

Good Afternoon Everyone,

I have been the chairperson for St. Michael's Camp for two years now and before that, I was a board member for just over a year. I have met many great people during my time here that share the passion of putting our kids first and improving the camp for them to enjoy. The past 12 months has definitely been challenging but full of changes and rewards.

Our biggest challenge is still our current financial position. We are struggling to make ends meet which makes it very challenging to attempt to grow and develop our organization. We have a volunteer board and very limited resources, which also hampers our abilities to focus on many improvement plans. To lessen our financial burden, I applied for a grant from the Knights of Columbus in January. The main expenditure for this grant was going to be towards new bunk beds as the old ones are in dire need of replacement. We applied for a \$12,000 grant but unfortunately only received \$_____. I also applied for a Community Initiative fund grant. This grant is to help send kids to Camp and I'm very excited to share that we will be receiving \$5,000 to bring kids to camp for our Summer Camp in 2018! The town of Kamsack has a local Community grant fund that I also applied for but have not heard back from them at this time.

This leads me into the challenges we are facing everyday. Within the past couple of years, we have literally moved from a two/three week church camp to a multi-million dollar company. In order for us to stay afloat, we are facing some huge struggles. Our operating costs per month is approximately \$6,000, which does not include the development of any camp programming or hiring staff which are needed to maintain and market St. Michael's. The \$6,000 just keeps the building powered on and insured along with our mortgage and utilities. We have to develop new programs and spend money on the right people to market and seek out new business opportunities. I believe a safe estimate would be \$10,000 per month to include the resources needed to move the facility forward, seek out new markets and offer our programs to them.

Moving forward, the board has decided to focus their efforts on larger fundraising activities. The hope is to raise larger amounts of money rather than exhausting our time and extremely limited volunteer resources on smaller events that yield us smaller amounts. We can balance the large fundraiser with a few smaller ones throughout our communities relying on other organizations to work together and support us.

This year has gone by very fast and that even though we made some improvements we are still not in our ideal state. We have to realize that we are a small volunteer board and even though we did not complete all of get all of the things completed that we wanted to this year, we still moved the dial in the right direction. The development of a large fundraising activity will allow us to re-invest money into St. Michael's for creating additional programs that will let us operate our facility year-round and continue down the path to becoming self-sustaining.

Thank you

Tracie