

2014 ANNUAL REPORT



WHISPERING WINDS
Catholic Conference Center

OUR MISSION:

“...to provide a Christ-centered environment, apart from the everyday world, where **all are welcome** to increase their knowledge of and commitment to Christ, and join as fellow pilgrims on their journey of faith with God.”

A LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, MARTIN ROSALES

Recently I came across a reflection by Father Robert Abbatiello, O.F.M., Cap. about the call St. Francis heard from God: “Go, repair my house.” As Father Bob explains, to repair or rebuild means to work on structures that already have long-standing foundations in place. This struck me because this is what we are doing at Whispering Winds. Through our ministry, we are repairing God’s Church by providing a refuge where His children can reflect, pray, and be rejuvenated.

2014 has been a year of rejuvenation for the camp. Physical improvements were made throughout the campgrounds such as new cedar fencing, a repaired Zip Line platform, and additions to the Dorm Village. But the most important improvements are intangible. A notable example is that we were blessed with scholarship funding to bring 150 underserved teens to camp for the first time. Our experienced retreat leaders worked with the youth groups to prepare an exceptional program. This generous support of expertise and funding is because we believe camp matters; at camp, lives are changed.

With the foundation laid, we are focusing on how we can expand our ministry and camp offerings. Whispering Winds has untapped potential, and we will continue to take steps to reach it, starting with the construction of new buildings, such as a Welcome Center, Meeting Hall, and Lodge Building. As the camp grows, we will establish an endowment fund to sustain our operations and provide scholarships. Finally, in 2015 we will launch a Family Camp tailored specifically to our military families.

We are at an exciting threshold for the camp as we continue to fulfill the mission to which we have been entrusted. What a gift to be serving the Lord in this way. It is my pleasure to be on this journey with the Whispering Winds community, and to present to you our 2014 Annual Report.



Sincerely,

Martin Rosales

HIGHLIGHTS OF 2014

Scholarships Bring Underserved Youth to Camp:

Youth groups from Our Lady of Mount Carmel in San Ysidro and St. Jude Shrine of the West in San Diego were able to attend camp at Whispering Winds for the first time ever thanks to the generous support of our donors. More than 150 campers were sponsored for a weekend retreat, including meals, team-building activities, and mass. These retreats were an invaluable experience for the teens, providing them caring adult role models and time away from everyday pressures to help them navigate their relationships with God.



Improvements Made Around Camp:

Have you noticed our upgrades this year? Showers and a covered walkway were added to the Dorm Village; the Zip Line platform was reconstructed and fortified; and a Gaga Pit (ball game in an enclosed ring) was added to the Meadow. The entire campgrounds were enhanced with cedar fencing. Possibly the most anticipated addition was the WiFi access throughout camp to help our guests stay connected when on the mountain – that is, if they want to be!



Special Needs Family Camp Makes a Difference in Lives:

A few weeks after camp, parents were sent a survey to reflect on any changes they noticed in their child's behavior. Several families responded the weekend served as a positive turning point in their special needs child's attitude, confidence, and sense of independence. Camp opened these children up to new experiences in a safe environment, which have inspired them to trust their capabilities and continue to explore.



2014

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

AN INVESTMENT IN MINISTRY

INCOME	2012	2013	2014
Camp Income	\$903,426	\$1,013,103	\$1,121,942
In Kind Donations	\$3,000	\$200	\$0
Grants	\$25,000	\$30,000	\$105,670
Private Donors / CRT's - Ops	\$131,331	\$368,972	\$558,752
Total Fundraising - Ops	\$159,331	\$399,172	\$664,422
Interest / Investment Income	\$344	\$494	\$1,226
Extraordinary Income / Exp	\$319,005	\$2,500	\$2,690
TOTAL INCOME	\$1,063,100	\$1,415,269	\$1,790,280
EXPENSES			
Camp & Programs:			
Salaries & Benefits	\$423,625	\$548,932	\$639,157
Operating & Other	\$439,045	\$568,967	\$610,308
Camp & Program Exp.	\$862,669	\$1,117,899	\$1,249,465
Camp Surplus (Deficit)	\$200,431	\$297,370	\$540,814
Administrative & Admin:			
Salaries & Benefits	\$208,756	\$209,625	\$195,704
Administrative & Other	\$50,040	\$69,259	\$77,799
Total Administrative Exp.	\$258,796	\$278,885	\$273,503
OPS SURPLUS (DEFICIT)	(58,365)	18,486	267,311
CAPITAL / BUILDING PROJECTS			
Balance at Beginning of Year	\$317,566	\$152,725	\$32,464
Capital Income	\$1,259,557	\$204,901	\$115,718
Capital Expenditures	(\$1,424,398)	(\$325,163)	(\$110,664)
Year End Balance - Capital	\$152,725	\$32,463	\$37,517

Non-audited financial data

ACTIVITY SUMMARY

Est. Guests Served	10,000	WW Programs	9
Groups Served	130	Diocesan Programs	3
Guest Nights	17,191	Churches Served	38
Meals Served	42,964	Schools Served	18
Website Visits	21,602	eUpdate Opens	29,232

“Our family was able to relax without worrying about our daughter as she was under the care of her awesome Special Needs Buddy. Our typical kids felt free to zip line and horseback ride without feeling like they were leaving their sister behind. Family Camp was a gift from God.”



Family Camp Parent

“We came to camp tired and broken, but left revitalized. The message of breaking free from what imprisons us was powerful. I couldn’t stop the tears from flowing all weekend, but each tear drop was cleansing. At Mass, when we praised God, I felt the wind pick up and rush over me as though to say, ‘I hear your call in the darkness, you aren’t alone.’”



Theology Teacher, Retreat Leader

“Students’ hearts and minds are not converted in the classroom. What it really takes for conversion of the heart is to meet God, and that is done here at Whispering Winds on retreat.”

Parent, Middle School Camper

“We try to instill faith in our kids, but they have to want it and find it themselves. Camp changed him. He was on fire when he came back: enjoying mass, wanting to volunteer, wanting to share God’s love.”



NEW DEVELOPMENTS



Military Family Camp: Thanks to a generous grant, we plan to expand our Family Camp options this summer with a weekend tailored to military families, especially spouses of deployed service men and women. The grant will make the experience affordable for junior enlisted members of our military.

Build Out: We have replaced all but one temporary tent building erected after the devastating 2003 Cedar Fire. The camp is now poised to continue the Build Out project as outlined in our Major Use Permit with the construction of new buildings, such as a Welcome Center, Meeting Hall, and Lodge Building. The Build Out will bring the camp to its full capacity to best serve the large, diverse, and growing number of guests coming to the mountain each year. While the architectural plans are not final, they are well enough developed to understand the size and scope of the project and potential costs, estimated to be \$5 million. Please pray for God's provision and for His wisdom to guide us!

DINNER DANCE GALA

Celebrate the Miracles: Our 32nd Annual Dinner Dance Gala was a huge success thanks to God and to all who attended, donated and volunteered! Nearly 470 guests attended, donating more than \$200,000 to support the life-changing ministry of Whispering Winds. We were blessed to share that evening with the late Bishop Cirilo Flores who expressed his passion and support for the good work we do at Whispering Winds. A highlight of the evening for all was when one of our Special Needs Family Camp guests, Tim, shared his camp experience. Tim is an adult with special needs, and he recounted the pride felt when helping with activities and serving as a role model to the younger campers with special needs. His joyous spirit was contagious, and his testimony was a great example of the miracles that happen at camp.



There are a number of ways that you can become more involved in supporting our efforts:

PLANNED GIVING

Add Whispering Winds as a beneficiary of your will or trust, create a charitable trust, or consider advanced estate and tax planning techniques. Leave a lasting legacy that will impact lives for generations to come.

BECOME A MONTHLY DONOR

As a member of our Monthly Donor Program, your sacrifice shares your faith with campers in a convenient way through Electronic Fund Transfer (EFT) or credit card from your designated account. Your consistent support allows us to make long term plans for facility and ministry improvements.

SCHOLARSHIPS

Your gift to the fund will send a child or family to camp.

STOCK, REAL ESTATE, OR GIFTS OF PROPERTY

Your gift of appreciated stock, real estate, art, vehicles, and other property is another way to support the camp and impact lives.

ONE-TIME DONATIONS

Your gift can be designated for the specific area that has meaning to you and your family. A tribute gift is a heartfelt way to express your love, gratitude and appreciation for the life of someone while enriching the lives of many. Such a gift is a great way to remember or honor someone special, or commemorate a special time in your life such as a birthday, anniversary, or retirement. Ask if your company makes matching gifts for donations.

ANNUAL DINNER DANCE GALA SPONSORSHIP

Your family or business can support our largest fundraiser, the Dinner Dance Gala, through numerous sponsorship opportunities. Donate wine, host a table, place an ad, or contribute an auction item.

VOLUNTEER

Giving of your time and talent is always welcome and numerous opportunities at the camp and in the office arise throughout the year that benefit from the dedicated assistance of volunteers, young and old.

WISHLIST

Whispering Winds is always accepting of items for the camp and office such as program supplies, furniture, tools, etc. Consider donating to us your gently used items next time you do "spring cleaning." You will receive a tax receipt for the value of your in-kind donation.

If you are interested in participating, please see our website at whisperingwinds.org and click on SUPPORT or contact us at (619) 464-1479 or office@whisperingwinds.org.

2015

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“What a God-inspired idea a few people had 35 years ago to start a camp. Many of you are responsible for the beautiful gift that Whispering Winds is to our Diocese and faith community.”

In Loving Memory of Bishop Cirilo Flores