

May, 2020



Dear Arizona Mission Center members and friends,

It is with heavy hearts that a decision has been made to cancel the 2020 Reunion. The reasons to cancel this important event were many, but it really boiled down to one significant, powerful reason...our safety as a Faith Community.

Over the years as Reunion Directors, we focused on two important roles that our Family Camp provided to both the Arizona Mission Center and Whispering Pines. First, the importance of "programming" and the spiritual experience of everyone in attendance, from our infants to our 90 year old attendees. The second piece was the understanding of the financial importance of our Reunion experience to the revenue generation of our very own Whispering Pines. Even though "camper days" have been used to measure success for over thirty years, only recently has it become a part of our Mission Center dialog. For our Reunion experience over the last three years, we have averaged 615 Camper Days. In return, that has generated approximately \$20,000 in revenue per year to Whispering Pines. As additional surplus, we have approximately \$10,000 in a Mission Center Budget line item to be used for our Reunions in the future.

Even though, we are not having a Reunion this year, we cannot take away the incredible need to continue to provide income/revenue for Whispering Pines. We have had a generous donation as a lead gift from an out of state donor. This donor has agreed to give up to \$5,000 in a matching fund. This donor will match dollar for dollar up to \$5,000. That would be a total of \$10,000 at that point. As your Reunion Directors, we would like to set a minimum goal of \$15,000 for Whispering Pines. We would love to publish a goal of \$20,000, but with the uncertainty of today's world, we think that it is prudent to keep it at \$15,000. With the support of the Whispering Pines Board, Chairman Dr Brinks Austin and our Mission Center President Sara Tubbesing, we would like to announce a fund raising effort during the month of June, 2020 for Whispering Pines. Please send your donations directly to the following:

Craig/Shari Harper
11 S Central Ave #2010
Phoenix, Az 85004

Kyle Harper
15008 N Rica Vida Way
Fountain Hills, Az 85268

Kevin/Robyn Harper
3201 W Walden Ct
Anthem, Az 85086

We will compile the checks and present them to Whispering Pines. Please make your checks out to "Whispering Pines." Just so you know, we are looking into a "Celebration of Whispering Pines" later in the year as a 2020 Reunion Weekend. Whispering Pines, the Arizona Mission Center and the Community of Christ, all continue to be important parts of our collective, spiritual fabric as individuals and as a Faith Community. This is just one of many ways to express that recognition.

Thank you in advance for your consideration and generous response!

Robyn, Kevin, Shari, Craig, Kyle