

AMH INCLUSION BURSARY

2021 REPORT



In 2021, we collected a total of \$4,235 that was distributed to over 25 campers. Without the generous donations from our community, those campers would have not been able to experience the wonders of camp. Camp OAC is a place that welcomes campers with different backgrounds and we firmly believe that all youth in our community should get to experience summer camp!



\$4235

raised by our
community

25

children who
benefitted



STORIES OF HOPE

"As a mother who grew up in foster care, I have experienced many life challenges. One of the supports I received was funding to attend Christian Bible camps throughout my summers growing up in the late 80's and early 90's. The experiences gained in attending these camps helped shape who I have become today and the value and worth that I see myself.

Today, I have a child of my own, and though I am educated and independent, we struggle financially since the pandemic and being off work. I have been unable to register her in extracurricular activities this year as paying the rent and feeding the kids has been a struggle of its own. My daughter has attended Camp OAC in the past and upon her return, I have witnessed the same level of confidence and self-worth I felt in myself when I could attend as a little girl. The "pep in her step" upon her return is life changing. She comes home feeling capable, included, self-aware, and confident.

My daughter has struggled at school with others teasing her for being so tall and has a very hard time fitting in. Camp OAC really brought her out of her shell. She talks nonstop of her experiences and is so excited for the opportunity to attend again this year and make new friends. She describes her experiences as being included and inspirational in all accounts. She is 9 and has never enjoyed anything more than attending this week-long camp in our own community. I truly believe that the lessons learned and activities brought about at Camp OAC, helps to grow thoughtful, capable and dynamic little individuals."

"We have 4 amazing kids that are full of energy and we like to keep them busy, especially doing sports. We think camp is a healthy way for them to spend their time while meeting new friends. My oldest child has volunteered at Camp OAC a few times and is wishing to do it again this year. Two of his three brothers were fortunate to attend one week last year and they really enjoyed all the activities, the sense of belonging, and of course meeting new friends. Being one of four boys is not always easy. Imagine fighting for the last cookie left on the table every single day. Having some time of their own at camp makes them feel special and they come back home happy and eager to tell their brothers about the wonderful time they spent at the camp.

As you can imagine, being a parent of 4 kids is not always easy either. We are blessed to have these four little persons in our life but sometimes it can be difficult. We moved to Canada due to safety reasons and because we wanted our kids to have the opportunity to ride a bike to school, play freely in the park and be safer in general which was impossible back home. To do this, we sacrifice lots of things including our house and professions. I was an orthopaedic surgeon and my wife a nutritionist. One would think that with the current shortage of physicians in Canada it would be easier to work as a doctor, but there are a lot of hoops that we must go through before even thinking of doing it, making our financial situation not ideal at least for the next few years. We would love to give our kids the opportunity of enjoying one amazing week at camp OAC while learning values and having fun."

SMILES
and
LAUGHTER
thanks to you



This story describes a bursary recipient from the perspective of a refugee host family:

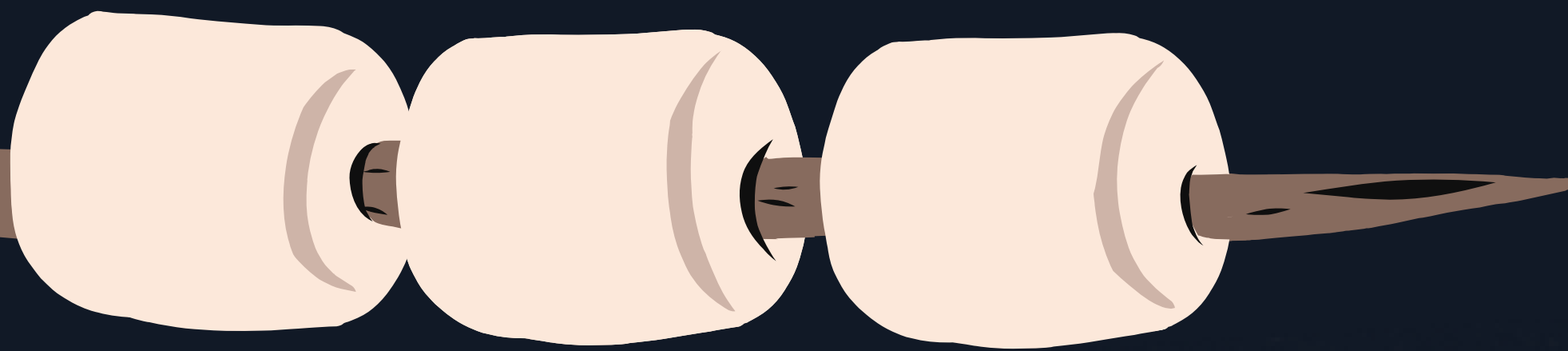
"Our refugee family is from Myanmar. The parents had to flee to Thailand, as they are Karen (indigenous) people, a minority tribe persecuted and killed by the army in Myanmar. The parents were teenagers when they got to the refugee camp. Several years later they met, married and had 4 children. They have had another child since coming to Canada.

The family had little to no education before coming to Canada and could speak no English. The 3 eldest children, having now been in schools here for 5 years, speak English very well, but the rest of the family struggle to be understood. The father has just started a second part time job, at a minimum wage, but the mother is at home full time with the younger children. Even with government help, the family is still well below the poverty level and have to borrow sleeping bags, etc., that the children need for camp."

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TO OUR DONORS THANK YOU



As we head towards the summer, we are once again reliant on donations from our amazing community as we look to support as many campers as possible. So far this year, we have bursary applications that total nearly \$10,000. We know that the past few years have been extremely difficult for many families and we will be working hard to raise funds to ensure that no camper is turned away. Many of our bursary recipients come from challenging circumstances such as single parent families, low or unstable incomes and disabilities that limit their experiences. Your contribution means everything.

We thank you in advance for your generosity and support towards helping to ensure that no camper is left behind.



HOW TO DONATE

Donations to the AMH bursary can be made in the following ways:

1) Through CanadaHelps which is a national organization that supports charities across Canada. Donations can be processed by all major credit cards and all donations will automatically receive a tax receipt.

Visit <https://www.canadahelps.org/en/dn/m/60351> or scan the QR code with your phone to donate online.



2) By Cheque which can be made payable to “Okanagan Anglican Camp” and sent to the address listed below. Tax receipts will be provided upon request.

Address: 201 - 380 Leathead Road, Kelowna, BC, V1X 2H8

3) By e-transfer. Please email director@campoac.com to arrange for a donation by e-transfer.

