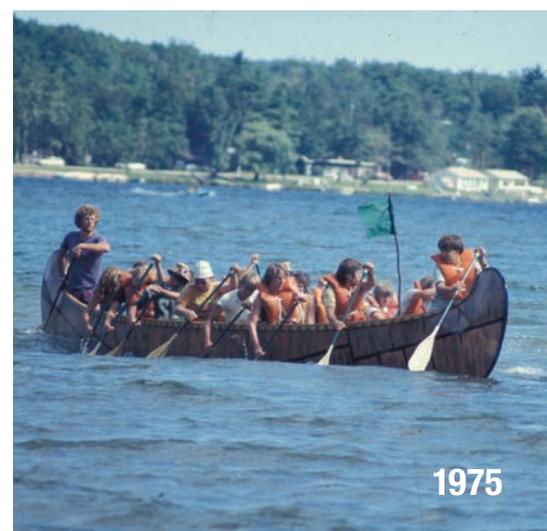
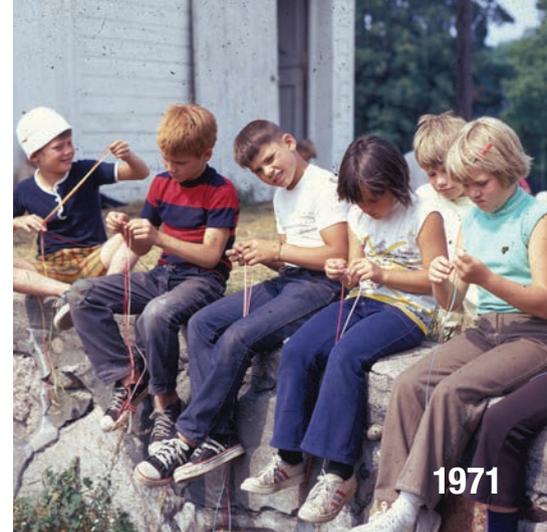




CELEBRATING  
**50**  
SUMMERS

A partner update

**SpringHill!**



Dear friend,

We're celebrating SpringHill's 50th summer and our 50th year of ministry. Fifty years is a long time; not many organizations last that long. For those that do, many are on the downward slope of accomplishing their mission.

Not at SpringHill. Entering our 50th year we've never had more opportunities to partner with families, churches, and supporters to create life-transforming SpringHill experiences for young people. Kids from all over the country and the world—from Georgia to Iowa and as far as China—are experiencing God through SpringHill, and we don't plan on stopping there.

All these Kingdom opportunities could not be happening without partnerships. In the midst of SpringHill's growing global influence and national reach, God's called SpringHill to deeper, more strategic partnerships with families, ministries, volunteers, and donors. This is not only Biblical, it's necessary as we live and serve in a post-Christian world. Like-minded people and organizations must pull together to reach young people in a way never before seen in our lifetime. There is no other option.

This is why we're so thankful for your partnership with us in the gospel these past 50 years. The next 50 will raise the critical nature of our partnership to levels we've never seen. So, in advance, thank you for being a critical ally with us in the next 50 years. Know that God uses you to provide SpringHill with people, tools, and resources needed to reach and serve young people from around the country and across the globe.

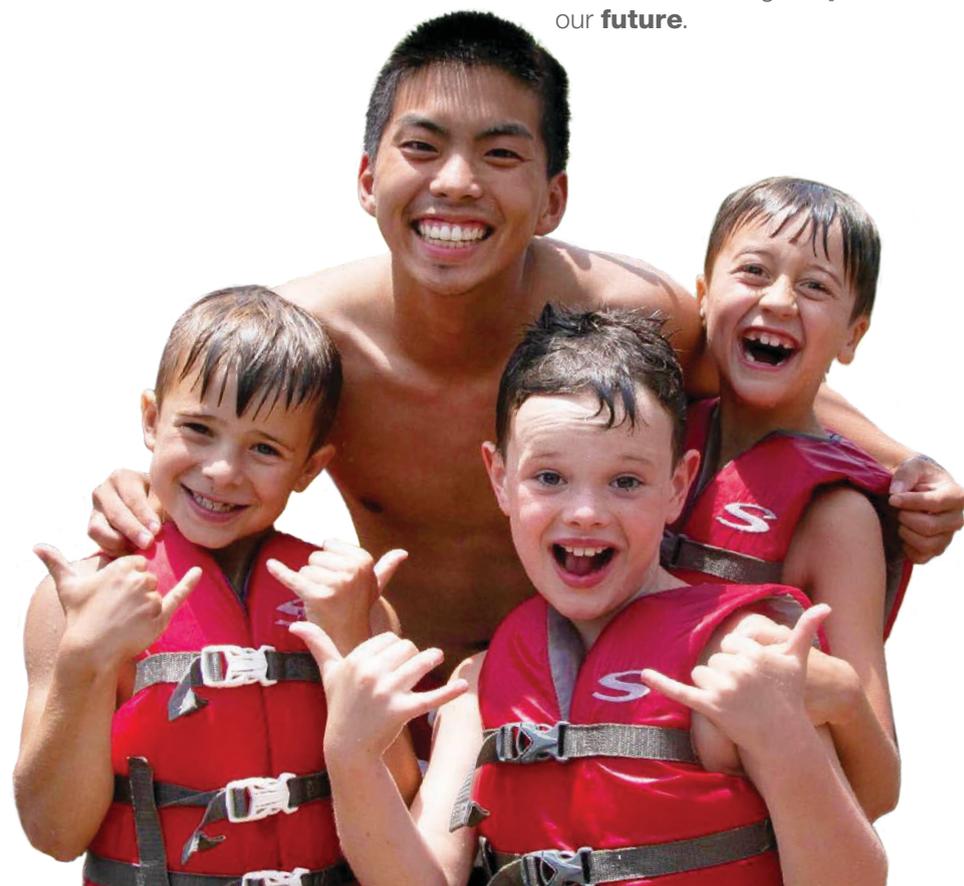
For the kids,

Michael Perry  
President

## Celebrating SpringHill's past, present, and future

Summer 2018 is an important milestone for SpringHill. This 50th summer of ministry gives us a chance to reflect on our history and thank God for the many ways He has blessed us. From the beginning, we have believed that God uses SpringHill experiences to change lives. This is evident in the stories of transformation throughout SpringHill's past and into the present. This summer, we've seen God at work in the lives of young people, and we are eager to see the ways He moves as we continue our mission of outreach and discipleship into the future.

Join us in honoring our **past**, celebrating our **present**, and dreaming of our **future**.





**“ We do the possible; God will do the impossible, taking us beyond the limits of human abilities.”**

Enoch Olson, Founding Director

## 1969: **Starting small**

In 1967, the board of Michigan Evangelical Free churches had a problem: their Bible camp was failing. Throughout the next year, Pastor Clarence R. Balmer fiercely campaigned until the board had raised enough money to purchase a 515-acre property outside of Evart, Michigan. A young pastor named Enoch Olson accepted the role of director and poured himself into praying boldly for this ministry. God provided everything from kitchen equipment and new trucks to volunteers who spent their weekends and vacation time preparing housing and activities. SpringHill Camp first opened in the summer of 1969 to serve a total of 256 kids.



## 2000: **Expanding our vision**

By the late 1990s, SpringHill was serving over 21,000 children and guests through summer camps and year-round retreats. Mark Olson, son of Enoch Olson and President of SpringHill, began to seek a second location to expand the ministry. When he and his wife, Lisa, first entered Redbrush Park in Seymour, Indiana, they both knew it was the place. Although they initially had no funds to purchase the property, God provided two-thirds of the capital needed within a matter of weeks. Indiana Overnight officially launched in the summer of 2000 with 1,483 campers.



## 2006: **SpringHill hits the road**

In order to fulfill our vision of serving all kids, we knew SpringHill couldn't limit itself to just overnight locations. We decided to take SpringHill on the road and partnered with local churches to create the Day Camp experience. This brought all the faith and fun of Overnight experiences into new neighborhoods. In the summer of 2006, a small team of leaders packed up a trailer, bought a portable climbing wall, and hit the road. For three weeks, they brought the love and hope of Jesus to 279 children at a church in Detroit.



**THEN**



**256** KIDS SERVED IN 1969



**25,282** KIDS SERVED IN 2018

**NOW**



**18** CREATIVE HOUSING UNITS



**20** SUMMER STAFF HIRED



**954** SUMMER STAFF HIRED



**146** CREATIVE HOUSING UNITS



**4,000** MEALS SERVED



**7** UNIQUE ACTIVITIES OFFERED



**90** UNIQUE ACTIVITIES OFFERED



**198,000** MEALS SERVED

## Celebrating your partnership

We wouldn't be where we are today without your support. Over the last 50 summers, God has built a community of partners who care deeply about spreading the love of Jesus to young people. This summer, we are grateful for the ways that your giving has impacted lives across SpringHill experiences. Because of your partnership, we've been able to provide everything from new housing units to camper scholarships, which means more kids can hear the gospel.

Our vision is to be a pioneering ministry and influential ally who will not rest until every young person has heard, seen, and experienced Jesus Christ in a life-transforming way. Your partnership helps our vision become a reality.





“ I think God sent me here for a reason; He wants me to open up and try all these new things so I can see how capable I am.”

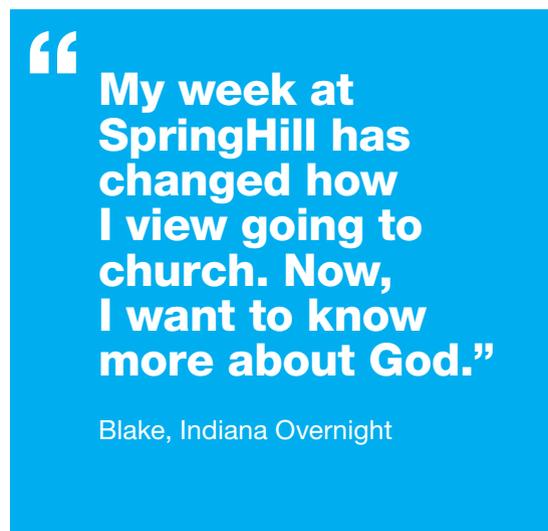
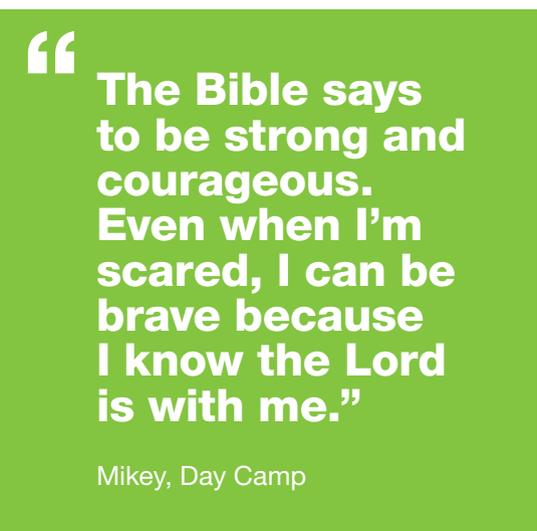
Kalaysia, Michigan Overnight



## Your gifts helped kids experience God this summer

We are committed to reaching all kids, regardless of the financial means of their families. With your support, even more kids were able to make new friends, experience fun activities, and immerse themselves in God's love. You helped make this summer possible!

**Be a part of the journey.** When you give, you carve a path for children to come and grow deeper in their relationship with Jesus Christ. To donate, visit [springhillcamps.com/support](http://springhillcamps.com/support).



“ The Bible says to be strong and courageous. Even when I'm scared, I can be brave because I know the Lord is with me.”

Mikey, Day Camp

“ My week at SpringHill has changed how I view going to church. Now, I want to know more about God.”

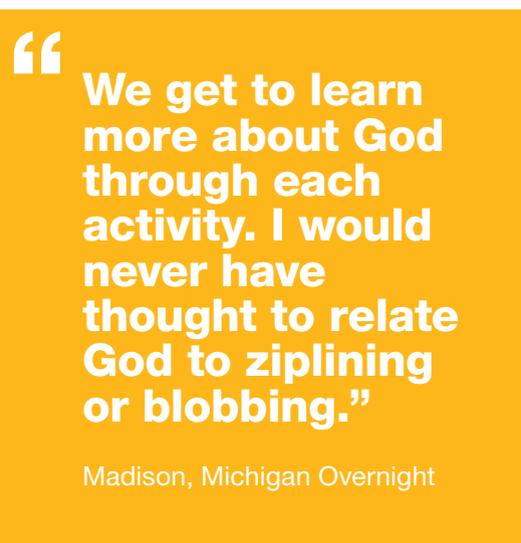
Blake, Indiana Overnight

## 2018 scholarships by the numbers

**2,261**  
KIDS ON SCHOLARSHIP

**\$674,000**  
RAISED FOR SCHOLARSHIPS

**46**  
SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS



“ We get to learn more about God through each activity. I would never have thought to relate God to ziplining or blobbing.”

Madison, Michigan Overnight

## Training the next generation of Christian leaders

With your help, we're working to equip the next generation with the tools needed to become successful Christian leaders at SpringHill and in the world around us. Our summer leadership programs include the following:

- + **Counselors in Training (CITs)** work closely with Day Camp leaders to assist with various activities.
- + **Teen Service Team (TST)** combines fun activities with special service-learning opportunities.
- + **Summer leaders** are equipped to serve kids, and are surrounded by a community that encourages them to deepen their own faith.
- + **Interns** develop leadership skills and gain a wide range work experience to equip them for their future.

## Discovering their calling

In September 2018, SpringHill launched a pilot program called the SpringHill Discovery Project. Designed for recent high school graduates, the program helps students develop clarity of purpose, navigate the challenges of young adulthood, and become empowered Christian leaders. Students admitted to the program spend nine months living in community and making connections with mentors, organizations, and partners.

**Partner with us.** Get involved by being a mentor, praying for our growing leaders, or donating. Contact [mbowers@springhillcamps.com](mailto:mbowers@springhillcamps.com) or visit [springhillcamps.com/leaders](http://springhillcamps.com/leaders) to get involved.



“Serving at SpringHill has pushed me out of my comfort zone and encouraged me to try new things.”

Elizabeth, TST



“My values have transformed. These summers make me more in line with what God intended for my life.”

Jess, summer leader



“My internship at SpringHill allowed me to grow professionally and deepen my faith.”

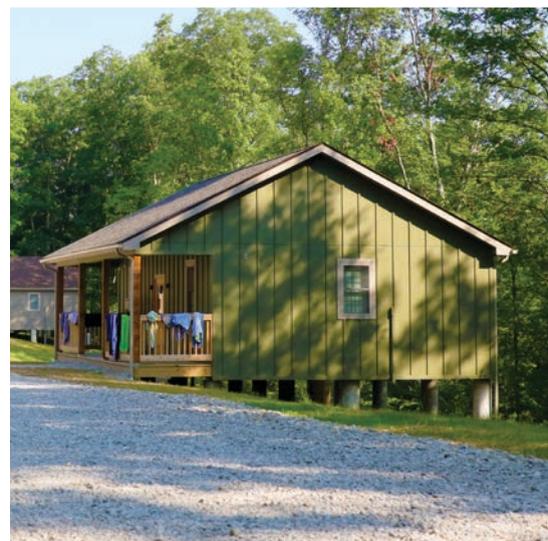
Briana, intern



“God's shown me there's always more to learn, and I can use that knowledge to teach kids about Him.”

Edwin, CIT





## Thank you for helping us enhance the experience

Thanks to your gifts, this summer we're celebrating the completion of two new housing areas, Fishing Village at Michigan Overnight and Clark's Grant at Indiana Overnight. These new cabins are equipped with lights, air conditioning, and heat, and will make it possible for more kids to come to SpringHill year-round.

## We're still growing!

With your help, we will be able to continue developing SpringHill's facilities. For more information, check out our Builders Program at [springhillcamps.com/builders](http://springhillcamps.com/builders).



### Michigan Overnight experience

- + Go-kart racetrack
- + Copper Country bath house expansion
- + Cabin renovations



### Indiana Overnight experience

- + Clark's Grant bath house
- + Redbrush Infirmary
- + New water activities



### Day Camp experience

- + New activities
- + New media equipment

## Expanding the Day Camp model across the nation

Over the past 13 summers, SpringHill Day Camps have allowed kids to experience the love of Christ right in their own neighborhood. By partnering with local churches, we have reached new communities in nine different states. We've seen tremendous growth through this model:

- + Summer 2006: **279 kids** at **one host church** in Michigan
- + Summer 2018: **16,549 kids** at **134 host churches** from Iowa to Georgia

Expanding Day Camps into new regions around the country will create lasting impact for kids and communities across the nation. We need your help to continue our outreach. Connect with us about becoming a host partner church or donate at [springhillcamps.com/hope](http://springhillcamps.com/hope).



TENNESSEE



MICHIGAN



ILLINOIS



OHIO



KENTUCKY



IOWA



GEORGIA



INDIANA



WISCONSIN



## One week is just the beginning of a SpringHill journey

SpringHill's mission since 1969 has been to create life-impacting experiences that enable young people to know Jesus Christ and grow in their relationship with Him. Over the last 50 summers, hundreds of thousands of kids have had a life-changing SpringHill experience. **But what happens after that one week of camp?** If they were anything like Mike Smith, they came back for more—and it started them on their SpringHill journey.

Mike came to SpringHill the very first summer in 1969. He returned to Michigan Overnight year after year, and those weeks transformed his walk with God: **“As a camper, I had a realization that my faith could be more than just church,”** Mike says. “It could be a personal relationship with the God of the universe.” He came for a total of seven summers.

When he became too old to be a camper, Mike's connection to SpringHill only deepened. He joined SpringHill's summer staff at 16 years old and worked every summer from high school through college. Why? He found a job with “eternal purpose.” Mike says, “I felt like I had an impact with these kids, being able to help them discover who Christ was and what their journey could look like.” The “tremendous relationships” he built while on staff remain to this day.

To some, it may seem like the SpringHill journey ends after being a staff member, but that's not how Mike saw it. He continued to be involved by volunteering his time as a worship leader at retreats and as a designer for SpringHill marketing materials.

As his family grew, so did the Smiths' SpringHill tradition. Mike and his wife Deecy sent all five of their children to Michigan Overnight, knowing that they could have the same amazing experience that Mike had

growing up. “My kids can have an amazing experience at SpringHill,” he says. “They can have a lot of fun, but they can also learn about themselves and about God.”

SpringHill's exceptional inclusion program meant that their son Connor, who has Down syndrome, went every summer until he had completely aged out. Two more of the Smith children, Brennan and Owen, both followed in their father's footsteps and worked for SpringHill as a photographer and inclusion counselor, respectively. Of course, Mike supported them, saying, **“Any way my kids get involved with SpringHill is a positive experience, so I encourage them.”**

Today, Mike is many things: a former camper, StaffAlum, volunteer, camper parent, donor, and board member. Mike says, **“We're still involved because we believe in the mission so much. It's proven to be effective.”** We know that his SpringHill journey is one of many stories of people who have been involved with SpringHill for decades. Mike's story shows us that it only takes one week to have a life-changing experience, and that the SpringHill journey never has to end.

Whether you are just starting your SpringHill journey or you followed a path similar to Mike's, your partnership is setting the course for more kids to embark on their SpringHill journey. Stories like this speak to the tradition and the legacy that begins when one kid spends one week experiencing God at SpringHill.

Together we can continue to make sure that more young people come to SpringHill and are transformed by God's love and the Hope of the Gospel.

**What's your SpringHill story?** Share it at [springhillcamps.com/stories](https://springhillcamps.com/stories).



**“ We're still involved because we believe in the mission so much—it's proven to be effective.”**

Mike Smith





## You are the future of SpringHill

Without you, we wouldn't be where we are today. We are so grateful to have a supportive community of partners like you.

Get involved by:

- + **Praying.** Our ministry wouldn't be possible without the power of prayer. Join our monthly prayer list by visiting [springhillcamps.com/pray](https://springhillcamps.com/pray).
- + **Volunteering.** From driving trams at overnight properties to being a host home for Day Camp staff, there are so many ways to serve as a volunteer! Visit [springhillcamps.com/support](https://springhillcamps.com/support) to learn more.
- + **Giving.** Your gifts allow more kids to experience God through SpringHill. To donate, visit [springhillcamps.com/donate](https://springhillcamps.com/donate).



Learn more about the SpringHill Way in Michael Perry's new book: **Experience = Everything.** All proceeds go toward camper scholarships. Visit [springhillcamps.com/book](https://springhillcamps.com/book).





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