



Dear Friend of Camp Arnes,

As the last of the leaves from the trees continue to fall, we want to thank you for your active engagement in the work happening at Camp Arnes. With the transition into autumn and Christmas quickly approaching, we ask that you prayerfully consider supporting Camp Arnes with your year-end giving. Your continued financial and prayer support is the reason our team is building meaningful relationships with the youth in our community, youth like Andy*.

Andy's Story

"My parents told me that I'm too young to have an identity crisis," Andy confessed to his Cabin Leader, Marcus. Andy was sitting off to the side while his fellow campers played Poolball. Marcus joined him a few minutes earlier when he noticed the troubled look on Andy's face. Sitting patiently in quiet reflection is all that it took for Andy to open up to Marcus and share that he felt confused, alone, and that his life didn't seem to have any meaningful purpose.

Marcus took this opportunity to talk about a Christian's purpose in life – to serve God, to seek a meaningful relationship with Jesus Christ, and the importance of praying for direction in our lives. Marcus asked Andy if he knew how to pray. Andy answered no, so Marcus asked Andy if he would like to learn. Andy agreed, then Marcus taught him how to pray the Lord's Prayer. He also prayed over Andy, asking God to show Andy direction and purpose in his life.

After Praying, Marcus noticed that Andy was crying. It had been such an emotional experience for our camper; feeling heard, understood, and cared for in a profound Christ-like way penetrated deep into his heart. Andy thanked Marcus and hugged him.

As we move forward, our goal for Camp is to transport our guests back to a more humble time. A time focused on having fun while building strong relationships with God, our neighbours, and individuals like Andy. A time free from the distractions of constant cell phone notifications, likes, and shares. We want to continue to give youth the opportunity to spend time reflecting on who they really are as Children of God, and not just their online persona. We want to constantly provide campers with the opportunity to improve on their skills, to find themselves while they develop their faith, and to grow into contributing members of society and the Church.

WE NEED YOUR HELP! Our dining hall needs a new roof; it leaks when it's raining, and we need to fix this quickly. Every year, we serve over 50,000 meals in our dining hall. That provides us with many opportunities to develop and strengthen the connections with our campers and retreat guests.

*Andy's name has been changed to protect the privacy and trust of those we serve.

Sharing a meal together is one of the best ways to develop relationships and make memories. It's a time to be thankful for all that we have, especially the people in our lives. How many times in the Bible do we see Jesus sharing meals with others or celebrating a feast? You don't have to look very hard to see the significance of eating together as a valuable part of ministry!

The cost of materials and labour for a new roof on the building has been estimated at over \$200,000. As we continue to upgrade our facilities with long term solutions in mind, we are looking to replace the asphalt shingles with a standing seam metal roof. The life expectancy on this type of roof is upwards of 50 years and going this route will allow us to maintain good stewardship with the rest of our financial gifts.

As you can imagine, COVID-19 was tough for us as an organization. It made us realize the importance of quality relationships. Camp Arnes is dependant on people meeting together. With the limitations for gatherings that were in place, we took a big financial hit because we couldn't run summer camp or rent out our facilities. Most of our staff were laid-off to ensure the long-term viability of Camp. You came through in getting Camp back up and running. We had such wonderful prayer and financial support in restarting Camp for a successful summer program, but we are once again faced with a situation where we need your help. These repairs to the roof can't wait, so we ask that you act now!

We have been praying unceasingly that God will work generosity in the heart of you, our cherished donor, so that Camp Arnes can provide fertile soil in which our community can continue to grow. If you have the capacity to give to improve the quality of service that we provide to our campers and retreat guests, we ask that you prayerfully consider doing so. Your contributions **WILL** make a difference in the lives of campers. Your financial support **WILL** build impactful and enduring relationships that our guests will remember for years to come. **EVERY DOLLAR** that you give **WILL** ensure that youth like Andy can learn how to pray to God and develop meaningful relationships with our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ through adventures in creation!

God Bless,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "C. Buffington", followed by a horizontal line extending to the right.

Chris Buffington, Executive Director

*PS. Before you know it, you'll be busy shovelling out your driveway and singing Christmas Carols with loved ones! **ACT NOW** so you don't have to remember your year-end tax-deductible donations while making memories with your families during the Christmas Season!*