



YOUTH FARM BIBLE CAMP

2018 Annual Report



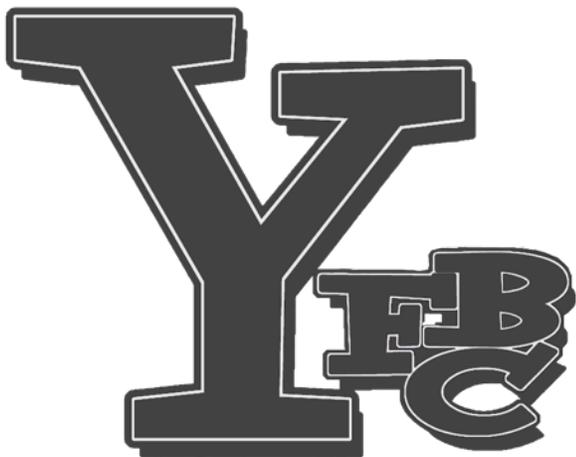
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Youth Farm Bible Camp

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When you said,
 "Seek My Face."
 my heart said to
 You. "Your face, O
 Lord, I shall seek."
 -Psalm 27:8

The theme that was chosen for our ministry year was **Behold!** This is a word that is used often in the Bible but not so much in everyday language. We find our Lord approaching His people, Israel, saying **Behold!** and following with a story of His faithfulness or a coming promise. This continues in the New Testament with the presentation of the God Child and angels proclaiming the upcoming birth of the Messiah.

"**Behold!** The virgin will be with child and give birth to a son!"
 Matthew 1:23.

God uses these **Behold!** moments to invite us into relationship. He wants us to Seek His Face, to spend time

with Him and to have communion with Him. As staff of YFBC this theme taught us what is most important - to Seek God's Face - to sit down with God and know him intimately. In a crazy busy culture, with never ending deadlines, it seems hard to respond to the **Behold!**

moments. But we must! We must put priority as people of God to sit at His feet. Why would we want to go to heaven if we do not want to spend time with God while we are on this earth? We must seek the face of God, We must spend time in communion with God.

One of the most powerful **Behold!** moments in the Bible is found when



Jesus calls Peter out of the boat and to walk towards Him. Before this, the disciples had been gripped with fear in a storm on the Sea of Galilee. Jesus

was not with them. He was spending time seeking the face of His Father. Now He joins His disciples on the sea and calls from afar saying "Don't be afraid, Take courage, Behold, I am here." Peter responds by saying "if it is really you, tell me to come to you,

walking on water". Peter saw Jesus, had courage and wanted to join Jesus in what He was doing. Do we have that kind of courage? Can we join with Jesus in what He is doing in our world?

Peter gets out of the boat, jumps on the water, looks toward Jesus and starts to walk! A miracle! Then he takes his eyes off of Jesus and starts to sink. He calls out and Jesus immediately saves Peter and joins him in the boat.

Jesus calms the storm and the disciples are awestruck. They worship their Lord and declare "You really are the Son of God!"

We need to fix our eyes on Jesus - the Son of God. As we look towards Jesus we will be transformed into the same image, from glory to glory. It is the only way to live in this world -to make sense of this world.

God calls us to seek His face in our conversion to Him and in our conversations with Him. He calls us, by the whispers of His Spirit to our spirits, to seek His face.

Memory Verses

Exodus 14:13A - But Moses told the people, "Don't be afraid. Just stand still and watch the Lord rescue you today. (NLT)

Psalms 27:8 - When You said, "Seek My Face." my heart said to You, "Your face, O Lord, I shall seek." (NASB)

2 Corinthians 3:18 - But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as from the Lord, the Spirit. (NASB)

Isaiah 43:12 - I myself have spoken to you, saved you and told you these things. It was not some foreign god among you. You are my witnesses, and I am God. (NCV)

2 Corinthians 5:18B - And God has given us the privilege of urging everyone to come into his favour and be reconciled to him. (Living Bible)

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Camp @ YFBC

OUR SUMMER BIBLE CAMPS ARE AT THE CORE OF OUR MINISTRY. THESE NINE WEEKS FROM JUNE TO AUGUST ARE FILLED WITH ACTIVITY, COMMUNITY, FRIENDSHIP, AND TRANSFORMING LIVES.



2018 in numbers

26 staff

40 volunteers

33 junior staff

260 asn campers

283 children & youth campers

Adult Special Needs Camp

BRANDON WURTZ

This past summer was my sixth summer helping out either as a counsellor-in-training or a counsellor position at the Youth Farm Bible Camp. Each year God shows me a little more of His Glory. The theme this year was "Behold" and the idea to stop and look at what God is doing around us. So with this in mind, I was reminded continuously throughout the summer to stop and look and appreciate where I am and the opportunity I had to serve these adults.

Throughout the five weeks of ASN that I worked as a counsellor, there were so many highlights and memorable moments that I will never forget. One of those moments was throughout the week the same camper and I would wrestle, and usually, he would pin me down and win. So, one time I thought I would have some fun with him. I decided to grab a water gun to spray him. Although I'm pretty sure that he got away dry because I have lousy

aim. After he realized I was out of water, he then started to chase me around and we ended up running around for the next half hour until he finally caught me and pinned me down once again. Once I had a chance to stop and catch my breath, I was able to take some time to see what God was doing. I realized how important it was to connect with the campers and that it isn't hard to have fun with them.

Another highlight came from one of the campfires. Jesse Doell was the camp pastor for the week. Jesse was talking about how Jesus died on the cross for our sins and that we now have the Holy Spirit dwelling in us and that it is something to be excited about it. A camper named Orest, who can be difficult to understand at times, stood up and said clearly, "Jesus and God are having a party in my heart!" I will always remember this moment and Orest's reaction to it. This was one of the times where I stopped and looked and saw the way that God had been working in

Orest's heart and life. This campfire was an encouragement to me during the summer to see the faith that Orest has.

I am very thankful for the opportunity and the memories that the Youth Farm Bible Camp has given me. I loved having the opportunity this past summer to work with the ASN campers. I loved being able to pour into their lives as well as have them pour into mine.



Brandon Wurtz moved to the Youth Farm Bible Camp when he was two years old. He has been a part of every summer since!



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Children & Youth Camps

TYLER JANZEN

This past summer was an amazing summer to see how God was working in and through campers as well as the staff. I have always enjoyed working at camp ever since I volunteered as a CIT to becoming a counsellor. This past summer I had the opportunity to be the Program Director, and I could not have been more excited for the summer. This past years theme was Behold, and this had lead to a summer where everyone got a chance to learn and admire what the Lord has done and will do in the future.

My favourite weeks of the summer have always been the kids weeks and the energy that they bring to camp. There is a great selection of things to do at camp like horse back riding, swimming, crafts, archery and much more, I think the campfires and chapels are by far the most important aspect to a kids week where we sing songs and hear some amazing and powerful stories from speakers who had come to preach the word of God to the campers.

One of my favourite activities of the many we did this summer is called battle of the bands, This is where each cabin gets together as a group and plans out some sort of act or dance to music of their choice, it's the final activity of the week where

cabins can achieve points to win a sundae. It was in these times that I could see how much of an impact I might have on these kids lives. They followed my suggestions when choosing music and skits. God made it very real to me how much of an impact I can have on the children that come. This is a much needed reminder with all the energy and hard work it takes to run a summer camp. God still works and moves in all our lives even when we don't notice it.



Tyler Janzen served as Program Director at YFBC this summer. He has been involved at camp for decades!!



the 411 of the Youth Farm Bible Camp



We exist to share Jesus with people & provide a place for people to serve

1. Camps we run

We are excited to welcome children to camp as young as age 5. We offer day camps for little ones, ages 5-8, wanting to sleep in their own beds at night. Once campers are ready for overnight camp they can join us for one of our kids camps, ages 6-12. But teens want to be a part of camp too! We have junior teen camp, teen trail ride, and horse focused day camps.

Since the 1980's YFBC has also run and expanded our camp program for adults with special needs - running 5 weeks throughout the summer. This is a powerful program that sees people with intellectual disabilities looking forward to there week of camp.

2. Activities

Making use of this amazing farm yard YFBC sits on, we run outdoor activities everyone will enjoy. Let me list them for you (ok, maybe not ALL of them, but here is a start.) Horse riding, swimming, archery, wide games, canoeing, jumbo pillow, climbing wall, water games, corn maze, petting zoo, and low ropes.

Because we desire for Christ to be the centre of what we do here at YFBC, after breakfast we start the day with chapel and end each day with campfire, a time for singing and a Bible story from our camp pastor.

3. Get Involved

Maybe you are too old for camp or you have a desire to serve here at YFBC. There are a few opportunities for you! Our junior staff program runs for young leaders, ages 14-18, wanting to help out in the cabin, the kitchen, or the horse program. Summer staff positions are for anyone finished high school. And we can always use kitchen helpers!



Junior Staff Program

SHELBY GOERTZEN

Every summer I have worked at camp. I imagine what great knowledge I'm about to bestow on the bright minds that will be spending the week with us. And every summer God has done an extreme overhaul on my attitude and motives, this year being no exception. What I learned at camp. 2018 edition:

This summer I was employed by Mark to be the Junior Staff Director. I had the privilege of grooming our generations next leaders! What an opportunity! And what an amazing role model they would be working with!

God started with my pride first. The daily play told the story of how simply knowing the Sunday School answers is not enough. You need to know who God is, and make Him Lord of your life, not just the helper of the next project. God started to shift my thinking, yet again, away from the do-good-er mentality and into the Christ-centered mentality. I had to learn to take responsibility for a group of individuals and constructive criticism from my superiors. For someone who could do no wrong, this was tough, but I was surrounded by a team that loved me enough to give counsel and encouragement when I needed it.

The second lesson was control. Let's be real for a minute - you cannot control teenagers, even the 'good ones'. And that broke me. It made me question if I was really cut out for this - if I could be counted on. When I finally gave it all to God, was when I finally got it. I understood what my Christ-centered role was; I cannot control the traffic, but I can be used to direct it. I still thank Jesus for the teens that chose to serve this summer; they were excited, kinda nervous and a ton of fun! If you're reading this, THANK YOU!

And the third lesson was the ever sappy; It's okay to be me. God made me in His image; I'm the loud and joyful part of Him. He gave me all the tools I need to be able to jump into His ministry. Not my ministry, not your ministry. His ministry. My favourite and most challenging piece of scripture is 'I will go, send me'. And even though I sometimes fail with the follow through, God still brought me here, to this place, and it will forever change my life.

Be blessed friends!



Shelby Goertzen has been involved at YFBC ever since she came on the Mexico Mission Trip in 2010!

Beyond the Summer Months

Mexico Mission Trip



After eight summers of witnessing the Youth Farm Bible Camp live out its mission of "Love God, Love People" through summer camp, it was such an incredible opportunity to travel to Mexico and see how this missions statement is fulfilled 3000km away. The group of 24 people that travelled by air and bus built another home for a family in Tijuana by partnering with Amor Ministries. It was an amazing week with a team that worked hard, had a lot of fun, and dove deeper into questions of missions through Steve Corbett's "When Helping Hurts."

We were so blessed to have such amazing weather while we were working, and the house was situated in a place with easy access

to everything we needed to complete the task. While I was learning all of my house-building skills on the spot, we had such a talented and experienced team who ensured quality of workmanship.

An exciting part about being in Mexico was connecting with the local church! On Sunday our friend Francisco took us to his church where many of us experienced worship different than what we're used to- in Spanish, a lot of dancing, and a few hours longer. While building the house one day I had the opportunity to meet the pastor of the church that this family belonged to. He was so excited that as brothers and sisters in Christ we could be blessing

BY CHEYENNE ELLIOTT

members of his congregation by fulfilling a practical need such as a house! While cultural norms may differ from our Canadian practices, the truth and love of Jesus transcends all language and cultural barriers.

The day of handing over the keys is often an emotional experience, as the family is so grateful, we are so sad to say goodbye, and we all step back to give God glory for everything. The family had served us with cold refreshments all week and participated in helping to build their home. It was so humbling to bless our family in Christ, but in reality we walked away having been equally as blessed.

No one leaves these impact trips the same as they came. So many lessons I learnt there that I want to continually try to incorporate in my daily life. I learnt these from the Mexican people, the staff at Amor, and the fantastic team we had. I came away with learning more about passion, joy and humility when approaching Jesus, thankfulness and contentment for the things I have and a heart of selflessness and generosity.

Mexico Trip and ASN Camp collide!

BY REG KLASSEN

I had the opportunity to go on the Mexico Mission Trip this year. It had been a dream of mine to go to Mexico, so I was really excited when Mark told me I could come along.

The first thing I noticed when we crossed the border into Tijuana is that the houses were a lot smaller and older than what we have here in Canada. It made me sad to see that people were living like this; I had never seen anything like it. I feel bad for people that do not have a lot. I realized that I have a lot and am very blessed.

I had experience building houses before, so this helped me when we were building the house in Tijuana. The difference between here and there is that here there were cement trucks to mix and pour concrete pads and there were power tools to use. Over there, we mixed cement by hand and used hand tools to do all the work. It was harder to do everything by manual labour.

The family we built the house for was friendly. They tried talking to me, but of course, I could not understand Spanish! There was a

local Mexican man that was with us for the week; he helped a lot by translating for us. I was given a gift by the family: a handkerchief embroidered with a peacock. I was moved to tears by their kindness. In response, I gave each of them a toque that I knit myself. Those were really special moments for me.

At the end of the build, the family shared how appreciative they were of receiving the house. They told us that they were praying to get a new house, and so when we arrived to build one for them, that was an amazing answer to prayer. When I heard that, I was excited, and it taught me that God answers prayer. I also felt God telling me that I should pray for this family when I get back home.

I learned a lot on this trip and would recommend that everybody should do something like this. I have so many good memories and experiences from doing this. By being in Mexico, I saw that some families are poor and need a house. That is why I will pray for these people every day, because God loves them and He answers prayer.



Reg Klassen has been coming to Adult Special Need camp since the early 1990s. When he came to camp this summer he was able to connect with Francisco - our translator from the trip who we flew here from Tijuana to pastor our last week of camp. ASN camp and the Mexico Trip collided twice this year!



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Youth Farm Corn Maze

BY MARK WURTZ

For the last 10 years, the Corn Maze has been a great attraction at our camp! Families have come and enjoyed their experiences.

The hardest part about this year's event was that the weather was so poor in September. There were many weekends of cool weather and rain. The blessing of lower numbers was our ability to connect more with the families that were coming out.

This year we found that many of our attenders were coming back from previous years. People who knew what we had to offer would come during poor

weather. First timers did not want to take the chance when presented with bad weather. We were blessed by all the returning customers.

We also had many youth groups and school groups coming out. We had a blast providing programming for these people. Around 80% of our school groups were from First Nation Reserves, some travelling four hours to come out. These kids would be in a bus so long that they totally embraced every activity they could do at our farm.

The basement cafe provided 1000s of cups of hot chocolate

and a place for people to warm up and socialize. There was honey, apples, sauces, jams, candles, art, crafts, and more at the gift shop to purchase from local suppliers. There was also candy, mini donuts, nachos, corn dogs and much more to purchase for a quick snack.

Every year we have seen growth in the Corn Maze. This year it was not in the amount of revenue that came in but the experience we were able to offer to the guests that chose to visit. We are already excited about what next year will bring and would love to have you volunteer during the 2019 season.



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Equine Assisted Learning

This past winter we were able to find funding to support one school group to attend Equine Assisted Learning (EAL) sessions. As a reminder, EAL is under the umbrella of equine therapy, which uses horses as a form of personal development to teach people life skills. The riding lesson and EAL program continued at Matali (a riding arena by Hague) until April, at which time we moved the lesson horses back home to Valley Equestrian Centre to begin our summer schedule.

This winter we will have our own indoor riding arena available on our camp site! This will allow us to increase our EAL programming. We are looking for churches, individuals and community groups to help provide funding in order to provide EAL to schools in our surrounding communities. Our next step will be to

develop an EAL program for people suffering from PTSD as well as a specific EAL session for teens with anxiety. We have seen the value of EAL and how much of an impact it can be to behavioural issues in a school classroom. The teachers and school administrators are very excited about the program that we are setting up!

If you are interested in supporting this valuable ministry, please talk to either Cheralyne Gibson or Mark Wurtz for more information (1-855-855-9322

In all, we will continue to sharpen our focus on Jesus and ensure that what the equestrian program is doing is His ministry. In every interaction, from simply hosting an event, to our more personal interactions with EAL participants, may we

- be pouring love into
- their lives. **Love God,**
- **Love People.**



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Valley Equestrian Centre

CHERALYNE GIBSON

2018! Where did you go? A quick recap: We hosted our first annual Skijoring Competition fundraiser for VEC in March. We had an excellent turnout. Not only is being towed behind a galloping horse on skis/snowboard exhilarating, it's also a great spectator sport. We plan to host our second annual Skijoring Competition again on March 9, 2019, so be sure to come out and watch, compete, or volunteer!

Spring saw us hit the ground running. With the help of Janelle Martens (Head Wrangler) starting earlier this year, and Shelby Neil volunteering for two months this summer as the equestrian program's assistant, (let me tell you, Shelby kept me on track, had my schedule memorized, let me know whether I was coming or going, and even knew my favourite snacks). In addition to running horse skills for children's and ASN camps, we expanded our horse day-camps from 2 to 4 weeks. This included one camp which was specifically focused on jumping. With the extra help for the camp programming, I was able to continue teaching riding lessons to the

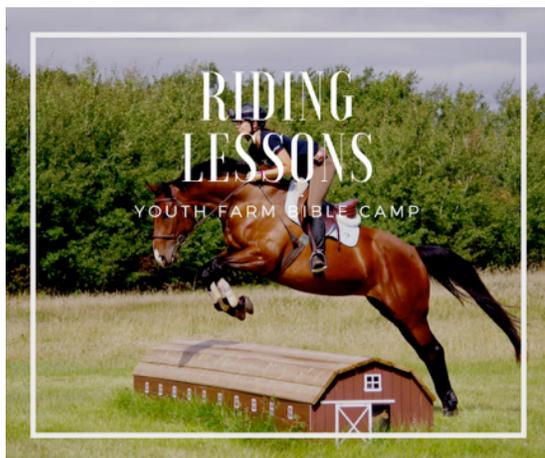
public in the evenings and even take on a few training horses. The lesson horse herd was expanded, including acquiring some talented new lesson horses capable of teaching jumping lessons.

Building a new program requires promotion, networking, and of course, fundraising. We hosted quite a few fundraisers this year! In May we ran a Gymkhana, which was a HUGE hit and all participants asked when we would be hosting another. We were host to one Working Equitation clinic along with three play days in partnership with Kim Jungman. Working Equitation is a new sport in Canada. In June we went retro and brought back the Ride-a-thon, which was held at Eb's Trails. The VEC students were given the opportunity to ride their favourite lesson horses, and members of the community brought their own and joined us. In September we organized a Hunter Derby – essentially, cross country jumping – which brought out some new riders to the Youth Farm!

Now at this point, you may wonder, but where was the Lord in all of this? Every

day, every moment, HE is here. At VEC we use the Lord's wondrous creation, the horse, to touch, to enlighten, to improve, to better people's lives. I see this when a child who struggles with anxiety is able to connect with a horse in a way that she hasn't been able to connect with her peers. And then again, when this connection begins to inspire the child, improving her self-esteem, and later, her interactions with others. I see God's work when a child who gives up at the very moment something begins to look difficult chooses to spend a half hour trying to catch his horse because he told himself he won't give up on Tucker (the horse's name). The work on people's lives that is being done is God's work, not mine; the horse and I are merely vessels.

Cheralyne's first summer as Wrangler was in 2012. She has been full-time since May, 2017.



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Administrative Assistant

BEVERLY NEUDORF

How would I describe 2018 at the Youth Farm Bible Camp? From my vantage point as Administrative Assistant, I would say the past year has been exciting, humbling, and challenging.

The camp year begins in January. I'm always amazed to see how quickly our campers, in particular our adult special needs campers, get their applications in to us. Even when the ground is covered with snow, our campers are looking forward to spending a week (or maybe two) of their summer with us!

One of my favourite parts of camp life is the visits I get from campers at the office. The smiles I get after they've had a good breakfast are priceless. Catching up with repeat campers and getting to know new faces, is exciting. Each one has their own story and experiences. Each one has experienced joy and pain. And each one needs to know that there is hope through Jesus' death and resurrection. We all have so much in common!

Another area of camp life for me is issuing donation receipts. Donations throughout the year are a humbling reminder to me of how people want to be part of this ministry and how God provides for us. The generosity of our donors not only provides funds for our general operations and programming, but also provides camperships for those unable to cover their camp fees and gives them the opportunity to come to camp.

Our theme this year of **Behold!** has been a good challenge for me to look past the paperwork and past the office to see where and how God is working around me. I cannot help but be amazed at how God had a plan from the beginning to

provide a Saviour when I don't deserve one. Hearing the campers singing during chapel and learning Bible verses, reminds me that Jesus is alive and powerful today. The challenge to Behold! is also a challenge to "be bold". Who can I share Jesus with? How can I be His hands and feet today? I challenge you to ask these same questions.

Bev Neudorf has been serving at YFBC since January, 2012.



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Executive Director

MARK WURTZ

As you have read many times in this booklet, our theme for the year was Behold! What captured my heart even more was the tagline for the theme - SEEK GOD'S FACE.

In the middle of summer, through a devotional I was doing, I was challenged to spend more time in communion with God. It is depressing how many leaders of ministries would rather do the work of God than spend time with God. At every leadership conference I go to, leaders are recognizing that they are not spending enough time praying, reading scripture, listening to God, fasting, meditating on His words and practicing spiritual disciplines.

By spending more time in communion with God, our character changes and becomes more and more like God's character. We seek to love God with all of our heart, with all of our soul, with all of our mind and with all of our strength. We seek to love our neighbours - we even have desires to love our enemies. We recognize as John does that if we do

not love the people around us, how can we love God?

This summer and fall, I made more time to spend in communion with God. It is still a work in progress, but it is very necessary. I have come into winter not as depleted as other years. I recognize the importance of Seeking God's Face. Yet I still have work to do in order to grow my character and grow my personhood to be more like Jesus. It is a never ending process. I hope the words of Paul become my words someday; "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that Day, and not only to me but to all who have loved his appearing" 2 Tim 4:12-13

Saying Goodbye to Holly Epp:

It is with a heavy heart that we had to terminate the position of Associate Director at the Youth Farm Bible Camp. The shortage of funds from the Corn Maze showed that we could not support the same number of staff as we would like to. Holly has spent 4 1/2 years in a variety of roles at YFBC. We greatly appreciated her heart for ministry, her work on designs, and her desire to develop relationships. We give best wishes and prayers to Holly.

Mark Wurtz has been YFBC's executive director since 2001.



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Site Manager

JACOB WIELINGA

As the 2018 Youth Farm year slowly comes to an end, I am asked to reflect on some of the things that have happened. The year started with us being reminded to stop, listen, and fix our eyes upon Jesus through the theme BEHOLD that was used for summer camp. Making an extra effort in seeking God's face (Ps 27:8) and seeing Him at work in so many areas around me has been amazing to observe this past year.

The role as a site manager took on greater significance this year as God allowed me to be used in this role and invite others along side me while working around the yard. Great teamwork was shown as the boy cabins were given a facelift, the low ropes and campfire areas were cleaned up and a few activities there were modified or replaced. This took me into the summer months and I was given the opportunity to have some campers help me in my daily "chores" and other projects that were on the go. One camper in particular added a new dimension to what the Youth Farm does here. I invited a Camper from the Special Needs week to help me

with the picnic shelter we were building. He struggles with depression and anxiety. A few hours working on the new picnic shelter gave him a boost of self confidence.

The duck race activity and hand wash station by the petting zoo were made, and the barn continues to improve. It is now full of animals during the winter months. Thank you also to all the volunteers that helped make it happen. The fall also saw a sequence of repairs that needed to be done. What a blessing to have the extended resources of people and supplies available to help us get through it all.

I cannot close this off without mentioning the corn maze and how God surprised me over and over again. The numbers that attended this fall was affected by the poor weather we had, but the people that did come to the corn maze blessed us and allowed us to bless them. There were many opportunities for sharing to happen and the train ride helped with this. Having someone ride beside me on the train created moments where they

were willing to share their story of who they were and what they did.

There is always a mixed feeling of closing the corn maze for the year. The excitement of it is now over, the activities are cleaned up, the animals have found their winterized dwellings, and snow covers the yard and is filling up the rows of the corn maze that once were filled with many pairs of shoes. Thank you to everyone for your encouragement, help and prayers. Thank You God for allowing me to see Your mighty hand of love and compassion at work.



Jacob Wielinga has been serving as Site Manager since 2016



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