



Tall Turf Today

Spring 2019

Equipping Youth and Families for Lives of Reconciliation in God's World

The CEO's Corner

By Marcus Hargrave, President & CEO

Greetings all! If you are reading this you, are a stakeholder in Tall Turf Ministries. I value the time, talent, and treasurers you have invested in our ministry. THANK YOU! We are blessed to have so many that have cared about us for over 50 years.

Tall Turf's leadership understands the significance of its mission these last 50 years, a mission that still meets a critical need now and for the future. At this time of celebrating 50 years of God's faithfulness and seeking God's renewing power for the decades ahead, it is with resolve that the leadership seeks to strengthen its current programming and insure the future success of our organization.

PARTNERING WITH COMMUNITY

The leadership of Tall Turf has been cautious and prudent in its planning, and it is committed to the full success of our current strategic plan. The fruition of this critical plan will require generous community investment and the involvement of committed volunteers. In the end, the lives of thousands of youth will be enhanced and the community will be rewarded through the continuance of leadership development among a diverse segment of our youth ready to take on the effort of reconciliation. I invite you, as a stakeholder of TTM, to deepen your engagement with us to increase our impact over the next 50 years.



Marcus Hargrave, President & CEO, & Jim Brasser, Site Manager Emeritus

Past Staff Celebrate 50 Years

By Miriam De Jong, Photos by Joshua Roede (LIT)



Back Row: Arthur Treadwell, Tim Proctor, Ron Hofman, Vernon Proctor: Front Row: Barb Timmermans. Karen Cole Johnson, Suki Brasser, Eva Proctor Johnson

On Saturday, March 16, past Tall Turf staff spanning five decades of ministry gathered at the Grand Rapids Tall Turf offices to celebrate fifty years of God's faithfulness. Staff enjoyed sharing stories, reminiscing, and catching up with what was happening in one another's lives. It was clear throughout the day that no matter how much time had passed since they saw one another, the connection of camp forged a lifelong bond. It was also clear that while staff have gone on to be doctors, lawyers, teachers, social workers, leaders of non-profits and more, the passion for reconciliation and social justice remains.



Back Row: Miriam De Jong, Blake de Jong; Front Row: Bianca Edwards, Elizabeth & Eliana Joven, Leticia Lopez

Staff traveled from across Michigan to attend the event, with some even coming in from Chicago. While there, staff were able to look through decades of photos, share good food, and in true Tall Turf fashion, play games. Past staff also were able to hear about current opportunities to reconnect with the ministry of Tall Turf. The day would not have been complete without gathering around the piano to praise God while singing favorite songs from camp that are still sung by campers today.

2019 Spring Break College and Justice Tour

While many students spent their spring break sleeping in and relaxing, students from Tall Turf, Madison Square Christian Reformed Church, and New City Kids spent their break exploring their future on the 2019 College and Justice Tour.

This unique opportunity allowed students to visit a variety of different colleges and universities including two Historically Black Colleges and Universities, a division one university, and a private Christian university. Stu-

dents were able to learn about the history of the Tuskegee Airmen on a visit to Tuskegee University in Alabama, as well as the pioneering work of civil rights activist Dr. Mary Mcleod Bethune, who established Bethune-Cookman University in Florida. A quote below a statue of Dr. Bethune on campus highlighted her passion for reconciliation stating, "This

shall always be before me as a great interracial garden where men and women of all tongues, all nations, all creeds, all classes blend together helping to send out sunshine and love and peace and brotherhood that makes a better

world in which to live." Students dug deeper into the theme of justice through a visit to the National Memorial for Peace & Justice, which honors victims of lynching and injustice. In addition to visiting HBCUs, teens were excited to visit Auburn University, who had just made it to the men's Final Four tournament, and Southeastern Universi-

ty, a Christian university. A favorite highlight for all students was visiting the Atlantic Ocean. To cap off the trip, there was a mini Tall Turf reunion as several of the adult leaders, Maribel Cano, LeMarr Jackson and Charity Runyon Babista, were former Tall Turf LITs. Overall, it was a powerful trip exploring colleges and God's heart for justice.



From Left: Maribel Cano, LeMarr Jackson, Charity Runyon Babista, & Miriam De Jong

Combined group photo taken after devotions on the beach the last morning of the trip.



Get involved!

Looking for ways to become more involved with Tall Turf? Check out the opportunities listed below :

- Attend a work weekend in May to help get camp ready.
- Help out with camper registration days.
- Sponsor a cabin for summer cabin decorations.
- Help pass out flyers in the community for summer camp.
- Be a prayer partner for a summer staff member.
- Sponsor a camper to attend a camp session.
- Sponsor a family to attend a Family Camp weekend.
- Provide staff lunch on registration days.
- Volunteer to serve in the kitchen during a camp session.
- Lead a training for high school Leaders in Training.
- Serve on the Tall Turf board.
- Help with web design and marketing.
- Donate or purchase sleeping bags for camp.

If you're interested in getting involved with any of these opportunities, contact our office at (616) 452-7906.



Leading in New Ways

By Miriam De Jong, Director of Programs

This past school year Tall Turf's high school leaders in training (LITs) received an opportunity to practice and develop their leadership skills in new ways through community internships. While historically LIT internships have taken place at local churches or other community non-profit organizations, this spring



LIT Micah Aurich learning about video editing.

two LITs had the opportunity to explore their creative side through entrepreneurship while being mentored by two former Tall Turf staff members.

LIT Micah Aurich spent the past semester working with Marcus Thomas and his company All Marcus Productions. Marcus is a videographer and graphic

designer who started his own company in 2016. Marcus is also a former camper, LIT and Tall Turf counselor. His company seeks to "channel a passion for video & graphic design into helping people creatively tell their stories of personal or business transformation." Through this internship, Micah has been able to not only learn about videography and graphic design from Marcus, but also the importance of making a difference in your community, especially with youth.

LIT Joshua Roede spent his semester working with Alfield Reeves and his company Alfield Reeves Photography. Alfield, a former LIT Mentor at Tall Turf, strives to use "the creative medium of photography to serve others by enhancing themselves, their stories & brands." During his time with Alfield, Joshua has been able to go beyond basic photography



LIT Joshua Roede (left) on site at a photo shoot. Photo Credit Alfield Reeves.

skills to learn how pictures can tell important stories. Like Marcus, Alfield also shares a passion for making a difference in the community, especially with youth. Both Marcus and Alfield also have a deep faith that guides and shapes their work. Marcus shares, "I know that the next generation of videographers, business owners, designers, animators, authors, and more will represent the diversity that was missing when I got started with video production, and I hope every day as I'm growing, I'm paving a way and bringing the youth along with me. I couldn't do any of this without God."

Below Left: Marcus Thomas, Photo Credit Micah Aurich, LIT; Below Right: Alfield Reeves, Photo Credit Joshua Roede, LIT



SUMMER CAMP 2019

YOUTH CAMP SESSIONS

Youth Adventure Camp (ages 8-13)

June 25—July 2

Tall Turf Olympics Week (ages 8-13) :

July 9—July 16

Young Leaders Camp (ages 8-13):

August 5—August 9

FAMILY CAMP WEEKENDS

July 5—7

July 19—21

August 9—11

**Register Now: www.tallturf.org
Questions Call: 616-452-7906**

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