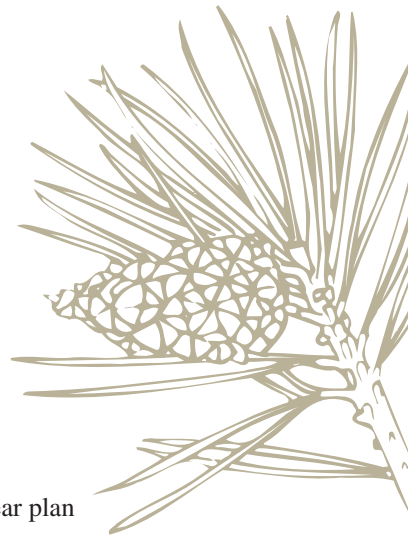




# HISTORY

## DEER RUN RETREAT CENTER



### 1996

- David and Liz Gibson received a clear vision to purchase a specific piece of property in Williamson County, Tennessee (Aug.)
- property purchased by Gibsons through funds from sale of their personal home (Dec.)

### 1997

- organizational meeting of 10 persons to determine the ministry name and mission plus a 3-year plan for facilities and funding needed (Dec.)

#### *Facilities*

- property cleared: brush, fallen trees, fence rows, roads

### 1998

- formed 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization and board of directors (Jan.)

#### *Facilities*

- soil survey for septic; trees cleared from lake area, recreation field, building site, and entrance road
- meeting with county environmental department about septic systems
- meeting with HB&TS Utility District to supply public water lines to Perkins Road

### 1999

#### *Retreats*

- first overnight retreat (local junior high youth group) plus hosted local church groups for campfires/cookouts

*Operational Budget: \$1,035*

### 2000

#### *Retreats*

- continued to host local church groups for campfires/cookouts

#### *Facilities*

- improvements to entrance road and road frontage; built entrance and fences
- completed construction of 3 acre lake
- cleared sites for ropes course pavilion and maintenance building
- installed a volleyball court and horseshoe pits
- provided temporary toilet facilities
- cut several miles of hiking/mountain bike trails throughout the property
- began building low ropes course initiatives

*Operational Budget: \$2,250*

### 2001

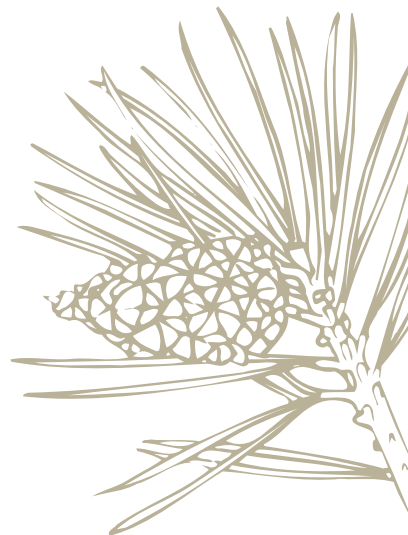
#### *Retreats/Events*

- facilitated first low ropes course group: Guatemala mission team (Mar.)
- first programmed men's event: Wild at Heart Weekend (Sept.)
- continued to host local church groups for campfires/cookouts

#### *Facilities*

- completed first phase of low ropes course (Mar.)
- completed first phase of the platform tent camp area

*Operational Budget: \$8,937*



## 2002

### *Retreats/Events*

- first programmed couples event: Fall Marriage Weekend (Oct.) (partnered with Covenant Marriage Movement)
- hosted local church groups for both day and overnight retreats

### *Facilities*

- completed second phase of platform tent camp including a footbridge over creek to the camp area

*Operational Budget: \$19,288*

## 2003

### *Retreats/Events*

- hosted over 25 groups for day and overnight retreats including international mission teams from local churches, Bible study classes, men's and women's counseling ministries, middle school classes, high school leadership organizations, and boy and girl scout troops
- hosted first weeklong overnight camp for a local church

### *Facilities*

- county approval of preliminary site plan (Jan.)
- built ropes course pavilion
- completed first phase of high ropes course
- added and upgraded hiking and mountain bike trails including a scripture trail with the plan of salvation on signs throughout the trail (open to the public at no cost); built a mountain bike trailhead parking area
- installed over 1200 linear feet of underground electric lines to the camp area and pavilions
- attained a county public water line and installed over 1500 linear feet of water line to the shower house location
- roughed in the plumbing and prepared the foundation for the shower house

*Operational Budget: \$29,850*

## 2004

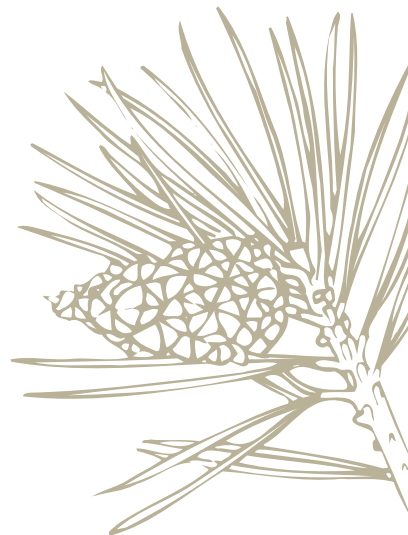
### *Retreats/Events*

- hosted over 35 groups for day and overnight retreats
- hosted 3 weeklong overnight camps
- provided a place on a portion of the property for Narrow Gate Foundation to begin their ministry

### *Facilities*

- improved lake area by adding a pavilion and sand beach
- built a pavilion on the ridge overlooking the lake
- improved ropes course pavilion by adding concrete floor and lighted stage
- completed high ropes course
- built two temporary shower houses
- built a primitive cabin on the ridge for Narrow Gate ministry use

*Operational Budget: \$40,850*



## 2005

### *Retreats/Events*

- hosted over 45 groups (several groups returning for their second, third, and even fifth year) including local church's mission teams, children's camps, youth groups, men's ministries, Bible study classes; men's and women's counseling ministries; marriage enrichment retreats; middle school classes, high school leadership organizations, universities (sports and leadership teams), schoolteachers, community leadership groups and corporate groups
- hosted 3 weeklong camps

### *Facilities*

- began construction of The Creekside Meeting & Dining Facility
- purchased The Lodge at Deer Run (Dec.) and began renovations  
*[The Lodge exists on property that was part of the original land purchase in 1996]*

### *Other*

- first lake baptism (Apr.)
- completed Web site (Dec.)
- 22 young men participated in the Narrow Gate ministry, lived on site, and helped with facility improvements

*Operational Budget: \$47,052*

## 2006

### *Retreats/Events*

- 6 programmed events: Valentine Romance Weekend (Feb.), Family Fun Day (May), Angel Tree Camp [first programmed weeklong overnight camp for children whose parent(s) were incarcerated] (June), Father-Son Weekend (Aug.), Songwriter-Artist-Musician Retreat (Sept.), and Couples Romance Weekend (Nov.)
- over 6,000 people onsite through camps, retreats, and events (more than the past 6 years combined) including
  - 21 church staff retreats
  - 6 women's and 1 men's retreats
  - 1 father-son retreat
  - 10 children and youth groups from area churches
  - 15 ministry/nonprofit groups
  - 3 community Bible study groups
  - 11 university and high school groups including sports teams
  - 12 corporate groups plus
  - individuals, couples, and families who attended programmed events, family reunions, weddings, and rehearsal dinners

### *Facilities*

- The Lodge at Deer Run officially opened (Jan. 1, 2006)
- completed The Creekside Meeting & Dining Facility plus added aggregate patio and stairs
- built wiffle ball field
- built sand volleyball court

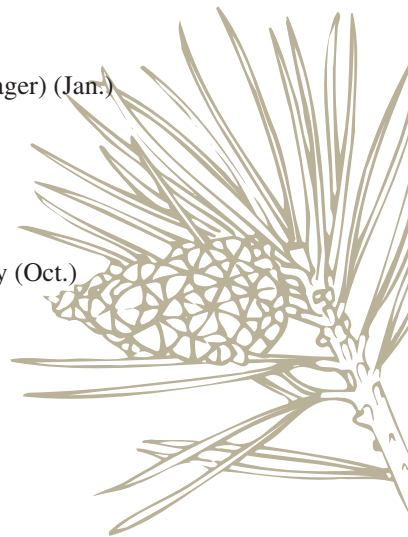
### *Staff*

- first, full-time staff: Rick Bowles (Director of Development) and Angel Bowles (Lodge Manager) (Jan.)
- Fred Reyes joined staff as the Director of Camps and Recreation (Oct.)

### *Other*

- 6 lake baptisms resulting from Angel Tree Camp and 7 lake baptisms from Hispanic children's camp
- Narrow Gate purchased property in a nearby county and moved their ministry to that property (Oct.)

*Operational Budget: \$213,521*



## 2007

### *Retreats/Events*

- launched Deer Run Christian Camps ([www.DeerRunCamps.org](http://www.DeerRunCamps.org))—1 week of programmed overnight camp for youth and 2 weeks of day camps for K–5th grades
- continual increase in impacting lives with almost 10,000 people participating in camps, retreats, and events
- the Deer Run Experience impacted individuals, families, churches, and the community through
  - 4 programmed events: 2 married couples weekends, a father-son adventure weekend, and a family fun day
  - 5 weeks of summer camps
  - 22 children or youth retreats including a Hispanic church children’s camp and a Russian church children’s camp
  - 29 school or university group retreats
  - 40 staff retreats for churches, ministries, and organizations
  - 3 elders and deacons retreats
  - 5 marriage enrichment retreats
  - 2 father/son retreats
  - 1 mother/daughter retreat
  - 6 women’s retreats
  - 3 men’s retreats
  - 2 community Bible study groups
  - 2 church-wide picnics
  - 3 community leadership planning meetings
  - 3 individual retreats
  - 2 family reunions and
  - 1 wedding

### *Facilities*

- relocated and upgraded the tent camp (Cedar Point Rustic Camp) to a site near the lake which includes a pavilion and 7 rustic cabins with built-in bunks to accommodate 76 overnight guests
- installed aqua park/blob at Spring Valley Lake; added roped swim area
- built frisbee golf course
- submitted revised site plan to the Williamson County Planning Commission which included:
  - an onsite sewage treatment system
  - an additional lodge in the camp/recreation area for year-round retreats
  - 2 staff cabins
  - an open-air gymnasium for recreation and worship
  - expansion of existing dining hall (The Creekside)
  - larger dining and conference facility

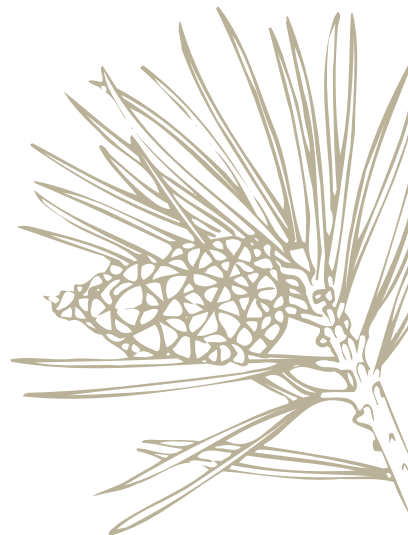
### *Staff*

- 3 college students who volunteered as resident summer camp staff for 3 weeks

### *Other*

- 2 fundraising events to fund summer camps:
  - Silent Auction of items donated by local artists, companies, and individuals (Jan.)
  - Family Fun Day sponsored by WAY-FM, Shane’s Rib Shack, and Domino’s Pizza (May)
- Donations/grants received from:
  - Huskey Lumber Company (materials to build rustic cabins)
  - Middle Tennessee Electric Corporation (materials to build rustic cabins)
  - Rooms To Go (camp scholarships for 12 Angel Tree campers)

*Operational Budget: \$306,718*



## 2008

### *Retreats/Events*

- continual increase in partnerships with area and out-of-state churches, ministries, families, and organizations; on target to reflect a 25 to 30 percent growth this year (as of Aug 2008)
- expansion of Deer Run Christian Camps to 7 weeklong camps including:
  - 3 weeks of day camps for K–5th grades
  - 2 weeks of overnight camps for preteen and youth
  - 2 weeks of overnight mission camps (Camp Deer Run One and Two)

#### *Camp Deer Run One:*

*for children who have an incarcerated parent(s) or are from lower income, inner city families*

#### *Camp Deer Run Two:*

*for children of lower income single moms plus a 2-night retreat for the moms at The Lodge*

*Deer Run partners with the following community ministries for Camp Deer Run (mission/scholarship camps):*

*Against the Grain*

*Bridges of Williamson County*

*CASA – Court Appointed Special Advocate*

*Christian Coparenting*

*Christian Women's Job Corp of Middle TN*

*Family Foundation Fund*

*Graceworks*

*Greenhouse Ministries*

*LifeCare Family Services*

*Nashville Rescue Mission*

*Prison Fellowship*

*SafeHaven Family Shelter*

*The Next Door*

*YWCA*

### *Facilities*

- construction of a new road to The Lodge which connects it to the camp/recreational area and serves as a new entrance to The Lodge (Feb.)
- completed required onsite sewage treatment system (March)
- Williamson County Planning Commission approved final site plan (May)
- completed of an 80 yard football/recreation field which can also be used for events such as concerts (May)
- completed expansion of The Creekside kitchen with walk-in cooler/freezer and food storage area (July)
- started expansion of The Creekside dining hall (Aug.)
- anticipate winter completion of Buck Creek Lodge which accommodates 96 overnight guests and includes a recreation/game room and a worship center which seats 250

### *Staff*

- 12 resident college summer staff for 8 weeks of summer camps
- 4 full-time positions added: director of food services, guest services, communications/design, administrative assistant

### *Other*

- 17 lake baptisms resulting from Camp Deer Run Two and 3 youth accepting Christ as their Savior at preteen overnight camp
- medical and dental insurance benefit available for full-time staff members (beginning Aug.)
- Donations/grants received for camp scholarships for lower income families from:
  - LifeWay Community Fund
  - Rooms To Go Children's Fund

*Operational Budget: \$360,000 (Aug 2008)*

