



CAMP NOAH

2014



## 2014 Year in Review

Camp Noah provides a safe, caring and fun environment where children build resiliency skills within the familiarity of their own communities, using a proven curriculum designed to help children process their disaster and/or trauma experience through creative activities and play.

Camp Noah celebrates every child as special. In this safe and supportive setting, children are encouraged to face their fears, grieve their losses, identify and share their unique gifts and talents, and plan for an amazing future.

### Mission

Camp Noah brings hope and healing to communities that have been impacted by disaster.

### Vision

Camp Noah will serve disaster-impacted children and families by building resiliency, restoring hope and changing lives.

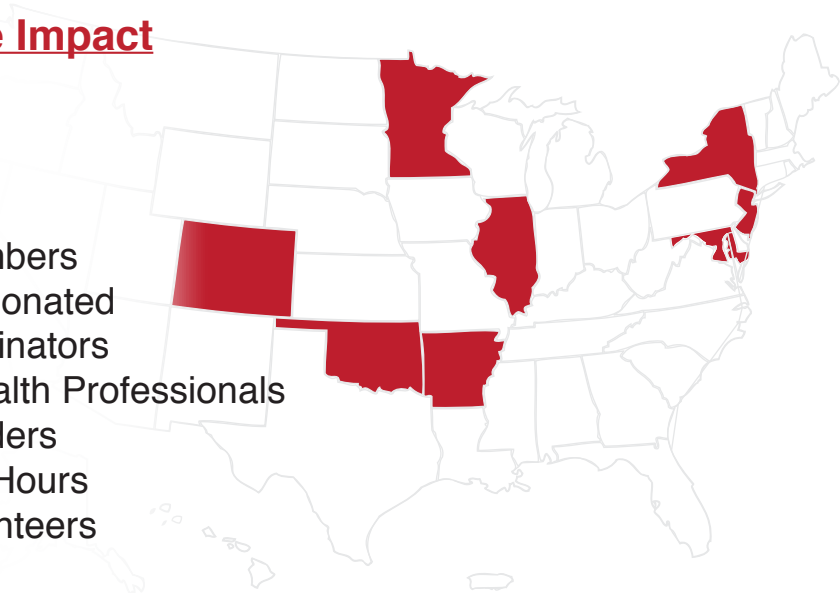


Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota serves all people regardless of race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, disability, or age.



## Adding Up The Impact

- 27** Camps
- 8** States
- 27** Teams
- 351** Team Members
- 1,014** Blankets Donated
- 25** Site Coordinators
- 29** Mental Health Professionals
- 21** Team Leaders
- 19,629** Volunteer Hours
- 301** Local Volunteers
- Countless** Partners
- Hundreds** of Families



All Serving **1,161** Campers



## During the 2013-2014 Camp Season

- 94%** of campers said they learned what their gifts and talents are.
- 95%** of campers said they learned how to stay safe during stormy weather.
- 96%** of campers said they have hopes and dreams for the future.
- 97%** of campers said, "I learned that I am somebody special."
- 99%** of campers said they had fun at Camp Noah.

*"We got to play with water balloons. We sang the banana song. We painted flowers and stems and leaves. We colored our boats and then rainbows. We got to dance on the stage. We had lunch. We got to play with our play dough. We got important things."*

*-camper, age 6*



**What is the most fun part of  
Camp Noah?**

*"To be here with my nice teachers  
and new friends!"  
- camper, age 7½*



## **ARKANSAS**

Tornados, Spring 2014

### **Little Rock**

**Date:** June 29 - July 3

**Number of Campers:** 15

**Team:** Ferncliff Camp & Conference Center Staff  
Little Rock, AR

**Partner:** Ferncliff Camp & Conference Center

### **Vilonia**

**Date:** August 4 - 8

**Number of Campers:** 42

**Team:** Faith Lutheran Church, Little Rock, AR

**Partners:** Center Point Free Will Baptist Church, Vilonia  
Ministerial Alliance, InFaith Foundation



**What is your most favorite part of Camp Noah?**

*"I liked everything at Camp Noah." - camper, age 9*



**What did you learn at Camp Noah?**

*"That everyone is unique and different."*

- camper, age 11



**COLORADO**

Flooding, Fall 2013

**Lyons**

**Date:** July 28 - August 1

**Number of Campers:** 57

**Team:** Mount Olivet Lutheran Church, Plymouth, MN

**Partners:** Lyons Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, Lyons Community Church, Lyons Community Foundation, Town of Lyons Human Services Working Group, United Methodist Committee on Relief, Rocky Mountain Conference-United Methodist Church, American Red Cross

**What is one of the most important things you learned at Camp Noah?**

*"That I have gifts and talents." - camper, age 7*

What is your most favorite part of Camp Noah?

*"I like rec time. We can run and be really loud!" - camper, age 8*



## ILLINOIS

Tornados, Fall 2013

### Gifford

**Date:** June 23 - 27

**Number of Campers:** 29

**Team:** Shepherd of the Valley, Apple Valley, MN

**Partner:** Gifford United Methodist Church

### Washington

**Date:** March 31 - April 4

**Number of Campers:** 43

**Team:** St. Timothy Lutheran Church, Naperville, IL

**Partners:** Faith Lutheran Church, Lutheran Social Services of Illinois, Washington Ministerial Association, Thrivent Financial, Central/Southern Illinois Synod ELCA, St. Mark's Lutheran Church, Grace and Peace Lutheran Church (Peoria, IL), St. John Lutheran Church (Lacon, IL)

### Washington

**Date:** July 21 - 25

**Number of Campers:** 60

**Team:** Mount Olivet Lutheran Church, Minneapolis, MN

**Partners:** Our Savior Lutheran Church, Washington Rotary Club Foundation, Washington Ministerial Association, Thrivent Financial, Individual Supporters





**What did you learn at Camp Noah?**

*"I learned ways to relax." - camper, age 10*



## **MARYLAND**

Hurricane Sandy, Fall 2012

### **Crisfield**

**Date:** July 28 - August 1

**Number of Campers:** 46

**Team:** Penn State Berks

**Partners:** Immanuel Methodist Church, PSU Kids, Somerset County Long Term Recovery Committee

### **Princess Anne**

**Date:** July 28 - August 1

**Number of Campers:** 37

**Team:** Penn State Berks

**Partners:** St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, PSU Kids, Somerset County Long Term Recovery Committee

**What is one of the most important things you learned at Camp Noah?**

*"I learned to be prepared." - camper, age 7*



**What was the most fun  
part of Camp Noah?**

*"All the different art projects."  
- camper, age 11*



## **MINNESOTA**

Flooding, Summer 2012

### **Duluth**

**Date:** June 23 - 27

**Number of Campers:** 26

**Team:** Calmar Lutheran Church, Calmar, IA

**Partners:** Our Savior's Lutheran Church,  
Duluth Superior Area Community Foundation, Carlton  
County Public Health & Human Services



**What is your most favorite part of Camp Noah?**

*"Making new friends." - camper, age 8*



**What did you learn at Camp Noah?**

*"It's ok to be worried." - camper, age 9*



## **NEW JERSEY**

Hurricane Sandy, Fall 2012

### **Toms River**

**Date:** July 14 - 18

**Number of Campers:** 32

**Team:** Lutheran Congregational Services of Pennsylvania

**Partners:** St. Barbara Greek Orthodox Church, Lutheran Social Ministries of New Jersey, International Orthodox Christian Charities

## **NEW YORK**

Flooding, June 2013

### **Fort Plain**

**Date:** August 18 - 22

**Number of Campers:** 53

**Team:** Lutheran Congregational Services of Pennsylvania

**Partners:** Fort Plain Reformed Church, St. John's and St. Mark's Lutheran Church (Canajoharie, NY), Upstate New York Synod ELCA, St. James Lutheran Church, Children's Aid Society, InFaith Foundation, Episcopal Diocese of Albany, Lutheran Disaster Response in Upstate New York, Individual Supporters

What was the most fun part of  
Camp Noah?

*"Games, puppets, songs, small  
groups...just everything."  
- camper, age 9*



## OKLAHOMA

Tornados, May 2013

**Oklahoma Partners:** American Red Cross, OK Strong,  
Regional Food Bank of Oklahoma, Feed The Children,  
LSS of the South Disaster Response, Inc.

### Carney

**Date:** July 14 - 18

**Number of Campers:** 40

**Team:** First Baptist Church, Carney, OK

**Partner:** First Baptist Church

### El Reno

**Date:** June 23 - 27

**Number of Campers:** 49

**Team:** The Jacobs, Joplin, MO

**Partner:** El Reno Youth & Family Services

### Moore

**Date:** March 17 - 21

**Number of Campers:** 33

**Team:** The Jacobs, Joplin, MO

**Partners:** First United Methodist Church,  
United Methodist Committee of Relief





Is there anything else you want to tell us about Camp Noah?

*"That you don't have to be afraid because you can blow your whistle or pray for help."*

*- camper, age 7½*



### **Moore**

**Dates:** June 16 - 20 | June 23 - 27 | July 7 - 11  
July 14 - 18 | July 21 - 25 | July 28 - August 1

**Number of Campers (total):** 275

**Teams:** Community Led

**Partners:** Moore Youth and Family Services, Fresh Start Community Church, Moore Public Libraries

### **Norman**

**Date:** June 9 - 13

**Number of Campers:** 51

**Team:** Community Led

**Partner:** Little Axe Community Center

### **Norman**

**Date:** July 14 - 18

**Number of Campers:** 50

**Team:** Harmony Heights Baptist Church, Joplin, MO

**Partner:** Hilltop Baptist Church

### **Norman**

**Date:** July 21 - 25

**Number of Campers:** 37

**Team:** Immanuel Lutheran Church, Eden Prairie, MN

**Partner:** University Lutheran Church & Student Center

Is there anything else you  
want to tell us about Camp  
Noah?

*"That I am special and nothing  
can change that."  
- camper, age 9*



### Norman

**Date:** July 28 - August 1

**Number of Campers:** 43

**Team:** Community Led

**Partners:** Hilltop Baptist Church, Joshua Foundation

### Oklahoma City

**Date:** July 14 - 18

**Number of Campers:** 50

**Team:** New Life Community Church, Owatonna, MN

**Partner:** Crutch School

### Shawnee

**Date:** July 7 - 11

**Number of Campers:** 40

**Team:** Staff from Lutheran Outdoor Ministries Center, Ewalu Camp and Retreat Center, Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp, Lutherdale Ministries, Camp Tomah Shinga

**Partner:** St. John Lutheran Church

### Yukon

**Date:** July 28 - August 1

**Number of Campers:** 53

**Team:** St. Timothy Lutheran Church, Naperville, IL

**Partner:** Resurrection Lutheran Church



# Disaster changes lives.

Meet Randy!

Age: 9

Likes: Drums and Kickball

Dislikes: Bananas and mean people

Randy's week at Camp Noah started out like many campers: he was a bit nervous, but he was also excited to spend a week with friends during the summer. Camp Noah was in Randy's community because it had experienced several tornados in the previous year. On Tuesday, as he shared his story, it was apparent that Randy's life had been changed by the rippling impact of the tornados' destruction. His house was intact, but friends had moved, been hurt or suffered loss, and his home was chaos. "Before the tornado I had a home," he said, "Now I just have a house that people fight in." As the week progressed, Randy shared that he had gone home and told his family how he was feeling and he had decided he wasn't going to fight with his siblings and instead would be a peacemaker. He said his preparedness backpack would make him less afraid of stormy weather. He declared that his gift and talent was to make people smile and his dream was to be a drummer and make music. His mother thanked the camp staff on Friday for helping her son understand his feelings and re-engage with his family. As Randy left Camp Noah on the final day, he had a huge smile on his face. Randy had a wonderful week where he learned he wasn't alone or weird, and he knew, once again, his future was full of sunbeams!



# Camp Noah builds resiliency.

Meet Jaylily!

Age: 11

Likes: Rainbow Loom bracelets and candy

Dislikes: Spiders and scary movies

Camp Noah was working in Jaylily's community because of recent flooding and strong storms. But as often happens, Jaylily came to camp not because of a disaster, but because her family felt that she would benefit from the resiliency skills and a fun week of day camp. As the week progressed, Jaylily shared with her small group that she had lost her mother and was having frequent nightmares. On day three, Jaylily was so excited to learn what a Safe Place was, and created her own. Throughout the rest of the week, Jaylily thought of that Safe Place in her mind, and told her group that she hadn't had any nightmares that week. She made a new friend at camp and they made plans to continue to connect after camp was over. Jaylily's family was so grateful to see the changes in her and commented on how much fun the week had been, filled with friends and new resiliency skills.



# Team Members restore hope.

Meet Kaleb!

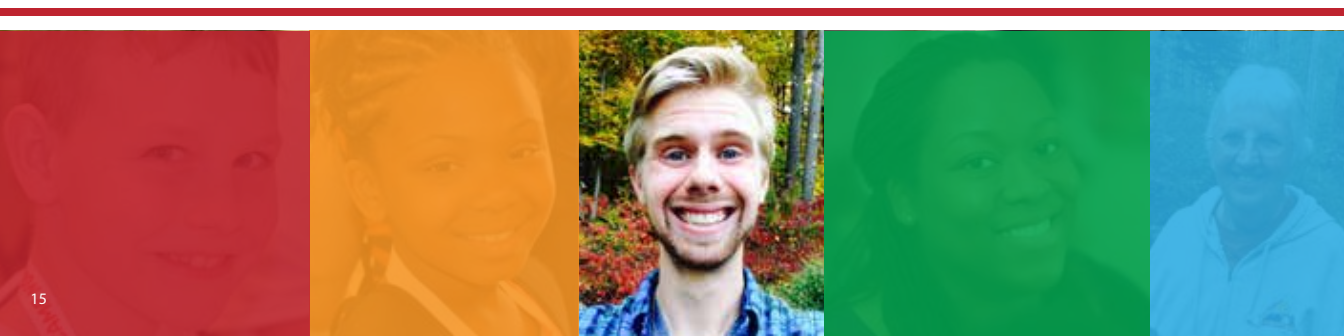
From: Missouri

Served in: Oklahoma

Role at Camp Noah: Small Group Leader

Favorite Hobbies: Playing with his dog, gardening and cooking

“At Camp Noah, kids have the opportunity to confront some deeply challenging emotions and memories. They have chances to be vulnerable and to share their own stories of uncertainty or fear. And yet Camp Noah is not a place of darkness. I will never forget the pure, unbounded joy that radiates from Camp Noah campers as they sing and dance and discover the space to be genuinely themselves. Whether it is playing rec games, creating art, or singing goofy songs, the safety and trust that permeate Camp Noah activities is tangible in the simple beauty of a child’s genuine happiness. Camp Noah has taught me the power of a community to transform disaster into hope. I am deeply grateful for the people whose courageous dedication is empowering kids to own their stories and to believe in their own resiliency. I am amazed by the ability of a community to see opportunity in the face of loss and I am hopeful for the future of communities who host Camp Noah.”





# Site Coordinators build community.

Meet Dot!

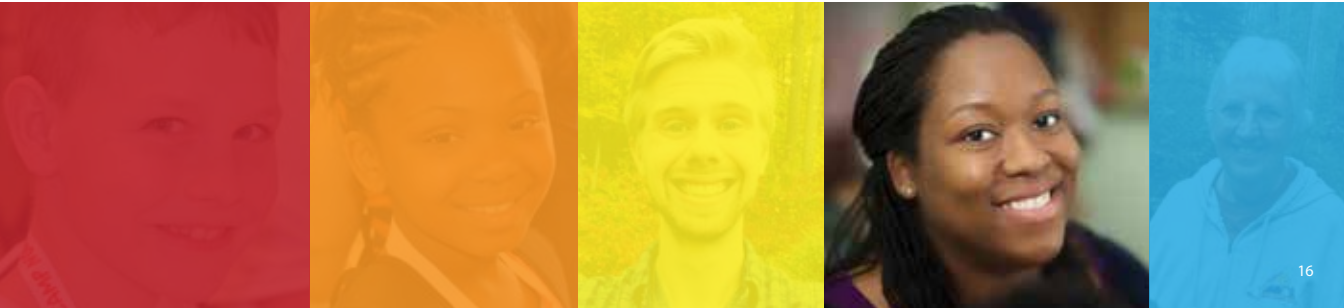
From: Maryland

Served in: Maryland

Role at Camp Noah: Site Coordinator

Favorite Hobbies: Reading, spending time with family, and going to the beach

“One of the most meaningful moments of Camp Noah keeps happening: parents and kids in my community tell me how much the camp meant to them—how they loved EVERYTHING about camp—how they are still singing the songs. Camp Noah brought joy to so many people in my community this summer, and it’s a blessing to see that joy multiplied, even months later. The greatest blessing was having the opportunity to work with people from the cross section of our community. We had dedicated volunteers who served with love and humility all week long. There were members of the church who helped with kitchen and facilities. High school and college students from our local university made the camp staff feel at home in our community while lending their time, talents, and energy...I was most humbled by the gift of my parents, who volunteered the entire week as well. My father, who is a pastor in our community, cleaned bathrooms, swept and mopped floors, took out trash, mentored the high school and college volunteers, and kept a prayerful eye on all of us. My mother cooked for the campers and staff just like she would cook for her own family at home...I am grateful for the opportunity that we had to offer hope and joy in our town.”



# Team Leaders facilitate healing.

Meet Connie!

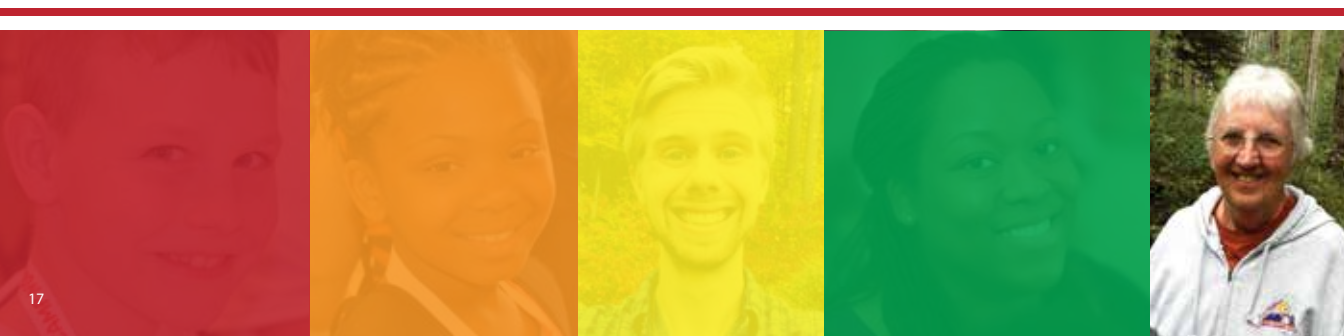
From: Arkansas

Served in: Arkansas and Oklahoma

Roles at Camp Noah: Team Leader, Small Group Leader

Favorite Hobby: Playing piano

“I was blessed with the most incredible team! Wonderful moments for me were our team meetings at the beginning and end of each day. We had a short devotion and prayer at the beginning of the day and discussed what the day’s schedule would look like. At the end of each day, we processed that day. Each team member shared a challenge he/she had and a bright spot or high point of the day. We discussed any problems and really worked as a team to find solutions... What touched me was how much love and concern for the campers my team expressed. Through our frustrations, joys and tears, we all became closer. A very touching moment for our entire team was when our Site Coordinator drove us around the Vilonia community; she pointed out where some of our campers’ families had lived, played, or worked before the tornado hit. My experience as a small group leader was invaluable... My heart was deeply touched by the stories I heard from the children in my small group. It was then that I saw the importance of the mission of Camp Noah.”





**“Thank you to everyone who was  
a part of Camp Noah in 2014!”**

## **2014 Highlights**

- Camp Noah song
- Red Cross of Central Oklahoma grant
- New marketing materials
- Online registration for campers & volunteers
- New staff members
- Spring Break camps
- New partners
- Blanket drive

## **Looking Ahead to 2015**

- Targeting new populations
- New Team Development & Volunteer Engagement Program Manager
- New Large Group resources
- New technology
- Increased engagement with strategic partners

I loved  
everything  
at Camp  
Noah.



Find out more about Camp Noah:

[www.campnoah.org](http://www.campnoah.org)

Camp Noah | 2213 East Main Albert Lea, MN 56007

(800) 987-0061 | [campnoah@lssmn.org](mailto:campnoah@lssmn.org)