

FAMILY CAMP COMMITTEE REPORT

April 4, 2019

Good evening. (My name is Tanya Bargaen.) It's my privilege to give this report tonight on behalf of the Family Camp Committee.

I would like to first acknowledge the couples that serve on the committee:

My husband Wayne and I, Milton and Kelly Block, Jeff and Meredith Rhinas, Chris and Sue Enns, Bruce and Lisa Enns, Ruth and Sean Whelan (who have taken a break since fall), and Ryan and Sonja Van Ee, representing the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (DHH) camp. It has also been a blessing to work with Gil and Alison Klassen as our executive directors.

Our committee meets monthly from September to June, with a Sunday afternoon meeting and supper to follow at times.

Each couple is given responsibility for recruiting ministry families for the various areas that are needed. In 2018 this included: Managers, Speakers, Directors, Kids Korner, and Youth. We also recruited cooks for the five weeks of camp. The Caretaker position is filled by the Oshkidee Board. We are thankful for how God always provides the staff we need for Family Camps.

The following is the number of campers and staff for the 2018 season:

CAMP A – 64
CAMP B – 53
CAMP C – 92
CAMP D – 88
CAMP E – 82
Total – 379

Last year the Family Camp season began after a very challenging spring, with the forest fire and freeze up. We are so thankful that God kept the fires from destroying the camp property! We're also thankful for the hard work that was done in June to prepare the buildings and site for camp to start, especially by Gil and Alison. It was wonderful to see and hear of the many ways God moved in peoples lives at camp last summer. Many families were ministered to, and we had great teams of staff working together. I was personally encouraged by our Week A speakers, Boyd and Jacqueline Hopkins, who took the time to pray and minister to me. I have also heard testimony of God moving in the Youth nights this summer and close connections being made. Our hope as a committee is to see new families come to camp, and to spread the love of Christ through the camping ministry. It has been shared over and over how people are drawn to come back to camp every year.

I would like to thank Gil and Alison and the Oshkidee Board for their continued support of this committee. It is a joy to serve Christ in this way, and a blessing to be part of the Oshkidee family of camping ministries, building the Kingdom of God, one camper at a time!

Respectfully submitted,

Tanya Bargaen

Family Camp Committee Chair

Good evening. It's my pleasure to report on behalf of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Camp committee, which is a sub-group of the Family Camp Committee.

Shelley Carver has been directing this camp for several years. Shelley has been a leader in the DHH community for several years. She is now mentoring Lisa Hale to take over leadership responsibilities in regards to the camp. Robyn has joined the committee this year and is giving guidance to the children's ministry. SonJa VanEe has served on the committee and has been the driving force to see the camp make its new home at Camp Oshkidee.

In 2018, the DHH camp had 65 campers in attendance. The "family" aspect of the camp looks a little different with the DHH community. While there are family groups with mixes of hearing and non-hearing members – parents and/or children, there are a number of non-hearing single adults that are essentially family to each other.

Antonio, a non-hearing 14 year old, attended camp with his grandmother last summer. Antonio lives in a remote community with next to no services available to the deaf and hard of hearing. He stayed in his cabin for the first few days because he did not feel ready to interact with others. On Wednesday, he finally emerged from his cabin to join the group for a meal. After experiencing the acceptance of other non-hearing adults, he started to come out of his shell. When he left, a day earlier than the rest of the campers, he got up on a chair and signed a message to the group. He thanked them and said his goodbye's with a big smile on his face.

A newspaper that is published in Meadow Lake and distributed throughout Northwestern Sask., heard about the camp and sent a reporter to write a story about the DHH camp. The reporter interviewed a few people, including another 14 year old boy from the Meadow Lake area who is deaf. They printed a very nice article describing the DHH camp, how it serves the deaf and hard of hearing community from across western Canada with a strong emphasis on learning the good news Jesus.

After just one season on partnering with the DHH community, it has become very evident that the DHH camp is an effective means of achieving our mission amongst a people group that is in desperate need of services and the good news of salvation.

Respectfully submitted by,

Alison Klassen