



# Caring

for

SILVER MAPLE CAMP

WE ARE GOD'S HANDIWORK

Created  
TO DO GOOD WORKS

EPHESIANS 2:10

# The Future of SMC...

A few moments at Silver Maple Camp is all it takes to benefit from it's beauty; to experience a respite from the chaos of the world; to feel the genuine love of those who volunteer and work tirelessly to create a trusted environment for campers. There are few places that can truly boast such attributes, and they're needed more now than ever before. And if just driving through the gates can provide such peace in chaos, imagine what a week can do for a child entrusted to its care.

*In a world of fading innocence, where fear has become an unwelcome constant, the impact of SMC is needed more than ever. Children need a place to run and learn and be truly cared for. SMC is that haven - even if it is just for one week - the place where lifelong connections are formed in an environment of felt-safety, under guidance from those who truly want the best for them. It's a place of acceptance; a place where God is not only seen but felt and met, and then carried with them as they leave to face the world stronger. But don't take our word for it...*

*"SMC is a replenisher to me. When my faith is weary and the spark is dying, camp ignites my faith and it explodes like a firework. Camp is my safe place amongst all the cruelties of my life and the world. It's a place where long-lasting friendships begin, and love wins. Where you're genuinely and purely loved and accepted. You're taken in as you are. Broken, angry, confused, rebellious, scared. You are treated like you've been there your whole life. SMC isn't just a camp, it's a home. A place to grow in God and as a person. At SMC, God transforms you in ways you'd never guess."*

*Anonymous Teen*

*"SMC offered me the kind of love that I don't typically receive elsewhere. It is a place where I can be exactly who I am. I don't have to wear a mask; I don't have to try to be perfect and cover up old scars. I can open up and tell my story and not be afraid of what others might say knowing that I am going to be understood and enveloped in hugs. I can just be me. Why? Because the people at Silver Maple love me just the way I am. Kids who were once strangers turned into friends, who turned into family. I love my SMC family, and they love me."*

*J. Cook*

Entire generations have grown up at camp, returned as counselors, and many now send their children to benefit from the life-altering moments that only happen at camp. But there is another generation of children growing up in a world where they need camp more than ever. All of us know of a child(ren) in need of such innocence; in need of such love, care, and guidance. An entirely new generation is in need of your assistance as we grow our facilities to accommodate for and care better for the growing numbers and changing needs of our campers.

The future of camp *starts NOW* and it starts with you!

# History of SMC

Silver Maple Camp has a long and rich history. God's guiding hand can be witnessed in the spot where SMC still resides as far back as 1878, when Great-Granddad (Silas) Maple was led to a spring on this land while on a buffalo hunt. He traded 160 acres of his land in another county to claim that plot of land southeast of Kingman, where the Maple family still lives and an amazing camp experience awaits campers each year.



Now, obviously, camp did not begin that long ago. It's actual origination came in 1953 when, at the behest of Warren Hockman, the preacher at the Kingman Church of Christ, Granddad (John Harvey) Maple stopped leasing out the pond in order to provide a place for a church camp to be held to connect members of rural congregations. Things looked a little different then as no actual facilities existed - it was a rustic, tent-camp. And most of camp took place on the west side of the large pond, instead of on the south and east as it does today.

Over the years, thanks to continued support from individuals and congregations investing in the lives of the children, teens, and families that come to this haven each year, Silver Maple Camp has become an inviting gathering place to exercise mind, spirit, body, and personal growth through recreation, learning activities, fellowship, Bible study, and worship.

As you can imagine, with facilities on our campus dating back to some of our earliest days and camp attendance growing each year, the time has come to make some needed upgrades and improvements. We encourage you to review all the exciting things planned and in-process, then prayerfully consider what part you can play in the future of Silver Maple Camp and all the lives it touches each year.





New maintenance facility



Inside: Still under construction

# Camp-ital Improvements <sup>\$500,000</sup>

Our capital improvement needs have been identified through an in-depth analysis by the Board of Directors of Silver Maple Camp, and broken down into two Phases. In faith, and with initial commitments of board members and a few others who have already partnered to help meet immediate needs, construction on some of the Phase 1 projects has already begun. We're poised and ready to begin next projects, trusting God will bless our efforts and bring the right people alongside us in these efforts.

## Phase 1:

The most immediate needs identified during analysis were:

- Overcrowding, primarily in the girls cabins
- Equipment and machinery exposed to elements
- Safe room partly utilized for storage
- Additional laundry facilities outside kitchen area
- No ADA compliant bath facilities
- Showers needed for long-term stays
- Deteriorating roads and additional parking needs

Phase 1: \$200,000  
 · New Girls Cabin  
 · Maintenance Building  
 · Road|Parking Improvements

Phase 2: \$300,000  
 · Activities/Crafts Building  
 · Pavilion  
 · Dock Improvements  
 · Bath Additions/Upgrades

Several of these needs are being addressed with the addition of a new maintenance and storage facility. This new 40'x60' metal building will not only provide ample space for storage of machinery, allowing us to lengthen the life of this equipment as it will be protected from the elements, a large loft will provide a means for storing camp session specific activities equipment. Some of those items had been taking up a portion of the safe room, and with unpredictable Kansas weather we want to ensure all of that room is accessible to keep our campers safe, should it be needed. A 20'x40' utility room and bath will also be housed within the facility, including two ADA compliant shower stalls. The primary use of these showers will be for adults and long-term visitors (such as college counselors staying for the summer) but available also to campers in need until our bath houses can be renovated.

In building the maintenance facility, area was prepared for additional parking and a new roadway to access the building. To address the overcrowding issue, a new girls cabin will be built to the south of the girls bath house, with construction slated to begin soon.

After gathering bids to consider options of renovating the current bath facilities versus building new, a combination approach was selected. The existing facilities will be updated and added on to, essentially doubling their size and capacity while providing needed upgrades and making them ADA compliant. The current dock also needs upgraded for safety reasons; and an area has been already cleared to become the future site of a covered, outdoor pavilion. Finally, we want to create a designated space for crafts and activities so the mess hall doesn't have to be converted each day. This new space will also serve as the home for the new "Sewing for the Master" sewing ministry, which is already up and running, creating clothing and blankets for those in need.

## Phase 2:

The identified needs to be addressed in Phase 2:

- Overcrowding and aging of current bath facilities
- Degradation of dock
- Need for a separate space for activities and crafts
- A "wish-list" item of a large, covered, outdoor gathering space



Girl's bath house will double in footprint and capacity



Construction equipment and some supplies sit at the ready for the new girls cabin

# \$50,000 Scholarship Program



Every effort is made to keep costs, and thereby registration rates, at a minimum each year. It is our sincere desire that no child wishing to attend should ever be turned away due to an inability to pay. We have always either worked with congregations in their community to mentor them and help them get to camp and/or reached out to other supporting congregations who help fund a scholarship for them as needs arise. While we want to maintain the practice of connecting these children with mentor congregations near them, to support them beyond camp, we would like to establish a scholarship fund to assist financially in these situations. In addition, it is not uncommon for the local children's home to contact us about sending their children to camp, but often they are unable to fully fund their residents' involvement. We think these are tremendous opportunities for us to interact with and influence youth in need of the love, and guidance, and connection that is found at camp. Therefore, we have set a goal of establishing this fund with \$50,000 to meet these needs, and hope to continue to receive additional donations to the fund throughout the years to maintain the fund into the future.

## Future Fund \$200,000



The list of projects addressed in the Capital Improvements phases of this campaign not only modernize our facilities and bring them up to current safety and accessibility standards, but also ensure our ability to better maintain and steward this beautiful property and all its facilities well into the future. That being said, we know other needs will arise in the foreseeable future as older structures continue to age. And we also have identified some additional areas of camp we'd like to develop after all immediate needs have been met. To ensure we are ready when these anticipated needs, or even when potentially unforeseen issues arise, we have set a goal for establishing a Future Fund of \$200,000. This, combined with the other areas included in this Capital Campaign, will ensure Silver Maple Camp is not only serving current campers to the best of our ability, but ready to serve and lead future generations to Christ through camp as well.

# Caring for Camp

Capital  
Improvements  
\$500,000

Phase 1: \$200,000

- New Girls Cabin
- Maintenance/Storage Building
- Road/Parking Improvements

Phase 2: \$300,000

- Activities/Crafts Building
- Pavilion
- Dock Improvements
- Bath Additions/Upgrades

Future Fund  
\$200,000

Scholarship Fund  
\$50,000



**\$750,000 / 3-year initiative**



Ryan Kucharo (*Board Chair*)  
Loretta Kucharo  
Vern Mathes  
Paul Maple  
Dan Bloom  
Ted Maple

# Board of Directors

Tom Turner (*Campaign Chair*)  
Warren Baldwin  
David Murphy  
Dena Foutch  
Dean Foster  
Levi Turney

