

CYO Camp Alumni

“Making a difference
one child at a time”

2021

Impact Report





Early map circa 1950's

BACKGROUND

CYO Camp was started in 1946 with 12 acres on Salmon Creek near Occidental, California under the vision and leadership of Fr. John V. Silva. Fr. Silva named it Camp Don Bosco who was a 19th century priest who dedicated his life to disadvantaged urban youth.

In 1955 Camp was renamed Our Lady of the Redwoods (OLR). Rev. Eugene A. Gallagher had been appointed Archdiocesan Director of CYO, and improvements to the Camp became a major CYO project. Under the leadership of Fr. Peter G. Armstrong, Camp grew to over 200 acres with major development of the property as well as new and enhanced programs.

CYO Camp flourished in the 1970's-1980's. The Summer Camp programs grew to over 2500 campers. With the addition of the Caritas Creek program at CYO Camp in 1985, a new business was born under the leadership of Paula Pardini, 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 through many changes, which included the Caritas Creek Program being separated from Catholic Charities CYO in 2007. This reduced attendance numbers to 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 over \$900,000 a year.

Over many years, the original OLR side of Camp, formerly known as Girls Camp and presently known as Miwok, became less usable as many of the buildings were in severe disrepair. The Catholic Charities (CC) Board of Directors gave Camp three years to correct these issues, and if not, they would have to consider closing CYO Camp.

Catholic Charities (CC) Board of Directors began negotiations with Caritas Creek and Catholic Charities CYO, and in 2010 the Caritas Creek program returned to CYO Camp. Camp began to grow and became financially viable again. Lou Reynaud had the brainchild to create a Camp alumni group to reconnect alumni and help ensure the future viability and sustainability of Camp. In 2010 he recruited Caren Normandin and a small team to spearhead the effort and 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. This report is being updated to include the last five years of CYO Camp history.

CYO CAMP ALUMNI MISSION STATEMENT

CYO Camp Alumni seek to re-kindle 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 and Caritas Creek,
- **giving back to Camp** to ensure its viability and sustainability for generations to come.

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.

SERVING

Summer Camp:

Caritas Creek/Outdoor
Environmental Education (OEE):

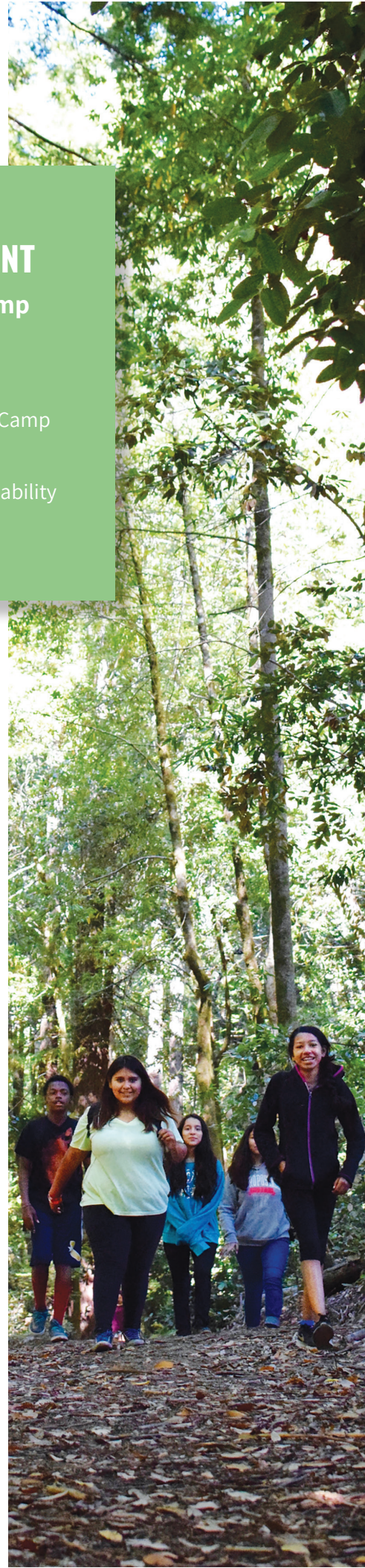
Retreat Center:

TOTAL

750
capacity 1,440

1,482
representing 43 schools

4,464
representing 70 groups



2011

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.

- Alumni membership grew to 500
- CYO Camp Open House and first alumni gathering at the Union Hotel Occidental
- Provided marketing help for CYO Camp, including presentations and materials
- Webpage and Facebook pages created
- Monthly email newsletter established (April 2011)
- History Project/Committee established
- Outdoor Chapel Altar/Deck rebuilt
- 1st Annual Alumni Day (during Summer Camp)

DONATIONS INCLUDE:

- \$12,000 raised at CCCYO Golf Day for camperships plus matching alumni funds = \$30,000
- Over \$7,000 raised by Caritas Creek for camperships
- Miscellaneous supplies donated to Camp
- Work weekends included: clear trees, split wood, clean up property, help during Summer Camp sessions, etc.

SERVING:

Summer Camp:

Caritas Creek/OEE:

Retreat Center:

TOTALS

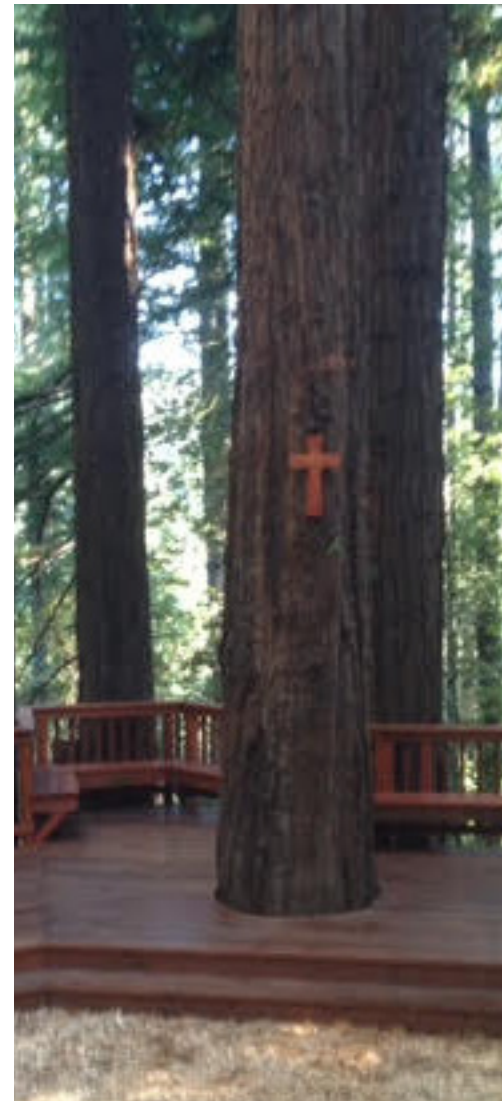
894

1,470

representing 44 schools

4,795

representing 72 groups





2012

Chapel Renovation Continues and Dedication

The culmination of the Alumni Group's first big facilities project is celebrated with over 300 alumni, family and friends with a dedication mass and 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)
- More than \$9,000 raised from Caritas Creek for camperships
- Work weekends to help maintain Camp
- Miscellaneous supplies for Camp including humidifiers for staff housing

SERVING

Summer Camp:

Caritas Creek/OEE:

Retreat Center:

TOTALS

1,084

2,611

representing 71 schools

5,995

representing 67 groups

2013

Chapel Renovation Completed and Honoring of a Fallen Alum

The Chapel renovation is completed with a new retaining wall, water and electricity upgrades, and the addition of 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 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 alumni 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:

- More than \$10,000 from sales of Chapel benches, stairs for camperships
- More than \$12,000 from Caritas Creek for camperships
- \$7,200 Quinn Boyer Memorial Fund for camperships
- Miscellaneous supplies for Camp including a piano
- Supplies for Harriman Hall benches rebuild
- Volunteer weekends on projects around Camp

SERVING

Summer Camp:

Caritas Creek/OEE:

Retreat Center:

TOTALS

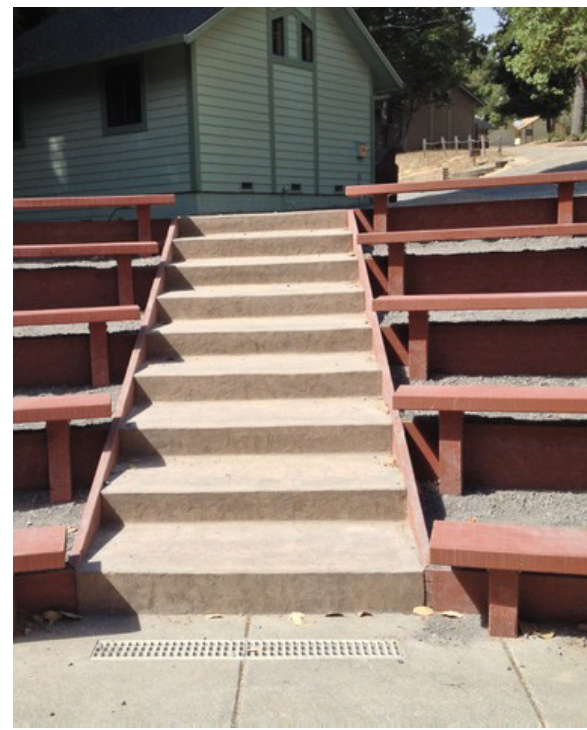
1,177

2,883

representing 81 schools
(70% Caritas Creek 30% OEE)

5,561

representing 75 groups





2014

Camp Improvements and Fundraising Continue

The Caritas Creek and Outdoor 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 maintain Camp

SERVING

Summer Camp:

Caritas Creek/OEE:

Retreat Center:

TOTALS

1,1781

3,047

representing 90 schools
(72% Caritas Creek, 28% OEE)

4,615

representing 67 groups

2015

Caritas Creek Reaches a Milestone

Caritas Creek celebrates its 40th Anniversary and continues...

1. its mission to help young people discover the connection between all living things
2. to build bridges between diverse socioeconomic and ethnic groups
3. 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

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 maintain Camp

SERVING

Summer Camp:

Caritas Creek/OEE:

Retreat Center:

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+ alumni attending
- CYO Camp History researched and written by alum Bob Dougherty
- 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 (alumni Gwenn Connolly and Karen Vetter)
- Quinn Boyer Memorial Fund raises money to send underserved kids to Camp
- Work weekends to help maintain Camp
- \$2,000 raised by alum Timothy Hedges for a new PA system
- Camp entrance signage donation: raised \$4,000+ by alumni

SERVING

Summer Camp:

Caritas Creek/OEE:

Retreat Center:

TOTALS

1,278

3,007

representing 86 schools

4,962

representing 28 groups
(81 retreats/weekends)



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 Camp:

Caritas Creek/OEE:

Retreat Center:

TOTALS

1,297

3,162

representing 87 schools

4,708

representing 32 groups
(60 retreats/weekends)





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

Summer Camp:

Caritas Creek/OEE:

Retreat Center:

TOTALS

1,395

2,941

representing 89 schools

4,503

representing 63 groups

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.

Installation of a state-of-the-art water system begins. The water system at Camp was outdated and at risk of breaking to the point of threatening Camp's entire water use. Catholic Charities began investing \$2M to install a new system to support all water needs of Camp.

- Alumni Memorial designed as a place to honor alumni who have passed was installed near the Chapel
- 3rd Annual CYO Camp Alumni Golf Day
- 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

Summer Camp:

Caritas Creek/OEE:

Retreat Center:

TOTALS

1,421

2,861

representing 87 schools

4,271

representing 50 groups
(60 retreats/weekends)





2020

WORLDWIDE PANDEMIC closes Camp for 15 months

CYO Camp gets creative and pivots in new ways to keep the doors open.

- Learning Hubs
- Summer Day Camp
- Renting out the Day House and cabins
- The CYO Camp online store
- Cut costs and increased fundraising efforts
- Alumni mailing to campers when Summer Camp had to be cancelled
- Installation of water system completed
- Catholic Charities is forced to lay off staff. Caren Normandin continues to provide leadership for the Alumni group, but now as a volunteer
- Newsletter and Facebook presence continues

DONATIONS/FUNDRAISING INCLUDED:

- Alumni Golf Day raised \$22,000 even though the tournament had to be cancelled
- Caritas Creek raised \$30,000
- Alumni and Caritas raised \$15,000 to create online lessons for the Caritas Creek Environmental Retreat program
- In-kind donations of wi-fi equipment and COVID supplies, such as no-touch thermal cameras that register temperatures and sanitizing dispensers

SERVING

Day Camp only:

Learning Hubs:

TOTALS

245 campers

ages 5-13 from Sonoma County

42 students

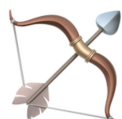
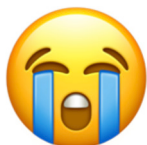
elementary and middle grades

A summary of the postcard sent to campers

We Miss You CYO Camper!!!



**2020 has been full of
disappointments and
challenges**



**We are looking forward to 2021 when
we can be together again.**

...your Camp family loves you!





2021

The pandemic continues into 2021.

CYO Camp turns 75 and camp reopens!

- Camp manages Learning Hubs in Marin (20 students) and at CYO Camp November 2020-March 2021
- A five part virtual Caritas Creek retreat program is designed so students experience all of the Caritas themes
- CYO Camp gets the green light to have overnight Camp with COVID protocols for summer starting in July
- Alumni renovates the original Grotto Chapel under the leadership of alum Steve Cline
- CYO Camp hosts 75th celebration weekend in September
- CYO Camp Alumni hosts 4th annual Alumni Golf Day

DONATIONS/FUNDRAISING INCLUDED:

- Alumni Golf Day goal to raise \$100,000
- Caritas Creek goal to raise \$30,000
- CYO Camp 75th celebration goal to raise \$50,000
- Volunteer work weekends to clear trees and brush for fire safety
- Miscellaneous supplies for Camp including picnic tables

SERVING

Summer Day Camp:

Summer Overnight Camp:

Learning Hubs:

Retreat Center:

Caritas Creek Fall 2021:

TOTALS

300 Campers

450 Campers

65 students
elementary and middle grades

1,200 students
enrolled for Fall 2021

1,156 students
representing 29 schools
enrolled for Fall 2021

CYO
CAMP
1946 - 2021

CELEBRATING

75

YEARS



Catholic Charities



We recognize there have been many who have given back to Camp in big and small ways. We may have missed some but 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.

What's next for CYO Camp?

Camp estimates it will take nine months to a year to fully recover for the lost income because of the pandemic. Some projects currently planned include rebuilding Quicksilver Row AKA Creekside, AKA Stepping Stone with new platforms, tent cabins, bunk beds and mattresses.

There is a Fund-A-Need Campaign to raise funds to make this a reality.

If you'd like to contribute contact: Rick Garcia

Director, CYO Camp & Retreat Center

RGarcia@catholiccharitiessf.org

707-874-0203 office

What's next for the CYO Camp Alumni Group?

We are excited about the next chapter. 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:

- Participate in work weekends to help maintain Camp
- Work at Summer Camp as a volunteer
- Be a cabin leader for Caritas Creek
- Work in the Summer Camp office
- Great at Social media? We need help!
- Help plan a Camp event or serve on a committee
- Donate \$\$\$ or make an in-kind donation





CONTACT

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

Caren Normandin

CYO Camp Alumni

carennorm@sbcglobal.net

(707) 755-3714 office/home

or

Rick Garcia

Director, CYO Camp & Retreat Center

RGarcia@catholiccharitiessf.org

707-874-0203 office

Donations can be made to CYO Camp at:

<https://www.catholiccharitiessf.org/campgift/page.html>





QUICKSILVER, AKA CREEKSIDE, AKA STEPPING STONE needs YOU!

The old row of cabins were dismantled after over 40 years of use. The original cabins (pre-wood cabins) were tent cabins... and we are going to return to our roots. Also, the County requires that permanent structures have to be set-back from the creek and therefore cabins can only be used May-September.

Our goal is to rebuild this area of Camp, which will include building new platforms, purchasing tent cabins (16'x16'), bunkbeds and mattresses, plus a storage container for use during the winter months

Please help bring this part of Camp back to life:

\$3,000	1 tent cabin
\$24,000	8 tent cabins
\$3,800	5 bunk beds and mattresses (for 1 cabin)
\$30,400	40 bunk beds and mattresses (for 8 cabins)
\$6,800	1 tent cabin complete with bunk beds and mattresses
\$2,500	Container for storage

Count me in! If you'd like to make a donation to help rebuild this beloved part of Camp...

Please send a check made payable to: **CYO Camp**

In the Notes section, write: **Donation for Quicksilver**

Any amount is much appreciated!

Send your check to: Rick Garcia, Camp Director
CYO Camp
2136 Bohemian Hwy
Occidental, CA 95465

