighted to have you join the impact of Arrowhead Bible Camp, serving hundreds of families, students, churches, individuals with developmental disabilities and their care providers. Thank you in advance for investing in Arrowhead.

Excited and grateful,

Ben Myers
Camp Manager
Arrowhead Bible Camp



Send your tax deductible investment to:
Arrowhead Bible Camp, 122 Arrowhead Cottage Road, Brackney PA 18812. In the memo line write, “radios”.