

New Program at CBX

Foster Parent Night Out
By Marci Miller

As you are likely aware Cross Bar X is a ministry that focuses on youth development, most often locally in the Four Corners region.



Late in the summer we were approached by our local area Human Services department about taking over the monthly Parent's Night Out (PNO) program they offer for foster families to give foster parents a much needed night of respite.

For the last three months we've had around 15-20 foster children and their siblings ages infant to 16 come out to the camp for an afternoon of fun, while we invest in knowing them personally and building real relationships with them that we hope will lead to future camp involvement.

I've been working in our baby/toddler

group and have found it both challenging and rewarding. There are a lot of behaviors that cry out, and many that show so much hurt and brokenness, even in such little new people.

At the first PNO a little boy came for the first time, at dinner he looked at me with what seemed like fear and puzzlement and said, "Where are we going to sleep? Where are my pjs?" He didn't understand that his foster mom and dad were going to come pick him back up in just a little while. His fearful question was posed with such calmness I couldn't help but wonder how each new change and place he goes must really make him question everything about how he sees life. It broke my heart. He seemed visible relieved when I explained he wasn't sleeping at camp and his foster mom and dad would come soon to pick him up.

The last time he came to PNO he approached me and said, "First we are going to play, then we will go outside, then we will eat pizza, then my mom and dad will

come back for me." I confirmed that this is exactly what would take place and took delight at seeing him relax and come further out of his shell in our predictable and trustworthy environment. He also came to me, the person he knew had been there before to confirm his beliefs about what would happen... relationship builds security, security builds opportunity to share what we know matters most in this life, a relationship with Jesus and the hope we find in the Gospel.

At the core of Cross Bar X's mission is an unflinching commitment to seeing all the youth we serve as bearers of the image of God! Alongside that is an unashamed adherence that the Gospel of Jesus is the solution for all people and all the problems they face.

Please continue to pray for safe, meaningful and fun Parent Night Outs for our "campers" that join us monthly for this event!

Winter 2018/19

RANCH REPORT

Cross Bar X
Bringing the truth of the Gospel of Jesus Christ to Socially and Economically Disadvantaged Youth



Fostering a Vision at CBX
Exciting Times Ahead for CBX As It Looks To the Future!

By Tim Miller

The last number of years we have been evaluating future ministry direction for CBX. We have been happy with our summer camps and camper outreach ministry, but have felt a nagging burden that there is something God wanted of CBX.

In 2017, the Board of CBX charged the full time team with assessing what this might be. As we began our evaluation, one thing quickly emerged as an area that needed to be addressed. CBX's camper statistics revealed that we were off target with the demographic of kids attending camp. What we learned was that there were many campers coming from church homes, economically stable situations, and health family situations. This number was creeping towards 40% of the CBX campers in 2017.

We weren't completely caught off guard by this data. With the COLS program increasing awareness of CBX, several regional camps closing, and gentrification in many of the urban areas CBX previously recruited campers from, we had an inclination that things were changing for CBX. Upon a deeper investigation however, we truly realized we needed to evaluate how to best fulfill the mission to reach socially and economically disadvantaged youth.

This past year, we have looked at different population of kids in America that are in

need. Once we identified these populations, we looked at how CBX could minister effectively to each of these populations. What we found was that there was a deep need for support work with foster children and within the foster care system and that this population was being under-served.

We have worked with this population of children for years at CBX. I would say that any given year, 10-15% of the kids CBX has worked with are foster children. However in identifying the deep needs within this population of youth, CBX has an amazing opportunity to make an impact! In 2018, we are already taking some strides in this direction. This past summer, camp was 100% free to all foster children. We have also begun a monthly respite program for foster parents, and our camper follow-up coordinators are actively working with several local foster kids regularly.

What other impact can we make? That question is the task ahead for us in 2019. In the first quarter of 2019, the board of CBX will be sitting down and beginning the process of setting a vision for what this work will look like in the years to come. We share this with you now so that you can begin to pray with us through this process. Will you commit to lifting our board up in prayer during this time? We thank you for your support of CBX and being a part of this ministry!

Iron Horse - Bike It

The Iron Horse Bicycle Classic is a bike event here in Durango that sees riders traveling 48 miles over two mountain passes. This year, the race is on May 25th and CBX has been selected once again to receive free registration race slots. This opportunity allows us to offer these spots to folks interested in riding for TEAM CBX.

Spots can be reserved on a first come first serve basis by contacting CBX. Riders are asked to raise funds to help sponsor campers to attend camp.

Team CBX riders receive a jersey, accommodations at CBX, race support, warming and changing station at the finish line, and many other perks. If you or someone you know would like more info about riding for Team CBX and helping to provide Summer camp for our campers, please let us know!



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Male Camper Follow Up

By John Scarboro



With my third year in mentoring many of the young men that attend camp, I continue to walk faithfully with Christ leading my direction and counseling in each situation. Mentoring these young men is not easy. I am often discouraged by the difficulties they go through or by their flakiness with meeting up, but as a part of the body of Christ, I am called to place others before me, to love, to encourage, and so much more.

Alongside these difficulties, I have seen growth as well. Many of us do not see the fruit from the seeds that we have planted in the lives of others, but many small actions we do for others has a big impact. With a few of these young men, I have seen progress in them understanding that I will help anytime, that I am here for them, and that I am not going anywhere.

They have experienced much loss of love from neglect, abandonment, or apathy; therefore, in the beginning I was seen as someone to leave soon. However with the time that I have spent these years, I have been able to dive into their struggles, enjoy memorable times with them, and show them the Gospel when they didn't wish to hear it. I appreciate your prayers as I continue to work with these young men!



Infrastructure

By Tim Miller

The past number of years, we have been forced to back log many needed improvements/repairs to CBX because there just wasn't the funds available to undertake the necessary work. We were able to get by with some ingenuity, elbow grease, and extra man power repairing obsolete equipment.

With the improved financial situation of CBX the last couple years, we have been able to address many of the much needed repairs and improvements to CBX. We have committed to these infrastructure items as opposed to major additions/improvements at CBX, because we want the core of camp to be strong for many years to come.

This Summer/Fall, we were blessed to have the Texas Baptist Men come to build us this wonderful shower house down at the ropes course. After the men framed and sheet rocked the building, Bob Baker spent a month with us finishing the tile and plumbing work. This is a really wonderful addition to CBX that will allow for increased usage of our lake, ropes course, and west side of the property.

In addition, we have been able to run utilities and a new road to the ropes course. This allows for vehicle and emergency



access to the beach front, ropes course, and archery range and potable water/electricity at these locations.

OTHER IMPROVEMENTS

- Alpine and Eagle Lodge both had 35 year old furnaces replaced
- Two 1800 gallon water storage cisterns
- New 5hp irrigation pump for the property
- Replaced rotten foundation logs on Eagle Lodge.
- Stadium lighting for rec field
- New kitchen oven
- Upgraded 12 and 15 passenger vans

PROJECTS PLANNED FOR 2019

- New deck on Alpine
- Camp entrance realignment
- Solar Panel Installation

Special Thanks & Notes

- Carl and Denise Shelburne for their support and encouragement
- Memorial gift for Fred Espinoza was made by Barbara Miller
- Karen and George Foster for their continued volunteer service to CBX
- Larry and Dee Lane for their service to CBX this past summer
- Bob and Theresa Baker for their service to CBX this fall
- Our Cooks from this past summer Carli Posey, Keith Winchester, Mary Ellen Newman, Bill Wehmer, Oma Schrag, Becky Shaffer and Sharon Palmer
- Texas Baptist Men for building a restroom at the CBX ropes course
- Summer Quiring and Chris Taleri for teaching the Bible this summer
- First Baptist Bayfield, Gospel Church Durango, Gospel Church Bayfield for hosting our campers this summer

Female Camper Follow Up

By Angele Vasquez

Coming onto Cross Bar X's leadership has been such a blessing for me. I knew about the camper follow-up program from past staff and had always thought about how intentional it was so when Tim asked me to become the female follow up coordinator, I was ecstatic! I couldn't have been more happy about the opportunity to meet with local campers and pour into them.

Going into the process of calling parents I was overwhelmed with how much I saw from parents reactions and willingness to want their child to have someone meet with them. On quite a few of my follow-ups with campers, I found myself having similar conversations with each parent and how they are thankful for CBX to have



New Addition To CBX



Riding In Style
UTV Generously Donated

For years, CBX has dreamed of having a 4 wheel drive utility vehicle to get around the ranch. These vehicles are able to access areas of CBX that normal vehicles have a difficult time reaching. Additionally, they provide helpful transportation for many of our older volunteers that help keep CBX functioning! Larry Lane, George Foster, and Bob Baker were the grounds and maintenance crew this past season and were thrilled with the ability to zip around CBX's hilly terrain. This was especially helpful as the aches and pains of working day in and day out all season added up!

Thank you to Carl and Denise Shelburne for your generous donation!



this program. The way the kids light up when I arrive and the excitement from their parents is a special feeling, one that can't be fully described. Not only do parents of these campers believe in this program, but truly believe that it's important to have someone older and wiser spending time with their kids to mentor. This is why follow-up with local campers are so important, to help grow and be a support system for them and their families.

Many of our local campers are struggling with school, their identity and even their families. Most of the time they are hesitant to speak to their parents and guardians about what they're struggling with, but once they are able to speak to someone else who is not their guardian they open up. I remember being their age and never speaking about my struggles because of how afraid I was to do so, I felt alone in that. Now though, God has given me one of the biggest blessings and that's to speak life into them about how gracious, loving and merciful God is. The change I see in them from time to time has been powerful. Some are starting their own bible studies, getting involved in their local church, and even encouraging their family to know God! Even though they struggle, God has a plan for them that will be bigger than what we all can imagine and being able to witness their growth has truly been encouraging. God is at work and is doing big things through these campers.