CYO Camp Alumni

“Making a difference one camper at a time”

2020 Impact Report
BACKGROUND

CYO Camp, rich in history, was started with 12 acres in 1946 on Salmon Creek, near Occidental, under the vision and leadership of Fr. John V. Silva. From 1952 – 1969 Camp was named Our Lady of the Redwoods and Msgr. Eugene A. Gallagher was appointed Archdiocesan Director of CYO, and the development of the camp became a major CYO project. Under the leadership of Msgr. Peter G. Armstrong, Camp grew to over 200 acres with major development of the property as well as programs.

CYO Camp flourished with its' Retreat Center and Summer Camp programs, seeing numbers of 2500+ each summer in the 1970s-1980s. With the addition of the Caritas Creek program at CYO Camp in 1985, a new business was born, making CYO Camp open year-round. Camp now included the three businesses of Summer Camp, Outdoor Education and Caritas Creek, and the Retreat Center.

2006-2010 were critical years at CYO Camp. Camp was going thru many changes, which included the important program of Caritas Creek being separated in 2006. This put school attendance numbers down to less than a few hundred and threatened the viability of the future of CYO Camp. Camp was operating in the red, due to dwindling numbers in all of its' programs, losing $900,000+ a year.

Over many years, the old side of camp, formerly known as Girls Camp and presently known as Miwok, became less and less usable as many of the buildings were in severe disrepair. The Catholic Charities (CC) Board of Directors gave Camp 3 years to turn around and if not, would seriously have to look at closing CYO Camp.

Louis Reynaud (aka Lou MacAdoo), camp alum and now serving on the Catholic Charities (CC) Board of Directors, began negotiations for Caritas Creek and Catholic Charities CYO and in 2009-2010 the Caritas Creek program returned to CYO Camp. Camp began to grow and become viable again. Lou had the brainchild to create an alumni group and in 2010 recruited Caren Normandin and a small team to spearhead the effort. The CYO Camp Alumni Group was born.

For more on CYO Camp history click here https://www.catholiccharitiessf.org/file_download/inline/c844e613-d968-4392-8e4e-a7514eba1b28

Camp’s history was researched and written by alum, Bob Dougherty for camp's 70th anniversary in 2016.
**CYO CAMP ALUMNI MISSION STATEMENT**

CYO Camp Alumni seeks to re-kindled the spirit of camp among every generation by…

- Reconnecting alumni with their contemporaries
- Providing opportunities for kids to experience all of Camp programs, including Summer Camp, Caritas Creek and Outdoor Education
- Giving back to ensure the viability and sustainability of Camp for generations to come.

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**HISTORY OF ALUMNI GROUP ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

2010 - present:

**2010**

Asking Questions and Taking the Temperature

Five months of research was conducted to determine the feasibility of an alumni group. Proven viable, a vision and mission for the group was formed.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SERVING</th>
<th>TOTAL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Summer Camp</td>
<td>750 (capacity 1,440)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Caritas Creek/Outdoor Education:</td>
<td>1,482 representing 43 schools</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retreat Center participants:</td>
<td>4,464 (70 groups)</td>
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Let’s Get Started!

The CYO Camp Alumni Group is launched and starts to make a difference. The Advisory Board is established to focus on Summer Camp. The Board visits and evaluates camp over the summer and creates a report with recommendations.

- Database created; Membership grew 0-500
- CYO Camp Open House and first Alumni gathering at the Union Hotel Occidental
- Provided marketing help for CYO Camp; Camp talk presentation and materials created
- Webpage and Facebook pages created
- Monthly email newsletter established (April 2011)
- History Project/Committee established
- Outdoor Chapel Altar/Deck re-built
- 1st Annual Alumni Day (during summer camp)

**DONATIONS INCLUDE:**

- $12,000 raised at CCCYO Golf Day for camperships plus matching funds = $30,000
- $7,000+ raised by Caritas Creek for camperships
- Miscellaneous supplies for Camp
- Work weekends include: clear trees, split wood, clean up property, help during summer camp sessions, etc.

**SERVING:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>TOTALS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Summer Campers</td>
<td>894</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Caritas Creek/Outdoor Education</td>
<td>1,470 representing 44 schools</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retreat Center participants</td>
<td>4,795 (72 groups)</td>
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2012
Chapel Renovation Continues and Dedication

The culmination of the Alumni groups’ first big facilities project is celebrated with over 300 alums, family and friends with a Dedication Mass followed by a Reunion at the Union Hotel Occidental.

- Outdoor Chapel renovation ($150,000 value)
- Chapel Dedication & Reunion
- Alumni Volunteer of the Year Award established: Steve Cline, first recipient
- Special tribute and award to Chuck Marcia, CYO Camp Manager 1967-1991
- 2nd Annual Alumni Day
- Monthly email newsletter and Facebook presence continues

DONATIONS INCLUDE:

- $35,000 from sale of Chapel benches, stair steps, trees, altar/deck naming (to provide camperships)
- $9,000+ raised from Caritas Creek for camperships
- Work weekends to help around camp from alumni volunteers
- Miscellaneous supplies for Camp including humidifiers for staff housing

SERVING
Summer Campers
Caritas Creek/Outdoor Education
Retreat Center participants

TOTALS
1,084
2,611, representing 71 schools
5,995 (67 groups)
2013
Chapel Renovation Completed and Honoring of a Fallen Alum

The Chapel renovation is completed with a new retaining wall, upgrading of water and electricity and adding 24 steps.

Alum Quinn Boyer was murdered in the spring of 2013 and Quinn’s Kids was established in his memory to send kids to camp.

- Donor Board in Outdoor Chapel designed by Gwenn Connolly and installed honoring those who contributed to the Chapel renovation
- Harriman Hall upgrade with new benches, steps, accessible walkway, retaining wall and railing
- 3rd Annual Alumni Day
- Fall Alumni Reunion
- 2nd Volunteer of the Year Award given to alums Vince Silvestri and Pat Naughton
- Special Lifetime Achievement Award to Paula Pardini, Founder of Caritas Creek and past CYO Camp Director
- Monthly email newsletter and Facebook presence continues

DONATIONS INCLUDE:

- $10,000+ from sales of Chapel benches, stairs for camperships
- $12,000+ from Caritas Creek for camperships
- $7,200 Quinn Boyer Memorial Fund for camperships
- Miscellaneous supplies donated to Camp
- Supplies for Harriman Hall benches rebuild
- Volunteer weekends on projects around Camp

SERVING

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Summer Campers</td>
<td>1,177</td>
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<tr>
<td>Caritas Creek/Outdoor Education</td>
<td>2,883 representing 81 schools (70% Caritas Creek, 30% OEE)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retreat Center participants</td>
<td>5,561 (75 groups)</td>
</tr>
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2014
Camp Improvements and Fundraising Continue

The Caritas Creek and Environmental Education program is enhanced with a new platform at Lake George, and the Challenge Course gets new additions.

- 4th Annual Alumni Day
- Monthly email newsletter and Facebook presence continues

DONATIONS/FUNDRAISING:

- Built platform at Lake George
- $12,000 donation for the Challenge Course addition
- Caritas Creek raised $19,000 for camperships
- St. Elizabeth Seton Scholars Program raised $3,500
- Quinn Boyer Memorial Fund raised $7,200
- Work weekends to help around camp from alumni volunteers

SERVING

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Summer Campers</th>
<th>1,781</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Caritas Creek/Outdoor Education</td>
<td>3,047 representing 90 schools (72% Caritas Creek, 28% OEE)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retreat Center participants</td>
<td>4,615 (representing 67 groups)</td>
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2015
Caritas Creek Reaches a Milestone

Caritas Creek celebrates 40th Anniversary in 2015, continuing its’ mission to help young people discover the connection between all living things; to build bridges between diverse socioeconomic and ethnic groups; and to foster in youth a deeper connection to the natural environment, to self, to the Spirit of love and to community.

- 5th Annual Alumni Day
- Monthly email newsletter and Facebook presence continues

DONATIONS/FUNDRAISING:
- Caritas Creek raised $22,000 for camperships
- St. Elizabeth Seton Scholars Program raised $7,500
- Quinn Boyer Memorial Fund raised $10,000
- Work weekends to help around camp from alumni volunteers

SERVING
Summer Campers
Caritas Creek/Outdoor Education
Retreat Center participants

TOTALS
1,245
2,750 (representing 75 schools)
4,611 (representing 64 groups)
2016
CYO Camp Celebrates 70 Years

In seventy years CYO camp grew from 12 acres to over 200 acres of land, with year-round programs, including Summer Camp, Caritas Creek and Outdoor Education, and Retreat Center business (including groups other than retreats). CYO Camp has seen and made an impact on over 100,000 children. Still going, growing strong and making a difference!

- 70th Anniversary Celebration weekend with 200+ alums attending
- CYO Camp History researched and written by alum Bob Dougherty [link]
- 6th Annual Alumni Day
- Monthly email newsletter and Facebook presence continues

Donations/Fundraising include:

- $20,000 from Caritas Creek for camperships
- $9,000 St. Elizabeth Seton Scholars Program 2015 (alums Gwenn Connolly and Karen Vetter)
- Quinn Boyer Memorial Fund is a multi-year program, targeting under-served kids. 2016-2018 were years that they spent dollars raised to date to send to camp.
- Work weekends to help around camp from alumni volunteers
- New PA system raised $2,000 by alum Timothy Hedges
- Camp entrance signage donation: raised $4,000+ by group of alums (work not completed yet)

SERVING
Summer Campers
1,278
Caritas Creek/Outdoor Education
3,007 (representing 86 schools)
Retreat Center participants
4,962 (81 retreats/weekends, representing 28 groups)
2017

Golf Day Sends Kids to Summer Camp

Alumni established a first CYO Camp Alumni Golf Tournament under leadership of alum, Lou Reynaud

- 7th Annual Alumni Day
- Monthly email newsletter and Facebook presence continues
- Alumni Service Awards: Gwenn Connolly, Caren Normandin, Marty Rea

DONATIONS/FUNDRAISING INCLUDED:

- Alumni Golf Day raised $30,000
- Caritas Creek raised $20,000
- St. Elizabeth Seton Scholars Program raised $7,500
- Volunteer weekends on projects around Camp

SERVING

Summer Campers
Caritas Creek/Outdoor Education
Retreat Center participants

TOTALS

1,297
3,162 (87 schools)
4,708 (60 retreats/weekends, representing 32 groups)
2018

Because of Fundraising
More Kids Go to Camp

50% of the kids that attend summer camp benefit from additional financial assistance because of funds raised from Golf Day, Caritas Creek, Quinn’s Kids, Guardsmen, and individuals.

- 2nd Annual CYO Camp Alumni Golf Day
- 8th Annual Alumni Day
- Monthly email newsletter and Facebook presence continues
- Alumni Service Awards: Barbara Pozzi Gonnella, Jamie Leanus McClone, Tim Rea

DONATIONS INCLUDED:

- Alumni Golf Day raised $94,000
- Caritas Creek raised $29,000
- St. Elizabeth Seton Scholars Program raised $19,000
- Volunteer weekends on projects around Camp

SERVING

<table>
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<tr>
<td>Summer Campers</td>
<td>1,395</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Caritas Creek/Outdoor Education</td>
<td>2,941 (representing 89 schools)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retreat Center participants</td>
<td>4,503 (63 groups)</td>
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2019
Alumni Have a Voice at Catholic Charities, and Honoring Alumni Who Have Passed

After nine years of being 100% volunteers, CC approves a part-time position, reporting to Camp Director, Rick Garcia! Caren Normandin is the first alum to be hired and responsible for the Alumni program.

The Alumni Memorial was conceived of and designed as a place to honor alums who have passed. The Memorial resides to the side of the Outdoor Chapel at Camp.

- 3rd Annual CYO Camp Alumni Golf day
- Alumni Memorial designed by alum Gwenn Connolly and installed
- Advisory Board for Summer Camp re-established
- 9th Annual Alumni Day
- Monthly email newsletter and Facebook presence continues
- Alumni Service Award: Rich Bechtel

DONATIONS/FUNDRAISING INCLUDED:

- Alumni Golf Day raised $74,000
- Caritas Creek raised $31,000
- St. Elizabeth Seton Scholars Program raised $10,000+
- Quinn Boyer Memorial Fund raised $2,000
- $3,200 raised for Alumni Memorial

In-kind Donations included:

- Outdoor like-new kitchen equipment (stainless steel cabinets, sinks, countertops and refrigerator) valued at $4,800 (new value is $15,000)
- Miscellaneous supplies for camp

SERVING	TOTALS
Total Summer Campers	1,421
Caritas Creek/Outdoor Education	2,861 (representing 87 schools)
Retreat Center participants	4,271 (60 retreats/weekends, representing 50 groups)
We recognize there have been many who have given back to camp in big and small ways. We may have missed some and hope all have been reflected in this document. We are grateful for all who have connected back and supported CYO Camp as everyone has an impact and can make a difference.

2020-2021
Alumni Projects

1. Raising funds to send kids to Camp (camperships)
2. Renovation of Stepping Stone cabins
   (also known as QuickSilver Row)
3. Alumni Memorial benches
   (near entrance of Outdoor Chapel/Amphitheater)
4. Camp’s 75th Anniversary 2021
   (let us know if you want to work on the celebration)
5. Collecting vintage memorabilia for the camp history project
6. Work Weekends for projects around Camp

Way to get involved

We are excited about the next chapter of the CYO Camp Alumni Group and our goal is to connect more people, do more for Camp and make Camp sustainable for future generations.

There are many ways to get involved including:

Volunteer your time and expertise at Camp. Here are a few of the ways:

• Work weekends
• Summer Camp volunteer
• Caritas Creek cabin leader
• Support the office
• Social media/photography
• Help plan an event
• Serve on a committee
• Donate $$$
CONTACT

If you would like to help, volunteer, donate, get involved in any way, please contact:

Caren Normandin  
CYO Camp Alumni  
CNormandin@catholiccharitiessf.org  
707-775-3714 home/office  
or  
Rick Garcia  
Director, CYO Camp & Retreat Center  
RGarcia@catholiccharitiessf.org  
707-874-0203 office

To learn more about the CYO Camp Alumni Group visit:  

Donations can be made to CYO Camp at:  
https://www.catholiccharitiessf.org/campgift/page.html
APPENDIX

Numbers of Participants Per Year (2010-2019)

![Graph showing CYO Summer Camp participants](image1)

![Graph showing Caritas Creek/OEE at CYO Camp participants](image2)