



Mission Possible: The Pavilion Project

Case Statement for the Bethany Birches Campaign to Rebuild the Pavilion (2012-2015)

Bethany Birches Camp grew from the compassionate vision of Lloyd and Alice Moyer for the many Vermont children. Bethany Mennonite Church and its pastor, Nevin Bender, joined the Moyers who gave 100 acres of land to make this dream a reality, starting in 1965.

By the 1970's, Bethany Birches Camp (BBC) consistently provided opportunity for young people to advance in their relationships with God in a natural and nurturing environment. A rustic facility, a unique program, and a community that believed in it came together in a way that touches many Vermont families, now sending a new generation of children, with younger siblings who can't wait for their turn to come.

Building on our history of successfully nurturing children and youth, and with the urgency of deteriorating facilities, we keep dreaming and planning about how to help young people grow towards God. With a history of creative thrift, we expect to foster this advance by filling up current programs and empty spaces in the schedule, as well as renovating existing buildings before adding new facilities. We also wish to do so sustainably—for staff, for volunteers, for the environment, and most importantly for the campers we serve.

Stuff Campers Say: *God is great and He can take care of your worries.*

With the future in mind, the camp's Board of Directors authorized a survey and interviews with camp families, volunteers, supporters and staff. The results of this effort made it clear that the camp and its supporters intend to move forward in ministry to children and youth for a long time to come. Because of this desire, renewing broken facilities is a must. A rainy day space in the summer, a better ability to get and stay warm so that youth are outside longer in the winter, and continuing the tradition of a rustic Pavilion as the center of Camp Life is especially supported. Here are some other key observations from the survey:

- Staff needs to be able to do their jobs with less stress due to insufficient space or antiquated equipment.
- Brandon and Amber Bergey bring solid leadership to BBC and people are willing to support (financially) the leadership they bring.
- Supporters of BBC understand that a lack of facility equates to program hindrance and fulfillment of the mission. They stand ready to help with some needed facility improvement.
- The Board is overwhelmingly supportive and ready to participate with its fund raising responsibility. And together with the Resource Development team has committed \$266,000!

Increasingly urgent next steps are required

To continue well in ministry to children and youth, BBC needs to:

- **Rebuild the pavilion**—creating more indoor space for use during inclement weather and making that space more weather resistant. Increasing program numbers call for more appropriate space, especially with regard to the kitchen, nurse quarters, camp store and storage.
- **Extend the program**—Campers come more than once per year. This distinctive is a key to how we impact young lives, and the more campers come to BBC, the better! We intend to increase the number of winter programs we run, as regulators allow.

The current facilities served us well even beyond their expiration date. Most recently, the state has taken notice by condemning the BBC cabin. The Camp must move forward in renewing itself for future service or risk not being able to serve altogether.

Jesus looked at them and said, "With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible." Matthew 19:26

What's The Plan?

We seek to raise \$1.8 million dollars across the next three years.

- \$1 million will be raised quietly through private donors toward the new Pavilion.
- With \$1 million committed, an equivalent to \$400,000 will be raised publicly via volunteer labor and material donations in the barn raising of a new Pavilion.
- \$400,000 will be raised noisily, joyfully and immediately across the next three years to help children without means to attend camp (this is the normal subsidy we'd grant to campers over a three year period).
- Filling up our programs and filling out our schedule will further contribute toward this \$1.8 million dollar goal.

What can you do?

Supporters, Neighbors and Friends

- Consider a sacrificial and substantial gift.
- Pray for this process and effort: for the kids it will benefit. We will pray that God uses your giving to bless your own life.
- Consider a gift of time to the barn raising effort.
- Share! Talk. Facebook. Announce at church. Heck, put it on your Christmas cards...

Campers and Camp Families

- Keep attending camp and help us take good care of the rustic facilities we have.
- Invite new friends to experience BBC.
- Plan to contribute in some fashion to this effort.

Stuff Campers Say: *Even if bad things happen to you, God can heal your scars.*

Staff

- Do all you can to enhance the BBC experience.
- Help us recruit quality and committed staff members for the future.
- Plan to contribute in some fashion to this effort.

Congregations

- Be prepared to encourage and support work groups.
- Consider bringing your events to BBC.
- Help us recruit quality and committed staff members for the future.
- If God leads you, begin or increase your annual support and consider providing a special financial gift to the effort to rebuild the pavi.
- Send us campers! Our mission helps them grow in faith beyond Sundays and extends the work of the church for future generations.

Every dollar counts. Every person counts. Every contributed material counts—whether donated immediately or pledged over several years.

What's Next?

Make a pledge of financial support and/or time and expertise by using the Campaign Pledge Card, also available online at: bethanybirches.org/mission-possible. Make a credit card donation, or set up an electronic withdrawal from your bank account.

OR

Send a check now by mailing it to *Bethany Birches Camp* with "Mission Possible" on the memo line
Bethany Birches Camp
2610 Lynds Hill Road
Plymouth, VT 05056

Stuff Campers Say: *God can do a lot more for you than you think.*

Questions? Contact: Brandon at 802-672-5220

Thank you for considering this invitation!
For the board and resource development team:
Brandon Bergey
Executive Director

Stuff Staff Say: *I love camp because it is a place where I found myself and felt accepted. It is a place that God opened himself to me in a way that I could feel.*

I keep returning to camp to have the chance to see old friends as well as create new ones. It's a community of people that all work together. I cannot wait for this summer to meet many new faces and grow into a tightly knit opened armed extension of God's love.

