



Down On The Farm

The Quarterly Newsletter of Crossroads Farm

April,
May,
June
2013

Forever Thankful

by Sam, Freedom Farm Graduate

On May 19th I came to my very last night of Crossroads as a high-schooler. I had been going to Crossroads since 7th grade. I attended every Winter Retreat since 7th grade and I was even on Leadteam for two years. I sincerely hope no one ever says that Crossroads doesn't change lives. Because it changed mine. Without Crossroads I highly doubt I would be the person I am today. The leaders have befriended me and caused me to reach for leadership rolls that I never would have taken. I would say that Crossroads was directly involved in transforming my life for the better and I am forever thankful to God for creating such a wonderful ministry. 🏡



What Really Matters

by Kayla, Quincy Graduate



I started going to CRF in middle school and loved every second of it. Despite loving it I stopped going my freshman year because the friend I went with was still in 8th grade so we were on different nights. Even though I have always believed in God, I had never really worshiped or lived through God like I knew I should. At least, not until half way through my junior year. At that time I started going back to CRF, and shortly after that I started to live life for God way more! I went on the White Water Rafting trip that summer and grew even closer to God. During that trip God told me I needed to do more. So I invited friends to CRF starting the next year. One friend started coming regularly with me and has been my "God Buddy" ever since. We keep each other on track and remind each other of what really matters... GOD! I was baptized in March of this year at CRF and have been going to church more. I really feel like CRF has been a huge part of my journey in life these past few years! 🏡



Just some of our 86
graduating eighth
graders!



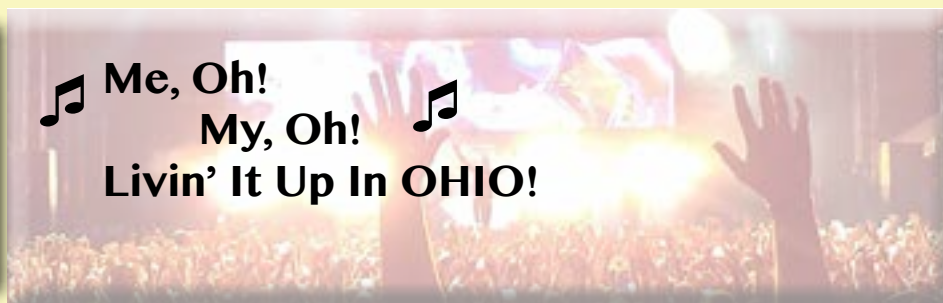
Praying for students
leaving our ministry.



Did you get your invitation?



♪ Me, Oh!
My, Oh! ♪
Livin' It Up In OHIO!



Nothing has the power to bond like music, shared experiences, spiritual challenge and Over-flowing porta-potties. That is how 25 of the CRF crazies spent four days recently. The ALIVE Music Festival is an annual event in Mineral City, Ohio. During the four days of the festival, our crew had the chance to see over 80 different musical artists like Switchfoot, Skillet, The Newsboys, Family Force Five, Kari Jobe, Need to Breathe and virtually every other popular Christian artist on the planet. To sum it up... It was loud, smelly and fantastic!



Group shot with Shing Bright Baby!

Our group set up its camp right next to the Indie Artist tent, became an instant hit with our 9-Square game, built incredible relationships, stories and memories with each other. Each day our group tarp was as close as we could get to the stage, but for a number of our students and staff, not close enough.

"I am so glad that I went to Alive this year. I had so much fun making lots of new friends, getting to meet and see all of the coolest Christian bands, and staying up late playing 9 square. Thank you, Cross-roads Farm!" ~ Mackenzie, ~
9th grade



How many boys will a camp chair hold?

Most of the concerts had at least a few representatives from CRF standing at the main stage. In one case, a student stood in the same (continued on p4)



It's lunch time.



Hair washing is a group effort.

Defying Gravity Airs

Crossroads Farm Track and Field Day

On our second to last Crossroads night of the school year, we spent our time at the Reading High school track. Both high school and middle school students were able to participate in a fun filled game night. Each evening was special in its own way, especially since one night was only 38 degrees and two day later it was back up into the mid seventies. Despite the weather being drastically different for these two days, both groups had a fantastic time. They were able to participate in tug-of-war, 100 yard dash, Frisbee toss, sack hop race, Bozo's buckets, football/softball throw, marble pick up with your toes, tire flip, water-balloon shoot and even a pie and hot dog eating contest. The nights were filled with friendship, giant smiles and the presence of an amazing God. At the end of the night I was able to share my testimony with the kids and awards were given out to the top three participants in each event. I know I enjoyed watching the kids laugh and play with one another and I look forward to next's year field day. 🏆



**For the ongoing
work in the lives of
rural youth, special
gifts were given:**

In memory of

Irene and Krzyszak

In honor of

Dalace Bengé Estate

how August 24th

(continued from p2) place for nearly nine hours (with a bit of help from the CRF group).

Our students and staff had the chance to meet, get autographs and hear the life testimonies of the stars in Christian music. When asked if we should continue including a music festival trip in our events calendar, one of our girls said, "We should do it every year!" I think that sentiment was universal. Our trip was capped by a photo opportunity with the band Shine Bright Baby!

As Matthew West put it, "One word of advice to everybody... Don't sit down on the porta-potty."

Everybody groove!



Being a leader is tough!



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Loving The Rural Teenager



Prayer Closet

~Yahoos~

- Submerged in worship at Alive with students!
- The corn maze finished and ready for use this fall!
- The 86 graduating 8th graders into our senior high program, Barnyard. Continued involvement and spiritual growth!!



~Take it to Jesus~

- Defying Gravity event, Aug 24: great numbers, fun, clear communication of the mission, funding raised that exceeds expectations
- Our graduating seniors~no wasted years, and more in love with Jesus with each day that passes
- Rich Carpenter support raising process
- Students that will be attending Hiawatha, July 21st-27th

