

# The 'GATE NEWSLETTER



Volume 12—Fall 2023

## Our Stories: “Growth”

When we met Cam at a career fair, he was a freshman studying to be a science teacher. He was looking for more experience working with children in nature. He had never been to camp at Aldersgate, but we could tell he would be good with our campers. He had a passion for the Lord, a willingness to lead Bible study and share his faith, and the base level of experience with children we look for in a future counselor.

We provided Cam and others with two full weeks of training before our campers arrived. We teach counselors to manage behaviors, play games, lead Bible studies, and build healthy relationships. Like many first-year counselors, Cam lacked confidence

during his first couple of weeks and didn't really seem to know who he was. He was good with the campers but was unsure of himself. His supervisor checked on Cam daily and provided coaching, advice, and tips. Week after week, we saw growth in his leadership skills and confidence. This summer, we invited Cam back for his third year on staff.

Campers individually choose their elective for the week of camp, and return to that activity each day after lunch. This time allows us to dive deeper into activity areas compared to other activities that we only do once. Each year, we introduce one or two new electives to keep our program fresh and exciting. Cam was invited to consider designing a science elective and confidently owned the whole experience. He created and implemented 100% of the curriculum. During staff orientation, he taught all the other counselors how to run the elective for their campers. Campers who signed up for the science elective loved the daily experiments such as “Elephant Toothpaste”, exploring the power of inertia and centripetal force through swinging buckets full of water, and of course- make your own ice cream and more! Cam took it over the top by developing a faith lesson relating what campers learned in the experiment, with the days Bible study lesson! Combining his schooling to become a science teacher and his experiences and training from the first two summers helped him grow tremendously into the leader God is calling him to be for the church and the world.

Our work at Aldersgate empowers and trains young adults for life in the church and the world. It gives them a place to safely practice and develop their skills. Your generosity to Aldersgate allows us to recruit, train, and coach young adults like Cam, who then provide powerful faith-forming experiences for campers each week of the summer. Aldersgate yes is a physical place, but this place is simply grass and buildings without people like Cam and you- our guests, our staff, our volunteers, our donors, and our prayer warriors. Thank you for being part of this ministry we share.



# With The Future In Mind: “Showers & Beds”

Guests tell us the lack of heated, handicap-accessible, and modern showers is a problem for them. Group leaders tell us they are turning people away from their retreats because we are unable to accommodate more than 46 total guests, and that includes adults on top bunks. Our retreat calendar is near capacity and it has no where else to grow.

Our old director’s residence is a prime location to renovate into a new Retreat House. The 1446-square-foot building has a good roof and foundation. We plan to modernize it while reworking the floor plan to solve our shower and bed space issues for guests.



**This will expand our capacity, while improving our campers experience at a fraction of the cost of a new building of this size.**

Renovation plans include residing of the exterior, gutting of the entire building, reworking of the floor plan, and remodeling top to bottom including:

## Beds

Reworked layout adds 2 heated large bedrooms to Aldersgate’s facilities. Each feature 6 new bunk beds (24 beds in total) with a window and outlet between each bed. Rooms will be finished with carpet squares and ship lap style pine wall boards.



**Increases our heated capacity from 46 to 70 and our warm weather capacity from 120-144!**

## Bathrooms

Modern and handicap accessible bathrooms, where each bedroom has a bathroom, while also accessible to the rest of camp through outdoor entrances.



## Front Porch

New concrete porch will be poured to make handicap accessible. New porch seating and lighting will be added to make this a great covered hangout spot.



## Utility Room

Will feature a new HVAC system for the entire building, a new Tankless Hot Water Heater, a stackable washer and dryer, a mop sink, and shelving for housekeeping supplies.

This can all be done for an estimated:

## Project Goal: \$95,000

We have **received a generous grant of \$40,000** through the United Methodist Camp and Retreat Ministries to begin the work. The deadline for spending the grant funding is May 31, 2024. It is our desire to have the rest of the project's funds (\$55,000) in hand by the first of January 2024. We invite you to prayerfully consider how God is calling you to support our effort to fund this capacity-building project gift to ensure we meet the needs of as many guests as possible.



Gifts Needed	Gift Amount	Total Toward Goal
Received from UMCOR Grant!	\$40,000	\$40,000
1	\$20,000	\$60,000
1	\$10,000	\$70,000
2	\$5,000	\$80,000
3	\$2,500	\$87,500
5	\$1,000	\$92,500
Many	Less than \$500	\$95,000

### What Will It Take to Achieve Our Goal Together?

To fully attain our goal of \$95,000 gifts in the quantities listed will need to be received from friends of Aldersgate by the first of January 2024.

### If We Exceed Our Goal?

We have other capital projects on the horizon. As the cost of living increases, some families are finding it more difficult to pay for a week of summer camp, especially if they have more than one child. If we exceed our goal of \$95,000, we will use additional funding to help support camper scholarships and begin additional capital projects that strengthen our future.

## Various Ways To Make A Gift To Aldersgate:

Most people think about writing a check to make a gift or using their credit card. However, here are three strategies that may be far better than writing a check:

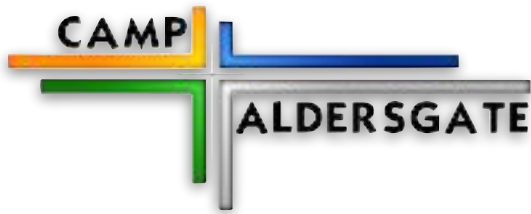
- If you own appreciated stock, mutual funds, or other capital assets, you can gift these assets to Aldersgate and avoid the capital gains tax while getting a tax deduction for the fair market value. This double tax savings makes this another attractive way to make a gift.
- Making a regular gift every month from your checking account can allow you to make a bigger gift than you ever thought possible. A gift of \$30 per month (\$1 per day) comes to a total gift of \$360 a year. A gift of \$100 per month is \$1,200.
- If you are over age 70½ and have a traditional IRA, you are eligible to contribute directly from your IRA to a qualified charity, such as Aldersgate, through a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD). The benefits of a QCD include:
  - ✓ avoiding income taxes on the distribution,
  - ✓ making a tax-free gift to Aldersgate with taxable dollars (the maximum allowed per year is \$100,000),
  - ✓ and satisfying your required minimum distribution (in 2023 this is required after age 73).
    - o NOTE: If you have another type of qualified retirement account, you can roll over that account to an IRA and then use this gifting method.

Everyone's situation is different. Please pray about and discern how God is calling you to be involved.

**Make a secure gift online:** [www.campaldersgate.org](http://www.campaldersgate.org)

**Mail a check to:** 3276 Dyewood Rd Sw. Carrollton OH 44615





3276 Dyewood Rd SW.  
Carrollton, OH 44615

## Return Service Requested

### An issue full of hope:

- A story of growth
- An exciting project
- Something new!
- And more....

## New: “Hammock Village”

Nash, a long time Aldersgate camper, chose camp for his Eagle Scout Project through the Boy Scouts! Nash tackled everything from research & design, to fundraising and purchasing of supplies, to building with the help of his Boy Scout Troop 1921. Our campers enjoyed a spot to take a rest in the shade at our waterfront in our new Hammock Village. Thank you Nash!



## Christmas Idea

Check out our **UPDATED** Online Camp Store! Order before December 18th to receive before Christmas.



## Summer Staff

Thank you to the incredible summer staff who made this year's camp season possible! Applications for 2024 go live in December!

