

CEO CORNER

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior! Thank you for being a supporter of Tall Turf Ministries!

On behalf of our board and staff, we are grateful to have welcomed back youth and families to camp. Also, our collaboration with Neland Ave CRC gave us more opportunities to live out our mission of equipping youth and families for lives of reconciliation in God's world. As we tabulate the evaluations and comments from participants, we remain confident that God was glorified in our work by seeing all the numerous smiles and laughter we experienced.

It was also gratifying to see the next generation of leaders in action. Our Leaders in Training (LITs) delivered exceptional service while developing our theme for the summer. "No Cap" (modern term for always telling the truth) is based on Eph 4:25. This was also used in delivering a sermon and bible study during family camp.

As we move forward in 2021, we remain focused on delivering programs while keeping staff and participants healthy. We are hopeful that our annual banquet can be held but understand we are still in a pandemic. Since we were unable to safely have a banquet last year, our programming capacity was negatively impacted. With the success experienced this summer, we hope to continue impacting the next generation of leaders.

Finally, we welcome the opportunity to collaborate with your business, church, and family. Whether you are looking for a retreat, conference, gathering, or wedding, we have the capacity to meet many needs. Please visit our newly updated website for more information.

Yours in service,
Marcus M. Hargrave.



Tall Turf Ministries Fall News



FAMILY CAMP

Tall Turf Ministries hosted two sessions of 3-day Family Camp at Camp Tall Turf this summer. Families enjoyed meals, lodging and activities – all included within their flat registration fee. Additionally, a partnership with a donor in Newaygo County allowed up to ten families to attend our second Tall Turf Ministries Family Camp at no cost.

WELCOME BACK WEDNESDAY'S

"Welcome Back Wednesdays" was a partnership between Neland Avenue Church and Tall Turf Ministries. Each ministry provided an hour of fun and activities around a specific theme to promote fellowship, faith in God and reconciliation. The program activities are geared toward youth in grades 2 through 8.





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Board member highlight:



LEADER IN TRAINING PROGRAM

Tall Turf Ministries promotes positive youth development through various programs such as the Leader in Training (LIT) Program. The LIT Program specifically focuses on the experiential development of five core life skills in teens: planning, self-control, focus, awareness, and flexibility. Research in the field of youth development showcases practicing core life skills as essential for individual growth and development. The Tall Turf Ministries Leader in Training Program offers teens age 14-17 fun, faith, and fellowship in a safe and peaceful environment with opportunities for personal growth. The participants are granted leadership responsibility to engage in social justice issues that interest their cohorts of co-learners. Tall Turf ministries supported four LIT teen leaders-Jayda, Kamari, Samuel, and Symone- with mentorship and assistance provided by summer staff members Alexis Gray and Zoey Zupin.



LEADER IN TRAINING PROGRAM FEED BACK ON IMPACT OF PROGRAM

When teens were asked the impact or skills, they may have gained from this program we were told such statements as these below.

“I realized the value of communication skills, very much so. You get a very good idea of how to properly communicate, accommodate, and assist people of all ages. Along with that I think it overall made me a more patient or caring person, because you learn to be more considerate because you see the impact that you can have on a person by just being patient and caring despite how tired you might be.”

“Perseverance, I think that is the main one because getting through a family camp takes a lot of work and you will be exhausted by the end of it. I have also learned more about how to keep a group in control and become more confident in controlling a group of people I’m responsible for.”

“I think I learned a lot about listening skills and also directing skills. Along with that having the confidence to get people's attention. With young children they can be rowdy and are more difficult to get their attention. I was surprised that I was able to stay patient, get their attention, and then progress without spending too much time and straying away from the goal.”

DID YOU KNOW?

Renting our facilities throughout the year opens our mission to others and helps increase financial support for our programming. In the past year Camp Tall Turf has hosted weddings, cross country, retreats, etc. If you need a place to host your next special occasion, please visit our website at tallturf.org/rental or contact our office to help you plan your event.