



Camp Blodgett
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CAMP BLODGETT CONNECTION

SPRING 2023

Give the Gift of Camp Today!

This year, we have 700 campers eager to make friends, develop new skills, and experience self-esteem building adventures.

This summer, every Monday for seven weeks, 100 children will gather at Camp Blodgett for four nights and five days of empowerment focused education and recreation. For many children, it will be their first time feeling the splash of Lake Michigan's waves on their feet. They'll triumph through our new low ropes course, try their aim at archery, express themselves at arts and crafts, learn to ride a bike, and play, eat, play!

The best part – none of these children will know who paid what for this magical experience. Our donor community of businesses, individuals, foundations, and families believes that the magic of summer camp shouldn't be restricted to only those who can afford it.



After three years of pandemic hardships, we are seeing families struggling more and more financially. When parents are stressed with finances, housing instability, childcare, and rising expenses, summer camp seems unthinkable for their children.

With 75% of our families paying between \$30-\$75 for one week of summer camp, Camp Blodgett makes summer camp realistic. We can only do this thanks to your continued campership support!

To respond to the demand we are receiving from our families, we need your support today! You can be the difference needed to ensure we can respond to this growing demand.

Thank you for continuing to show up for our kids!

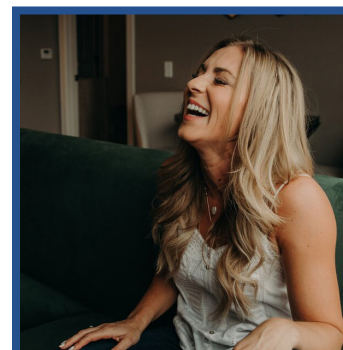
Lucy Dyer Joswick, Executive Director

P.S. We welcome your non-financial gifts here, too! From maintenance and facility support to volunteering for activities at summer camp, we welcome YOU at Camp Blodgett!

Join Us on the Deck for Camp Blodgett's Summer Concerts!

Everybody's favorite summer concerts overlooking Lake Michigan are back for summer 2023! Join us on the deck of our Loeks Retreat Center for an evening of awesome music, great company, beautiful views, all while benefiting a good cause — ensuring our important work serving West Michigan youth year-round continues!

**Sunday
July 16**
**Mark
Lavengood**



**Sunday
August 13**
**Jamie
Dionne**

Gates at 6:30pm | Music at 7pm
Loeks Retreat Center deck



\$10 PRESALE TICKETS
\$15 at the gate
Kids 13 + under FREE
(suggested donation: \$5)

For more info + to buy tickets,
scan the QR code above or visit

campblodgett.org/summer-concerts

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Upcoming Events

July 16 - Summer Concert #1
Mark Lavengood

August 13 - Summer Concert #2
Jamie Dionne

**September 21 - For The Kids
Soirée**

For more info, visit
campblodgett.org/events

Follow us on
social media!



Highlights of Impact...

Facility Focus

Camp Blodgett's facilities team (Dave DeYoung and Brian Paul) are preparing our grounds and buildings for summer camp and shining up the Loeks Retreat Center for peak event season. Here are a few projects that your donations and rental fees make possible:

Property Project	Why It Matters
Replacing gas lines and meters	Updated gas lines are now safer and more fuel efficient, saving our environment and reducing utility cost.
Repairing pool tiles and concrete; adding permanent pool stairs	Tile repair protects water from seeping behind the tiles and degrading the concrete. New stairs are safer for our kids and the occasional frogs who have been trapped behind our floating stairs.
New kitchen dishwasher	Our 22-year-old industrial dishwasher has been replaced with a brand new, more water and energy efficient machine. Our kids and kitchen staff will love that it now can fit all our baking sheets and cutting boards, reducing hand scrubbing needs.

Here are a few upcoming projects where we could use your help to connect to volunteers or businesses to reduce project expenses:

Upcoming Project	Support Needed
Replacing windows in Loeks Retreat Center & Kuta Cottage	We are seeking businesses who would donate or discount windows and volunteers who are skilled in window replacement to help with installation.
Replacing A/C units in our guest rooms	We have eight guest rooms with 23-year-old air conditioners in need of replacement. We would love to partner with companies willing to donate these window units and/or save us costs on volunteer installation.
Upgrading golf carts	Are you a golfer? Have any connections with companies who could gift a golf cart as a tax-deductible donation? These carts are used to haul items around camp and at events where attendees need help getting up the hill to our retreat center.

A Peek Into Programming

Summer camp begins on Monday, June 5th for our 102nd season! We are preparing to serve 700 campers from across Kent and Ottawa Counties and invite you to join us to help ensure our success. Below are ways you can engage with summer camp at Camp Blodgett:

Bring a group out for a visit and tour – One of the best ways for your friends and family to understand the magic of Camp Blodgett is by seeing it in action. Bring a group of friends out for a tour of our summer camp, then cool off in Lake Michigan. Interested? Contact Jennifer at jennifer@campblodgett.org



Purchase from our Amazon wish list – To help ensure funds raised go directly to programs and not products, please check out our wish list. You can purchase and ship directly from Amazon! Visit campblodgett.org/wishlist



Share your skills – We have two special skill sets where we are seeking volunteer support – artists and survivalists for our two Arts Weeks (6/5-6/9 and 7/10-7/14) and our Survivor Week (7/17-7/21). If either of those match your skill sets, please reach out to our Camp Director at donny@campblodgett.org



Introducing: Glenna Knappe Ropes Course

Camp Blodgett has lots of new elements on the adventure side of our property. The Glenna Knappe Low Ropes Course finished construction mid-April and has brought many new teambuilding and problem-solving challenges for our campers.

The course is named in honor of Camp Blodgett Guild Member, Glenna Knappe (1923-2020), a loyal volunteer and supporter of our programs. Knappe encouraged adventuring, and we are proud to honor her legacy with these elements. We can't wait to have our campers try these out this summer!



Season of Change

Camp Blodgett staff is in a season of change this spring.



Farewell Rick Meyering! Longtime team member Rick Meyering and his family are off for life on the road this spring. For the last 14 years, Rick has served us as Camp Director and then as Director of Operations. Rick was key to the success of our rental program and stewarding our land and facilities. With his departure, our facilities and rental team is changing.

Team members Dave DeYoung and Brian Paul will serve as Facilities Directors. Dave, who has served as Facilities Manager since 2017, will grow his role by adding on compliance, licensing, and contractor oversight. Brian, who has served as our Camp Director since 2015 will maintain his oversight of our growing adventure facilities, manage school and annual program rentals, and share facilities management duties with Dave.

With Brian Paul departing Programs, Associate Executive Director Jennifer Grondzik is growing her role at Camp Blodgett and is now supervising the program team of Dontario Hodges and Julie Kuberski. She will continue to support fundraising, volunteer services, and communications, in partnership with Executive Director, Lucy Dyer Joswick.

Our last change is the addition of Tracy Sievers, our new Events Manager. Tracy started on April 25th and will manage our rental program. She comes to Camp Blodgett with a background in marketing and communications and is eager to sustain the essential mission fuel that our rentals consistently bring. **Welcome Tracy!**



Thank You 2023 Sponsors!

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Camp Blodgett teaches values that last a lifetime, and YOU are the primary ingredient to help make this work possible for years to come.

To view all of our campership options or make a donation online, scan the QR code or visit us at



campblodgett.org/donate

You can also make a donation using the enclosed envelope. Memo: Campership