

Report of Cathedral Ridge Camp and Retreat Center to the 137th Annual Convention of the Diocese of Colorado, October 3-5, 2024

What a wonderful year we have had so far at Cathedral Ridge! God has been working in the lives of children, youth, adults and families in the experience they have had at Cathedral Ridge. By the end of the year, we will have hosted 29 retreats totaling 620 people in 2024 from all over the state of Colorado. We will lead 6 Abound retreats totaling 105 people from congregations all over the diocese. We have had 474 people attend 3 youth camps and 8 family camps this past summer. Last year we had a total of 229 attend 3 youth camps and 5 family camps. We more than doubled our summer attendance from last year. We added new activities this summer such as kayaking, fishing, horseback riding and whitewater rafting. They were a huge success. We have served 1200 guests at Cathedral Ridge this year. We have pre-registered over half the youth for next year already. All 4 of the parish family camps are coming back next year and 200 people from the other 4 family camps are signed up as well. We are planning on adding one more parish family camp and one new multi-age art and music camp for next summer as well. There is plenty of room for more children and youth to sign up for youth camp and spots available for families in the care of creation and pride family camps.

We hired a new full time program director in May. Abigail Jordan is a recent graduate of Duke Divinity School and comes with experience in youth, college ministry and camp experience. She also is certified in ropes and has coached volleyball. She jumped right into role and did an outstanding job in her first summer. She worked with all the chaplains and teachers as well as the summer staff to offer our youth and family camps. She is currently working to program the abound retreats for the fall and helping host the other groups as well. Her husband Jacob, who is also a graduate of Duke Divinity School, helped in various roles this summer as well including kitchen, registration, and activities. Welcome Abigail and Jacob!

Linda Brown has been hard at work sharing her knowledge of the environment and caring for our creation. She has led many nature hikes and helped children, youth and adults experience God in God's creation. She helped train our summer staff, so they were able to share this knowledge with the campers. She played a major role in our Care of Creation family camp and abound retreat. She has also been instrumental in helping Cathedral Ridge receive a grant from the forest service for forest restoration and fire mitigation. The work will begin in mid-October and conclude by March. We have contracted with a company called "Tree Beavers" (Isn't that an awesome name) to do the work and will include over 20 acres of forest restoration. Some trees need to be cut down and dead trees and undergrowth removed so that new growth can happen which will lead to a healthy forest and less risk for fire.

The board has been busy updating our vision and mission and confirming the goals we have for Cathedral Ridge for the coming years. This should be complete by the end of the year. They have also started a strategic plan to raise capital to fund the necessary building of new guest accommodations to serve children, youth, adults and families. We have the initial plans for 3

two story cabins that can convert into spaces for youth, families and adults. With these three cabins we could expand our capacity of youth camp to 120 campers per session, capacity of family camp to 120 campers per session and adult retreats to 92 guests per retreat. They are also working on plans to build a new large meeting space that could accommodate groups of up to 200 people. The strategic plan will include raising funds for a maintenance endowment as well. There is a small task force working on these plans. This is a multiyear process so stay tuned for updates as this unfolds.

Thank you to all who participated in all the wonderful retreats and camps throughout the year! Thank you also to all who gave their time and talent to Cathedral Ridge! You are amazing! Thank you to our board, (Brian, Nancy, Jim, Bob, Erica, Deborah, Krista, Catie, Kimberly and Bishop Kym) for their work this year and I look forward to living into the plans we are envisioning together. Thank you especially for Brian, our President and Nancy, our treasurer for their hard work. Thank you to our full-time staff Ryki, Abigail, Linda, Brian and Beth who spend many late nights serving with outrageous hospitality from the love of Christ. Thank you to all our support staff Kellye, Luke, Tori, Delinah, Piper and Joel in food service, hospitality and facilities who work to prepare the place and the food for our campers and guests. Thank you to all of the Chaplains and teachers this summer. You gave so much to help campers to learn and grow in faith. Thank you to Elizabeth who helped support our teachers and prepare for our inspection. Thank you to all the volunteers who have helped at various times cook, clean, paint, and so much more. Thank you to all our summer staff and CIT's for the summer Luke, Matthew, Sam, Xeska, Johna, Jack and . Thank you to our nurse Christi. You are amazing! Thanks be to God in Christ Jesus through the power of the Holy Spirit who has moved in the lives of both guests and staff share the love of Christ through so many and wonderful ways through the ministry of Cathedral Ridge! God continue to protect and lead Cathedral Ridge as we seek to share your love in the world through this ministry.