

CAMP BIMINI

We believe that Camp Bimini is a place where God's creation comes together with respect for each other and the environment. It is our goal to give every child and youth a camping experience where they feel loved and valued for who they are. We strive to be welcoming and inclusive of each individual and provide a safe and nurturing place where campers may experience nature, grow spiritually and create lifelong friendships.

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2020 has been an interesting year for Camp Bimini. Like many, we were faced with many challenges. The Covid-19 pandemic measures forced camp to close – no rentals, no school programs, no summer camp, no events. We had an 80% loss of operating income with 40% of expenses remaining.

With our deep thanks to many people, we have succeeded in several ways.

Bimini Connects virtual camp was conceived to offer an alternative camp experience and connect to our camper families. We knew camp would be missed and there was genuine concern for the mental health of our campers. Our three-person staff worked diligently and faithfully to create, cast, produce, film and broadcast eight weeks of virtual camp program. They were supported by numerous counsellors, Bimini alumni and several adult volunteers. These people enthusiastically lead camp songs and graces, sessions (cooking, crafts, nature sports, CE, music), story time, meditation, worship and campfires. This generated a new social media presence for Camp Bimini on Facebook, YouTube and Instagram, reaching out to share our camp and spread our ministry, with some participating from Saskatchewan! Financial grants from Stratford-Perth Community Foundation (Covid-19 Emergency Fund) and United Church of Canada Seeds of Hope Grant (Wesley C Smith Fund) assisted with covering costs involved.

Fundraising efforts in 2020 were heightened and put into action. The May fundraising Bottle Drive was an overwhelming success bringing in over \$11,000! Thanks to all who collected and helped. The August Walkathon was also tremendously successful raising over \$18,800. Again, an astonishing response! Participants were nation-wide with the 'walk where you are' platform.

Camp Bimini utilized the Canadian Emergency Wage Subsidy (CEWS) for the months we qualified and Canadian Emergency Business Account (CEBA) loan to address payroll, property and maintenance fixed costs. We wish to extend deep appreciation to our many generous donors who donated financially to assist us through this time. We had a great response to our appeal for donations from our community surrounding us. It is humbling to know how loved Bimini is by our community, alumni, families and friends. Support has been phenomenal from volunteer time and talent to valued financial contributions. Bimini is truly treasured and blessed!

Creating a legacy through a bequest in your will or other planned gift such as a charitable annuity or a gift of life insurance is a simple and thoughtful act that reflects your commitment to Camp Bimini, your concern for future generations, and your love for the camping world. The best part of planned giving is that you have the comfort of knowing that you have provided for the future of something you care about very dearly. A successful planned giving program can help to fulfill our inherent desire to give. One of the real blessings of planned giving is that it benefits both the giver and the recipient. For more information, please contact the camp.

We began an Alternate Gift idea for people to give as gifts for Christmas, birthdays, anniversaries and more. Please see our website for more details. We also started a FlipGive team. FlipGive is an online platform that lets your team earn cash back for things you are already buying. Shop in store (by purchasing gift cards) or online through FlipGive and a percentage of your purchase will be deposited directly into Camp Bimini's team account. There are hundreds of stores and restaurants that offer cash back through FlipGive, including amazon.ca, Swiss Chalet, Esso, Old Navy, GAP, Tim Hortons, Indigo and MUCH MORE! To join Camp Bimini's FlipGive Team, just go to www.flipgive.com or download the FlipGive app. Create a new account by signing up, then select "Join Team," enter our team code: GGFPDQ and shop away! It's an easy way to financially support Camp Bimini in these uncertain times!

The Camp Bimini board is moving forward with plans for the 2021 season but we are uncertain what that will look like. We have faced the challenges of 2020 with sacrifice, setbacks and numerous successes. The Camp Bimini board members are optimistic, and the camp is in a solid position to plan ahead for whatever 2021 brings. Stay tuned for fundraising events and ways you can help.

This year taught us a lot about ourselves and about leadership. It has taught us a lot about faith. 2020 stretched us more than we ever thought and more than some were comfortable with BUT we learned a lot and are coming out stronger.

We are blessed to have a great community around us—people like you. We thank every one of our supporters: those who support us physically, spiritually, emotionally and financially. Your support is important and invaluable. It was with this strong support that we were able to survive this year.