



crossroads farm

# Down On The Farm

The Quarterly Newsletter of Crossroads Farm

July,  
Aug.,  
Sept.  
2014

The weekend after Labor Day is always the lead team training retreat for Crossroads Farm. This year found us at Pine Trail Camp in Saugatuk, MI. Forty-three Coaches (adult volunteers) and Crew (student leaders) joined together for this intense training mixed with a little fun. The following is the perspective of two new coaches on our CRF staff:

## → -Ray, HS Coach



The passion and enthusiasm in every volunteer hand selected for this ministry is remarkable. As I met with many of them on the bus ride to the training retreat, I was in awe of the conviction these leadership teens and adults had for The Lord. I feel strongly that this team will be successful in working with rural churches to love, serve and be more like Jesus, because coupled with a talented crew, they also have an

excellent foundation of a continual training and development program.

I was in the military for 8 years and completed a tour as an instructor, so I've experienced my fair share of training. A staff member made mention that this was real training, and I wholeheartedly agree. It was evident to me that there was a lot of heart and soul poured into creating the lesson plans and learning material and it paid off in the delivery.

I didn't think it was possible to fit so much information into one weekend, but I left feeling very prepared and am incredibly excited to be a youth ministry volunteer.



Bow-tag bonding time



Spiritual gifts analysis

## → -Vivian (MS Coach and Hillsdale College Student)



Leading praise and worship



Discussion group practice

I'm really looking forward to being on the Crossroads staff this year. Coming from a somewhat sheltered background, with minimal knowledge about Crossroads and no experience in youth ministry whatever, I sort-of jumped into this whole program knowing there would be a learning curve, and praying God would use Crossroads to help me grow spiritually alongside the kids I work with.

At the retreat, I learned the structure of the ministry, how to lead discussions more effectively, and most importantly, how to study to cultivate the heart of a servant leader. I saw clearly last weekend that this ministry is very much shaped by the people who lead it. I'm so excited to be able to learn from people like Doug, Dawn, Mike and Connie, and to look to them as role models throughout the year.



## SAVE THE DATE

Saturday, Nov. 8, 2014

"Big Band Christmas in November 'Gifts'" fundraising banquet.

Watch the mail for invitations soon to follow.



## VICTORIOUS

by Katrina (Summer Intern)

"My God is victorious!" These are the words of one of our students around the campfire at Hiawatha. The students had just seen a drama called The Bema where they watched their counselors act out the lives of six high school students on the day God called them before the judgment throne. The skit was

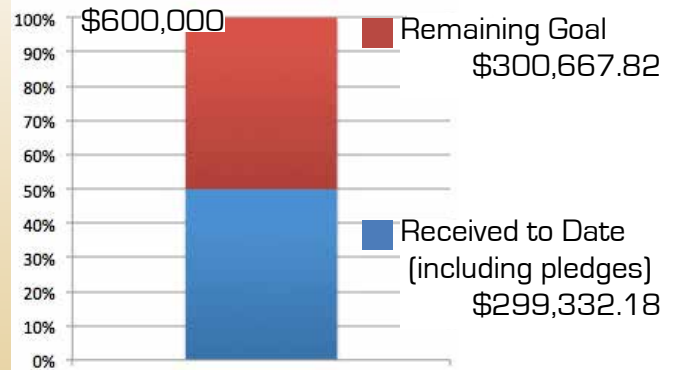
"I want everyone at college to know that Robbie Boyer is a Jesus freak." -Robbie

"Don't beat yourself up for making mistakes, because God loves you no matter what." -Devlin



powerful and, talking to the kids afterwards, many were challenged and inspired to witness to their friends before time runs out. One student exclaimed, "That was

## The Shed Report



awesome! I can't even describe my feelings right now. It's like all joy and happiness in Jesus... except better. I could run around the whole camp, I'm so excited!"

On the morning of July 27th, 33 of our students gathered at the farm to drive 7 hours to the UP, to a camp called Hiawatha. They met 4 more Crossroads students at the camp, along with about 40 other campers and an excited staff. Throughout the week, our students learned from speaker Scott Crownover to trust God and live the "Big Life," a life the size of their God. On Tuesday, they were challenged by the Director Emeritus of the camp, Billy Walker Sr, to follow the old paths: to attend church, read the Bible, and hold on to what is good. About 20 of our students went down to the altar Tuesday to give their lives fully to God.

Along with services and nightly devotions with

*continued on page 4*

## COME GET LOST IN THE 11 ACRE CORN MAZE!



Adults.....\$5  
Grade School Students.....\$3  
5yrs and under.....Free

Fridays 3pm - 8pm  
Saturdays 12pm - 8pm  
September 19<sup>th</sup> - October 11<sup>th</sup>

## CROSSROADS FARM MURDER MYSTERY CORN MAZE

6:30 - 10pm  
Grades 6-8: Friday Oct. 17<sup>th</sup>  
Grades 9-12: Saturday Oct. 18<sup>th</sup>

**\$5**

With musical guest: Children 18:3





## From the Director

by Doug Routledge



I have a home full of teenagers. I have some really heart warming pictures of my children growing up alongside Crossroads Farm. This is the last year for Madison, my oldest, to attend Crossroads Farm as a student. She'll attend college this coming fall. My first teenager has grown up.

My second and third teenagers, Raegan and Lauren, will follow close behind.

I have another teenager that is growing up as well. Crossroads Farm was born in May of 1999. That means that CRF is now 15 and a half years old. I have some old pictures of Crossroads Farm when it was brand new. I have more stories than I can possibly recount. I'm glad that there is more to come. I believe that the best, most incredible stories are

*continued below...*



## "MEDIC, MEDIC, MAN DOWN, MAN DOWN!!"

Shouts and laughter from students joined the oceans of stars and bonfire sparks in the skies above Crossroads Farm on Sept 14 and 16 for our fall kick off laser tag nights.

Mobile Laser Kombat allowed for this now annual tradition. Doug challenged the

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## New Program Ministry Intern



My name is Alyssa, and I am absolutely ecstatic to be the new 2-year Program Intern at CRF! I'm so excited to spend the next two years loving rural teens, planning program nights, and learning the ropes of youth ministry alongside the best staff in the world (not that I'm biased...). I'm especially excited about the ministry of Crossroads Farm because my roots are here - my mom was raised in this community, and my 92-year-old grandfather has lived here his entire life.

A little about me: I'm passionate about learning peoples' stories. I love to write, cook and drink coffee. My roommate is a hedgehog named Bernadette Lafawnduh Lemon. Thank you for your prayers as I embark on this journey!



*From the Director...continued from above*

forthcoming. I believe that God will be more real to us in the next phase of our ministry. I know that my prayers have gone from requesting the needs of a start-up.

We are at the point where memories and old photos are not enough to impact this rural world. Crossroads Farm needs friends who are willing to grow up with us. This next quest, this future faith walk offers to allow us to trust God with bigger needs. I am anxious to lead this family of faith. I am anxious to see the next pictures; pictures of a graduation.



MEDIC...continued from page 3

students to be aware that we are in a battle that we have a real enemy whose name is Satan, and that we need to war against him. Our leadteam dove in and began developing new relationships while growing the old ones. Community volunteers served grilled hot-dogs. And with that, our CRF school year of ministry has begun. Please pray with us for kids this year. Our theme all year is "Battle." May Eph. 6:10 be our mantra.



## Crossroads Farm

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VICTORIOUS...continued from page 2

their cabins, the campers spent their time competing for an ice cream party at the end of the week, attending workshops taught by staff, hanging



A group of girls, praying

out in the rec hall, swimming, consuming large amounts of sugar, and getting to know their fellow campers and staff. As He always does, God worked through the lives of the staff and speakers to reach and inspire our students on a trip they will never forget. Pray that the fire will stay alive and our students will continue to grow closer to God and share His name.



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## Loving The Rural Teenager



CELEBRATING  
15 Years

### Yahoos!!

- 🔊 Nearing the 1/2 mark for The Shed building project!
- 🔊 Great first nights for our school year with laser tag kick offs
- 🔊 43 in our leadteam this year! (adult volunteers and student leaders)
- 🔊 A new full time staff - **Alyssa Hobson!**
- 🔊 A beautiful corn maze ready for use

### Take It To Jesus!!

- ✋ The spiritual battle over the lives of each student
- ✋ Our board of directors as they, with wisdom, move and direct CRF forward
- ✋ Our Murder Mystery Outreach nights Oct. 17th and 18th
- ✋ Ongoing financial needs for ministry operations as well as The Shed building project
- ✋ More full time missionary staff