

# SURVIVE, SUSTAIN, & SERVE

You can hear people trying to describe the time we are going through right now and select the word that fits best: unprecedented, strange, challenging, lonely, frightening, scary, uncertain, dismal, discouraging, depressing, etc. I shared in the Special Edition of Camp Monthly last month where we are and how Trinity Pines Camp and Conference Center is attempting to handle this new environment.

**SURVIVE:** It is hard to tell if Trinity Pines is better off in a remote location like Cascade or in more of a difficult situation. For sure the staff is somewhat isolated from a large population base which makes seclusion a little easier. However, the community also has limited resources such as food, take-out, grocery stores, and other necessary items right down the street like many of us enjoy. Cascade is a “heartland of recreation - winter or summer” and when you have no visitors or tourists then you impact the bottom line of seasonal businesses. The Camps Board has worked hard to hold steady the income for Trinity Pines staff members - both those salaried and those that are hourly employees. Our Trinity Pines staff all have homes and families to support them which is a special blessing. While distance separates them from all family members they are not totally alone and have nearly 200 acres to roam and find self-distancing not to be that much of a challenge. Please continue to pray for their health both physically and mentally at this time. People who work for a camp usually do so because they are motivated, inspired, and energized by interaction with guests who come to camp. This has been the biggest adjustment of survival - not having familiar and new faces each week walk onto the campground.

**SUSTAIN:** Trinity Pines for the past 20 years has enjoyed monthly investments from camp partners who have believed in the mission of Trinity Pines. Let me remind you of our Mission Statement:

*“Providing a unique retreat and camp environment that allows for the transforming of lives into the nature and character of Jesus Christ.”*

That mission has generated financial investments in Trinity Pines. Yes, it is true, while many of the familiar and consistent names that have supported the camp in the early days have now graduated to Heaven, we have been able to partner with new individuals and families who have stepped in and helped shoulder that responsibility. That faithful investment has allowed us to build a Sustainability Fund for unexpected expenses. While the leaders of the camp have always thought that meant the replacement of a roof, replacement of a furnace, or kitchen appliance, it has turned out to be that the fund is what will sustain us through this difficult and challenging era of the camp history.

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**CONTACT US:**

Our hearts are broken for some of you that we know are feeling alone and isolated from many of the Bible studies, Sunday School classes, choir and worship services each week. If you have a specific need that you want us to pray about you please drop me a note via email at [rick@amgidah.com](mailto:rick@amgidah.com) or send me a text to 208-861-6775. The one thing we have right now is time to pray and to lift you need to the Lord. You are a vital part of the Trinity Pines family and we want to pray for God's hand upon your life at this time. I look forward to hearing from our friends and camp partners as we work through each day of this time.

**A FINAL THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH:**

# CAMP MONTHLY

TRINITY PINES CAMP + CONFERENCE CENTER

CASCADE, IDAHO

APRIL 2020

We are thankful that some funds were available to sustain us right now. However, we also realize that as we weekly deplete these funds to meet expenses that the funds will not be automatically replenished except by the generosity of God's people.

You will read in this Camp Monthly where we have taken steps to reduce expenses as much as we can to s-t-r-e-t-c-h dollars at this time. I was sharing with the Camp Executive Committee this week a paper I wrote entitled "Tough Times Means Tough Decisions by Tough Leaders." Right now in a typical camp year we would be discussing much different subjects and issues. We would not be talking about how we sustain the camp with no rental income. The other big factor is not having a definite end in sight. What we thought looked like a middle of April challenge has now grown to the end of April. But then we are getting rumblings from folks and it looks like mid to late May could be the destination for survival of our new lifestyle. How does it play out for the summer and what does the fall look like? These questions are on the front end of each agenda when the Executive Committee meets.

One aspect of our sustainability, unlike many other camps, has been the Intermountain District Church of the Nazarene. In the past couple of weeks we have been on video conference calls and with individuals from around the United States that have shared that they had to close their doors of their camp because of lack of rentals, no reserves in the bank, and the uncertainty of the future. Some camps are located next to large population centers where they are operating with a sense of fear and doubt about the testing that needs to happen to assure that no one infected with COVID-19 comes to camp and how long with this testing need to be in place until things plateau. Students that signed up to work at summer camps are being told not to come and to look for other employment. Staff members are being laid off and seeking unemployment. There are just simply not funds in the bank to continue to meet monthly payroll when there are not rentals. We are blessed at Trinity Pines to have assurance with the Intermountain District that they are 100% behind the sustainability of the camp. The financial needs in communities are unbelievable at this time. The report from the Cascade office this week was that all April rentals have now cancelled; this represents around \$125,000 that will not be coming into the bottom line of camp operations.

Even though the Camps Board extended the Early Bird Registration this should be a time in the calendar that the inbox is full of camper registrations - but the unknown has parents hesitant at this point to make the commitment because of the unknown status of society come summer. Those registrations would bring revenue that would help to carry the camp through the spring season into the thriving and robust summer camping program.

**SERVE:** The board made a decision to not live in fear but to return to the mission of Trinity Pines. While we at this point have no rental groups to host, no cottages to clean, we will continue to plan and invest in our future. The Cascade community has been hit hard by the closure of the ski resorts, shut down of non-essential businesses, even down to folks like certified staff at the school that are not on yearly contracts.

Through some cooperative efforts we learned that the Cascade School District was going to provide a meal mid-morning to the students who requested because of food insecurity in the community. This got Trinity Pines thinking. Perhaps we could join that effort and provide a warm meal in the late afternoon that would help to sustain some of these families at this difficult time while parents were without work and funds were tight. Many thanks to Carla Thompson, Food Service Director, who engineered a plan to do a meal sack from the kitchen of Trinity Pines. Note: Take a moment to look at the pictures on both sides of the enclosed page. It meant we had to secure some special containers and work with the school district to coordinate delivery. But it gave our Trinity Pines staff a reason to get up and work each day to serve people - exactly what the mission statement said "to transform lives into the nature and character of Jesus Christ." We had some food on the shelves that needed to be used because of no rental groups and have been able to secure additional products. The containers cost some money, but given the need to handle food in a special way for delivery to the door we had little choice. The talented workforce was already in place - the wonderful staff at Trinity Pines. The school district provided the buses, drivers, and fuel to deliver the meals to each home Monday through Friday, and last week we hit the number 85 with the requests continuing to pour in. Yes, Trinity Pines knows one thing - how to SERVE - whether it is people for retreats, camps, or special events, or if it stepping in when there is a worldwide pandemic and doing something in the local community. We are called by Christ to serve, and serve we will with your help and support.

Rick Waitley  
*Executive Director*

**PHASE DOCUMENT:** The Camp Executive Committee has established a Phase Document that is a reference point for decisions related to the current situation. The Phase Document has three phases. Phase I through April 20, Phase II though May 31, and Phase III beyond June 1. While not set in stone, it is a great template for helping us make decisions related to camp operations.

**VOLUNTEERS:** The board left this decision to Manager Anthony Henry. We do not want to expose staff and don't want anyone becoming sick because they come to camp. We know some of you have cabin fever and would like to swing a hammer, help with construction, or spread some paint, but you need to check with Anthony first. We ask that any volunteers adhere to rules and requests made by Anthony related to sleeping, eating, and work environments.

**SAVINGS:** We shared with you that we have looked for savings. Here is some of the action we have taken:

- Closed specific buildings, pulled all blinds, shut off heat except where water was located
- Reduced security lighting where we could
- Shut off boilers in the Conference Center
- Did not top off propane tanks until need for fall
- Placed all non-essential vehicles and equipment on a furlough list with the insurance company
- Put training programs on hold for summer staff related to challenge course
- No ordering of inventory for the camp store at this time

We are doing these things which do mount up over time and every little bit helps in order to protect the compensation and benefits to those on the front line.