

# CONNECT

| Connecting you to the Ministry of Hidden Acres |

## SUMMER CAMPS 2016

- **June 6-10:** Training Week
- **June 12-16:** FBC Kaufman Middle School Camp
- **June 19-23:** Elementary Camp
- **June 26-30:** Jerry's Dream Camp I
- **July 10-14:** Jerry's Dream Camp II
- **July 18-22:** Great Commission Camp (GCC) I
- **July 25-29:** GCC II

## NEEDS LIST

- New self-bailing pedal boats
- New love seat
- New queen-size bed
- Queen bed headboard
- Quilts for Friendship Inn
- Drill set
- Bug spray
- Yardguard (mosquito spray)
- iPod and iPad
- Laptop

## STAY CONNECTED

Please visit our website. On the home page you will find a place to sign-up for our e-mail updates.



I like to share the story of a lightbulb moment I had during a conversation with the president and founder of Hidden Acres, Charles Diffe. We were standing in the dining hall eating lunch in the middle of our busy summer camp. After Charles finished greeting some of our staff leaders, he turned to me and pointed out that our camp counselors and leaders were as much of our ministry as our young campers. Since then I have looked at camp ministry through a wider lens and with a more eternal perspective. Our vision for ministry was revised to include that one of our goals at Hidden Acres is to develop and encourage servant leadership in our campers *and* staff.

Last month we led two retreats for middle school students where they received training on servant leadership with a focus on honesty. Close to thirty participants enjoyed a weekend at Hidden Acres learning, serving, and playing in the great outdoors.

One of the most encouraging aspects of the retreats was to see some of our former campers and assistant counselors taking leadership roles. Some of the volunteer leaders were high school students who have grown up as campers at Hidden Acres. The co-directors for the girls retreat, Amanda Smith (former camper since age 8) and Heather Henry (who also brings out young students to participate) are great mentors to our young leaders. Jason Henry and his wife Heather planned and directed the boys leadership retreat. Psalm 1:3 (the verse pictured above) rings true as I think of Amanda, Jason, and Heather as leaders. It is encouraging to see the leaders of Hidden Acres leading others to the streams of living water found in Christ.

-Tim Carpenter

Hidden Acres is a Christian Camp and Retreat Center. Our mission is to serve individuals and the community by sharing Christ's love.

For donations, please make checks payable to Hidden Acres and mail to:  
Hidden Acres  
P.O. Box 851462  
Mesquite, TX 75185-1462

Your gift makes a difference. Hidden Acres is a 501(c)(3) organization. Contributions are tax deductible.

Hidden Acres is located at:  
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[www.hiddenacres.org](http://www.hiddenacres.org)

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*\* Tree artwork by Chris Wright*

### Kids today....

- Only 1/3 of kids get enough exercise.
- Teens spend less than 40 minutes in meaningful conversation with their parents.
- Kids are more plugged in. Read less. Spend less time outside. Are less fit.

### At a Christian Camp...

- Campers discover God's love for them.
- Kids have an adventurous time in creation, stretching their hearts and minds (and legs) and have a new sense of purpose.
- And they discover: hope, peace, and acceptance.

from: [www.thepowerofcamp.com](http://www.thepowerofcamp.com)



### ENCOURAGEMENT AND TRAINING by Rebeca Carpenter

In an effort to be better equipped, grow our outreach, and make ministry more effective, Tim and I attended a Christian Camp Conference Association Texas Sectional event.

It was encouraging to meet people with a passion to reach children and youth through the powerful ministry of camping, and adults with the hospitality ministry of retreats.

We received information and training on issues like customer service, programming, building, and marketing. We also heard encouraging messages on the difference the gospel can make in the lives of campers and retreat attendees.

Our desire is to improve who we are as individuals, and as an organization, and to take what we learned and apply it to be better as we serve in Jesus' name.

