

The Potter's Wheel



**CAMP
RAYBIRD**

A publication of Ray Bird Ministries "God's Hand Shaping Young Lives"



Campers and staff at the Spring Mini Camp gathering in small groups to pray during our prayer tour in a local neighborhood.

Spring
Update

Would you like to receive this publication electronically? Don't want this publication? Please call 574-232-8523 or email david@raybird.org



www.raybird.org

P.O. Box 3717
South Bend, IN 46619



Address Service Requested

Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage

May 9, 2017: Give Local!

On Tuesday, May 9, the Community Foundation of St. Joseph County is sponsoring a 24-hour giving day event. 67 charities including Camp Ray Bird are participating. Generous sponsors have created a matching pool of \$2.4 million, launched with a challenge gift of \$1 million from the Judd Leighton Foundation in honor of the Community Foundation's 25th Anniversary. On May 9, participating charities will have 24 hours to raise as much money as they can to earn their share of a \$2.4 million matching pool. Give Local St. Joseph County is your chance to help Camp Ray Bird now and from now on.

How will we use the money raised through Give Local? Our waterfront! Waterfront activities are camper-favorites! We have a big goal—to raise \$22,000 to replace and improve some of our key equipment—this means canoes, boat motors, docks and more. Our current equipment is safe, but is reaching the end of its life. Improvements to this centerpiece of camp will be incredible for our campers' experience and will help us in terms of maintenance, too. Any funds that go above and beyond our goal will be put to use in the same spirit of improving our most cherished camper activities.

Credit card donations can easily be made on line, but if you are giving by check, please date your check May 9, 2017, and make it out to the Community Foundation of St. Joseph County. Write "Camp Ray Bird" in the memo line and be sure the check arrives at the Community Foundation on or before May 9, or deliver your check to the camp on or before 5:00pm on May 9. Donations can also be made the day of the event at several locations around town.

For more details, visit GiveLocalSJC.org.



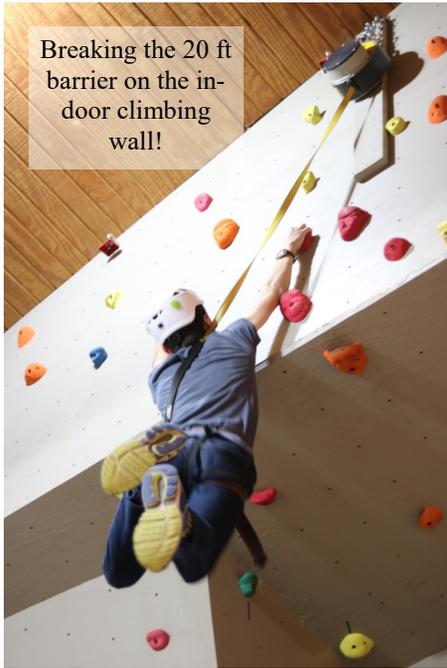
Results of Spring Forward Dinner

We were very pleased to see such a great turn out for our Spring Forward Dinner. It was the perfect occasion to share about our mission, how the camp was formed, and what our program looks like today. As we gear up for summer it's a real blessing to see so many people in one place who stand behind our ministry and stand behind our campers.

Thank you all who were able to make it out! Your generous gifts and pledges (including some sent to us before and after the event) totaled \$17,595 for our campership fund and \$2,100 to be matched for our waterfront and endowment fund through the Community Foundation's Give Local event. Many thanks to our board, staff, and all the volunteer helpers. You all made it a great evening! Thank you and praise the Lord! The generosity of our guests has given us an incredible start to our annual goal of \$54,000 for camperships. Giving a campership gift is an investment into the life of a camper—thank you everyone who makes that special investment!

Glimpses of the Spring Mini Camp

Our Spring Mini Camp in April was awesome! There were 24 campers who finished all their lessons and came out on April 7-9 for a free weekend with lots of fun, “spring” activities and teaching from God’s word. As you can see in the logo below, the theme for the weekend was “Connecting...” and was all about connecting to God through prayer. Everyone knows what the wifi symbol looks like, but we challenged the campers to think of their access to God when they see the wifi symbol. It serves as a reminder of the constant access we have to talk to Him. Not only was the Spring Mini Camp a good time to connect with God—it was also a rich time of connecting with one another and doing different spring-time activities. Here are some of the highlights:



Breaking the 20 ft barrier on the indoor climbing wall!



Making prayer journals-different colors for different emotions we can tell God about.



Pitball after sunset requires a big light, but is still a camper favorite.



Connecting...



Campers roasted hotdogs over the campfire for lunch.



Connecting with God and one another.



A camper showing off some yoyo tricks!



Flying a kite!



We drove the bus into town for campers and staff to pray in small groups for our community. The stops for the prayer tour included Harrison Elem., a local neighborhood, and a public park. Lastly we played in the park before heading back to camp.



Sunday morning we visited Trinity Church with our campers and staff.

Prayer Requests & Praises

Praise

- Our Spring Mini Camp was a fun and meaningful time with campers, praying together and teaching from the Bible about our connection with God.
- God is providing financially for the camp through the generous donations of friends and supporters. The Spring Forward Dinner was a big help to our campership fund.
- We are thankful for the upcoming May 9th opportunity through the Community Foundation to build up our endowment and improve the waterfront.
- 22 of 40 of our summer staff has been hired! These include several seasoned returners, all of the leadership positions, and several former campers.
- 8 volunteer groups from churches (and one college) are covering every week this summer!
- This is CRB's 98th year—God has been very faithful to this special place and we praise Him for using it in the lives of so many young people.

Prayer

- We are in great need of boys counselors to serve on staff this summer. Please pray that God would make the connections.
- Please pray that God would bring many children to Himself this summer. Pray for receptive hearts and minds. Nearly 300 campers are currently signed up.
- Pray for energy, diligence, and creativity as we plan and make preparations for summer camp. This is a very busy time of year for us!
- While there's much work to be done, it's also our year-round staff's last chance to be recharged before summer. Pray for physical, spiritual and emotional renewal.

Did you know?

This summer Camp Ray Bird will be updating and posting to Instagram and Facebook. You'll see all kinds of photos, videos, and stories giving live updates of some of the amazing things that happen at camp.

Follow us on [facebook.com/CampRayBird](https://www.facebook.com/CampRayBird)

Follow us on Instagram @campraybird



The Mission of Ray Bird Ministries is to share the gospel of Jesus Christ with Michigan children and teens, nurture those believers, and prepare them for participation in local churches. Ray Bird Ministries specializes in serving families who could not otherwise afford meaningful camping experiences.

Ray Bird Ministries, Inc. [501(c)(3)] would like to extend a very special **THANK YOU** to our Board of Directors for their dedication and support of our efforts. Members include Linda Burrell, Kristen Haubold, Phyllis Hueni, Randy Meert, David Mui, John Rader, Tom Thompson, Shawn Titus, Don Wierenga, and Keith Walatka.

Donations were made...

In memory of Pearl Flaherty

(Bruce and Shannon Runnels)

In memory of John Byler

(Bruce and Shannon Runnels)

We're HIRING!

CRB is needing to hire several key positions including:

- ◆ **Counselors (18+ yo)**
- ◆ **Water front staff**
- ◆ **Kitchen/dining hall staff**

If you or someone you know is looking for something more than a summer job, consider joining our team for a adventurous, relational, Christ-centered summer. See how God is working at camp and how He can transform kids' lives through you. To learn more or to get an application, visit raybird.org/involved or email david@raybird.org.