



## Contact Us!

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# CAMP GOOD NEWSLETTER

Winter Edition | February 2024

Welcome to our first official *Camp Good News of Maine*<sup>®</sup> newsletter! We operate a full summer and winter camp program in Livermore Falls, Maine. More than 900 children are taught the Word of God here each year. Volunteer staff assist the full-time staff to make a spiritually profitable, exciting and safe time at camp for children. In the summer, we have six weeks for children ages 8-13 and one week for teens ages 14-17. In the winter, we have four weekends for children 8-13 and one weekend for teens 14-17.

Our goal is to share the Gospel of Jesus with the boys and girls. Sadly, today's children are living in a God-less culture. Daily, our children are being exposed to drugs, alcohol, sex, violence, materialism, eating disorders, filthy images and language. Children are embracing these activities to escape or numb the pains of life. They are crying out to be loved and accepted at any cost. Tragically, many children have never heard of their Creator God and the everlasting love that He has for them. Can you imagine an environment that is saturated with love, learning and living that is based on the Bible and its teachings? That is our goal here at *Camp Good News*.

In Deuteronomy 6:7, God has commanded us to "teach them (God's commands, decrees and laws) diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise". The campers spend time in the Word of God many times each day:

- Waking up each morning to have cabin devotions
- 3 chapels a day (with the Missionary, Bible Teacher and Camp Pastor)
- Song Time that is filled with songs that teach Biblical truths
- One-on-one time with their counselor (to talk about their personal relationship with God)
- Prayer at every meal to thank God for His provisions
- Closing their day with cabin devotions

1970 was the first year of camping for *Camp Good News*. We would rent from camps around the state to have our program. The motto we were founded on is “*Camp is for the Camper*”, and we have three core beliefs. First of all, we want children to have fun. The week is about them and having them forget about the struggles at home. This is a week where they can get away from the outside world, (no electronics allowed) and have fun through different activities. These activities include swimming, crafts, riflery, archery, photography, woodworking, canoeing, kayaking, fishing, camp-wide games and nature studies. Our second goal is for the children to be safe and we want you to feel that they are safe. We have policies requiring at least two people with a camper at all times and we conduct background checks on all staff. We always have nurses and lifeguards on the grounds. Our third and most important goal is that we want the children to learn about Christ. That is why we have a Camp Pastor, Bible Teachers and Missionaries each week that teach the Word of God to the children. Children can have all the fun there is, but if we don't teach them the Word of God, what have we really done for them?

We are able to do this work because of supporters who pray for the ministry, supporters who financially give to the ministry, and for the 300 plus volunteers each year who come and physically serve here with us. There are only 6 families who serve full-time. Each staff family is responsible for raising their own support. In a bit you will get a chance to meet each of our families in the following bio's. Each family is continuing to raise their support as we all serve in this vital ministry. If you are interested in hearing more from one of us, reach out. Our contact info is part of this newsletter. We would love to come meet you and share with you more about our part in the ministry of reaching children.

Among the many things Mr. John Romano (former Camp and State Director) taught me over the years, one thing that has stuck with me was to never forget the volunteers and supporters. That is why we are sending a newsletter. We want to stay in touch with each of you. He also taught to “always ask God for the things you need to conduct ministry and then tell His people.” We have asked God and now we are telling His people. We have a list of things that we need before our summer camping season. We have an Amazon wish list for each area of camping; you can find this on our Facebook page. Our pool liner must be replaced, the total cost of which is \$10,000. We need to replace our 20-year old archery equipment, the cost for this is \$5,000. We also need to do upgrades to our teen pavilion: concrete floor, better lighting, projector and screen. The estimated cost is \$7,000. We keep our costs very low for campers, and we never say no to a child who wants to come to camp. This is because of supporters like yourself. Your prayers and support are what has kept the ministry of *Camp Good News* going for the last 54 years. I want to thank you in advance for your prayers and support for the ministry here. Children need to hear the truth of Jesus and His saving Grace.

‘til every child hears,

Jeremy Brown

Camp Director

## Contact Us!

### CGN Committee Members

#### Chairman

Todd Pendleton

#### Vice-Chairman

Jeremy Redlon

#### Secretary

Nikki Redlon

#### Treasurer

**Rick** & Cindy Roberts

#### State Board Rep

**Don** & Judy Sherburne

#### Committee Members

Andy Guerette

Thomas Marston

#### Lifetime Honorary

Donald Hamlin

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# Meet The Staff

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## The Brown Family

The Browns first got involved with Camp Good News while being part of a team to cook the meal for new staff arriving for Camp. They fell in love with CGN and felt the Lord was calling them into the ministry as a family. "God called us to work together as a team to reach the children of Maine by being faithful support staff at camp." They officially joined the staff at CGN in 2016 and Jeremy became the Maintenance Director and Sarah became the Camp Kitchen Supervisor. In 2023, the Lord moved Jeremy into the role of Camp Director.

## The Frost Family

Thayne and Barb Frost both trusted Christ as Savior as children. They both served with Child Evangelism Fellowship when they were single. They got married in 1988 and served at Camp Good News every summer while ministering with CEF in other areas of the state. Thayne has served full-time at camp as maintenance worker since 1998: cleaning/maintaining buildings and grounds; mowing, plowing, making ice, helping with retreats and doing special projects. Barb has served as a volunteer, summer registrar, prayer partner coordinator, waitress, Bible teacher and other jobs as support staff. They raised their four children at camp!



## The Dowdy Family

Jon and Ann grew up as summer staff children at Christian camps. They attended CYIA as teens and have served the Lord with CEF of Maine for the last 20 years--first as summer missionaries, and then Jon as a field worker and local co-director. Jon currently serves the Lord as Office Manager for CGN and for the State Office. Ann volunteers as a nurse at camp and homeschools their 6 children. Together their desire is to "seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness" (Matthew 6:33a) so that children would "set their hope in God" (Psalm 78:7a).





## The Said Family



Jerry and Kirsten Said have served with Camp Good News since 2019, with Jerry serving as Program Director and Kirsten serving in a volunteer capacity in a variety of roles. Jerry's main responsibilities include overseeing day to day operations, brainstorming new program ideas, overseeing our college-age interns, leading our Camp Ministry Training for teens, and presenting the ministry of Camp to other churches. Since coming on staff, they have had two children, Ezra and Maggie! Kirsten also works at Winthrop High School as a History teacher, and really enjoys the opportunities to minister in her local community!

## The Brillinger Family

Andrew and Lydia both developed a love for camp ministry through their own experiences serving at their local Christian camps. Andrew and Lydia are excited to now be part of the full-time staff here at Camp Good News. As the Maintenance Coordinator, Andrew works directly with Thayne Frost to ensure that the campground is well maintained for the use of campers and staff. Lydia loves to connect with the campers and volunteers whenever she is able. Andrew and Lydia recently welcomed their first child Myra Grace into the world in December, 2023.



## The Austin Family

Calvin and Joanna Austin were married in December of 2023; Joanna has served full-time at Camp since 2020, but has been there her whole life as a staff kid of Thayne and Barb Frost. Joanna now works as the Media Coordinator and head Girls' Counselor. This involves website and social media updating, online forms, design, picture taking and hanging out with the girl campers! Calvin serves as a volunteer whenever he is not at his full-time job as an engineer. He has been assisting in the Media department, using his skills to help develop promotional videos for Camp.



## The Labbe Family

Roger and Donna received the Lord as Savior in the early 1980's. Through the leadership of Pastor Dick Goupille, they were introduced to *Camp Good News*. Volunteering for 20 years at camp prepared them for God's calling to a full-time position in 2003: Roger as the Program Director and Donna as the Office Manager, also overseeing the kitchen. In 2018, Roger became Camp Director and in 2023 he became the CEF/CGN Representative, bringing awareness to churches and individuals concerning the ministry. They have one son, a daughter-in-law and the cutest grandson anyone could ask for.

