

From: [Lions Bear Lake Camp](#)
To: [Lindy Wineman](#)
Subject: [Test] Spring 2020 Lions Bear Lake Camp Newsletter
Date: Tuesday, April 14, 2020 10:59:07 AM

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NEWSLETTER - Spring 2020

Welcome to the Lions Bear Lake Camp Spring 2020 Issue

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Lapeer, MI. 48446
Phone: 810-245-0726

Fax: 810-245-0750
info@bearlakecamp.org

<http://www.bearlakecamp.org>

AS A REMINDER WE ARE WORKING REMOTELY THROUGH MAY 31,
2020.
PLEASE CALL (810) 837-0119 FOR INQUIRIES.



[Give to Bear Lake Camp](#)

BEAR LAKE CAMP SPRING NEWSLETTER MARCH 2020

New Executive Director at Bear Lake Camp

Let me introduce myself as Shelly O'Henley and share a little bit about myself. I began my educational endeavors at Michigan State University, where I graduated with a Bachelors in Animal Science. From there I started my career working with Michigan State University Extension in both Huron and Sanilac Counties, where I took the role of the 4-H Program Coordinator. In this position, I coordinated experiential learning opportunities for youth, worked with an array of boards, executed fundraisers, as well as maintained daily operations. I then advanced my career, after receiving my Masters in Community Service, again from Michigan State University, and joined the Public Health Sector at the Huron County Health Department, as a Substance Abuse Prevention Educator where I worked with youth in school settings and community partners, to raise awareness and reduce the use of substances. From there, I accepted a position as a Child Care Health Consultant at Michigan Public Health where I developed health, safety and nutrition policies for child care providers

throughout Michigan.

On a personal level, I reside in northern Sanilac County with my daughter Lorelei and my bird dog Minnie, on the family farm, and operate a dog feed business. In my spare time, I'm a member of the Ugly Lions Club, volunteer for the Sanilac County 4-H Program, enjoy playing cards, being with family and friends, traveling, and enjoying the great outdoors. I have a sincere passion for non profits, children, and families, which led me straight to Lions Bear Lake Camp. I hope to be a great asset as our current Director, Dennis Tomkins, transitions into retirement.

Please help us congratulate Dennis on his retirement and wish him well on the next phase of his journey!

Dennis has been with Bear Lake Camp since 2000 and has been instrumental in all aspects of success of our camp! **Please stay tuned as we plan a Celebratory Retirement party for Dennis.**

From the Desk of the Executive Director

Thank you to everyone who has called to check in on us here at camp and to those who have sent in donations to assist during these hard fiscal times. We hope that you, your family and friends are all staying safe and well during this time.

As a reminder, the Lions Bear Lake Camp Board of Directors is meeting regularly to assess camp's response to the COVID-19 crisis which continues to change rapidly. **We are monitoring the situation closely; any decisions about programming will be based on recommendations from federal and state government, health organizations and what is best for our Lions Bear Lake Camp family.**

The following contingency plans have been implemented to ensure that Lions Bear Lake Camp thrives on the other side of COVID-19:

- Lions Bear Lake Camp will remain closed effective immediately through minimally May 31, 2020 or when it is deemed safe for our camp to function.
- Keeping the safety of our employees in mind, we have intermittently laid them off.

- Due to travel restrictions, I will be working from my home and will do my best to continue the great relationship we have with our Lions Bear Lake Camp family.
 - Please contact me in the following ways:
 - Shelly@bearlakecamp.org and 810-837-0119

Finally, as you can imagine the loss of revenue is going to be determinantal. We ask that if you have the ability, please make a personal donation and we ask our clubs, that have supported us throughout the years, to continue your support as we need it now, more than ever before. We are doing everything we can to keep our folks safe and remain financially viable. We are pursuing many grants, loans and federal support during this time.

You can make an online donation by click on this

link: <http://bearlakecamp.org/index.php/make-a-donation/make-a-donation-main-menu>

- Or via mail:
 - Lions Bear Lake Camp, 3409 N. Five Lakes Road, Lapeer, MI. 48446

I know you share my concerns that this crisis will affect the operation of Camp's 2020 season. I also know that we all want to stop the spread of the coronavirus. Ultimately, we want the Lions Bear Lake Camp experience to be a safe one for you, your family and our staff. Please continue to share our message with your family, friends and fellow Lions members.

Together We Serve,

Shelly

2020 Lions Bear Lake Summer Camp Status and Updates

I'm positive that our summer camp staff, campers and families are wondering if Lions Bear Lake Camp will be having Summer Camp 2020, amongst the COVID-19 Crisis. While we do not have a solid answer at the moment, **we are**

monitoring the situation closely; any decisions about programming will be based on recommendations from federal and state government, health organizations and what is best for our Lions Bear Lake Camp family.

If we are unable to have 2020 Summer Camp season, we will reimburse fees that have been previously paid.

We will continue to provide updates as they transpire in regards to the 2020 Summer Camp season. **PLEASE STAY TUNED!**

2019 CONTRIBUTORS

In recognition of the many organizations and individuals that make it possible for us to provide unique outdoor experiences for special needs youth and adults.

Lions Club Gold Sponsors (\$1000+)

- *Algonac Lioness Lions
- *Almont Lions
- *Ann Arbor Host Lions
- *Armada Lions
- *Berville Lions
- *Birmingham Lions
- *Center Line Lions
- *Chesaning Lions
- *Chesterfield Bay Lions
- *Clarkston Lions
- *Clawson Lions
- *Dearborn Heights Lions
- *District 11-C1
- *Eastpoint Lions
- *Fenton Lions
- *Flushing Lions
- *Frankenmuth Lions

- *Grand Rapids Lions
- *Grosse Point Lions
- *Imlay City Lions
- *Laingsburg Lions
- *Lake Orion Lions
- *Lathrup Village Lions
- *Livonia Hi-Nooners Lions

- *Macomb Township Lions
- *Madison Heights Lions
- *Michigan Center Lions
- *Mount Clemens Lions
- *Muskegon Northside Lions
- *Plymouth Lions
- *Port Huron South Park Lions
- *Rochester Hills Lions
- *Rochester Lions
- *Romeo Lions
- *Royal Oak Lions
- *Shelby Township Lions
- *Sterling Heights Lions
- *Utica Lions
- *Warren Lions
- *Washington Lions
- *Wixom-Walled Lake Lions

Lions Club Silver Sponsors (\$500-\$999)

- *Ann Arbor Host Lions
- *Bellevue Lions
- *Brighton Lions
- *Cass City Lions
- *Charlotte Lions
- *District 11-D2

*Freiburg Saint Ignatius Lions *Goodrich Lions
*Hadley Lions
*Harper Woods Lions
*Hazel Park Lions
*Jackson Host Lions
*Laingsburg Lions
*Marine City Lions
*Memphis Lions
*Metamora Lions
*Michigan Center Lions
*Midland Lions

*Marine City Lions
*Memphis Lions
*Metamora Lions
*Midland Lions
*Mt. Pleasant Lions
*New Baltimore Lions
*North Branch Lions
*Northport Lions
*Ray Township Lions
*Saline Lions
*Selfridge North Macomb Lions
*Trenton Lions
*Troy Community Lions
*Ubley Lions
*USA Lions
*Waterford Township Lions
*Weidman Lions
*Yale Lions

Lioness Club Gold Sponsors \$1000+

*Armada Lioness
*Delta Lioness
*Lake Orion Lioness

- *Macomb Township Lioness
- *Sterling Heights Lioness

Camper Sponsors

- *Armada Lioness
- *Armada Lions
- *Brenda Zilka
- *Chesaning Lions
- *Davita Inc.
- *Galencher Nagy Foundation
- *Jackson Eyeopeners Lions
- * Lake Orion Lioness
- *Lapeer Lions
- *Lewiston Lioness Lions
- *Livonia High Nooners Lions

- *Margaret Allen
- *Mayville Lions
- *New Baltimore Lions
- *Northport Lions
- *Romeo Lions
- *Sandusky Lions
- *Selfridge-Chesterfield Lions
- *Thai Summit America

Memorials

- * *Don Francer*
Emmett Lions Club
- * *Edward Nemeth*
Kingston Lions Club
- * *Dorothy Ann Honaman*
USA Lions Club* *James Gavin*
Thomas & Jennifer Lahnala
Frank & Donna Wulf

* *Jimmy Heldebrand*
JoAnn Van Tassel

* *John Waters*
Emmett Lions Club

* *Katherine Hughes*
Allen & Desiree Lindsey

* *Jim Lofft*
Novi Lions Club

* *Lion Bowman*
Jean Becher

* *Marilyn DeFour*
Sterling Heights Lioness Club

* *Martha Burns*
Emmett Lions Club

* *Mike Schaefer*
Sharon Schaefer
Al & Desiree Lindsey

* *Paul Grake*
Hugh & Wilma Ogilvie
Gary & Margi Kirsh
Jon & Theresa Heuss
Katherine Marshall
Gloria Laird
JA & MF Lukatch
Wanda & Norman Grifka
Susan Zimmerman
Marilyn Ripson
James Pettinato
Marilyn Grake

Orlin & Sharon Allen
Eric Rozwodowski
Ken & Cyndi Januario
Christopher & Julie Rutkai
Al & Desiree Lindsey
Joyce Kraatz
Madelyne Caruso
John & Cynthia Abramson

* *Paul Johnson*

Dorothy Walling

* *Phyllis Bach*

Al & Desiree Lindsey

* *Terold Wood*

Glenn & Sherlynn Schultz
Robert & Deborah Kazmierczak
Ken & Cheryl Lerch
Maria Crowell
Mark & LuAnn Masters
Donald & Barbra Morton
Steven Kutzley
Donna Hitt
Richard & Barbar Olson
Karen Wood

* *Vince Schembri*

Al & Desiree Lindsey

* *Veda Harris*

Hillman Lions Club

Honorariums

* Big Al Kassin

Jack Becher

* Mrs. Charlotte Patton

Joann Van Tassel

- * PDG Robert Gingerich
Grayling Lions Club
Hillman Area Lions Club
PDG Beverly & Dennis Bodem

Foundations

- *Arthur H. Webster Jr. Endowment Fund
- *Bay Area Community Foundation
- *Buhr Foundation
- *Child Welfare Society of Flint
- *DeRoy Testamentary Foundation
- *Fillipus Foundation
- *Four County Community Foundation
- *Helen L. Kay Charitable Trust
- *Lapeer County Community Foundation
- *Marvin & Betty Danto Family Foundation
- *Midland Area Community Foundation

- *Phillip & Elizabeth Filmer Memorial Charitable Trust
- *Rollin M. Gerstacker Foundation
- *Stella & Frederick S. Loeb Charitable Trust
- *The Jury Foundation
- *The King's Daughters and Sons
- *The Lloyd and Mabel Johnson Foundation
- *The Whiting Foundation
- *Wilkinson Foundation

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*Grand Rapids Lions

*Grosse Pointe Lions

*Holt Lions

*Imlay City Lions

*Lake Orion Lions

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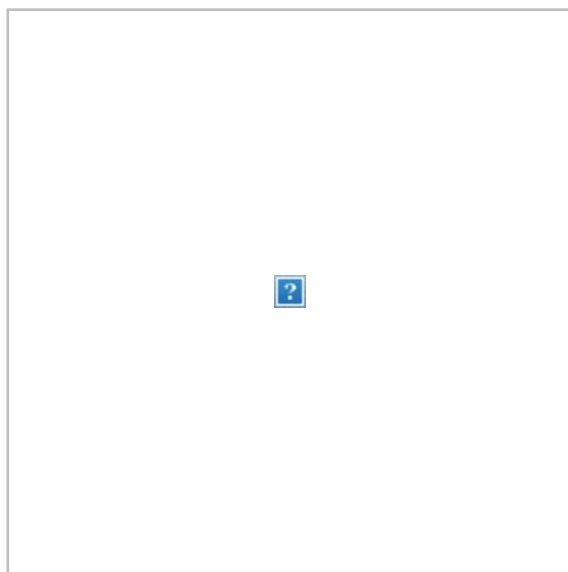




The Michigan Braille Transcribers Endowment Fund

exists to support visually impaired & blind programs at Lions Bear Lake Camp. When the endowment becomes fully endowed, it will provide consistent annual operating income for our visually impaired & blind programs. As you know, we only charge a small commitment fee for our programs.

In order to continue our service to the community we need to provide a consistent source of financial support. There are many ways you can give to the Endowment Fund, which include gifts of cash, stocks, estates, wills and real estate. No matter how great or small your gift, we need your support now to grow the fund. This will help to provide a quality educational opportunity for the visually impaired & blind youth at Lions Bear Lake Camp for years to come.



CHALLENGE COURSE PROGRAM UPDATE

Jean Jones, Challenge Course Director

The Challenge Course continues to grow every year. When I started we had four elements on our Low Ropes Course. As of 2018, our Low Ropes Course has grown to include 16 fun team building elements.

In 2017, Jerry Jones and Jesse Walling took on the challenge of creating and building a one-of-a-kind element we call The Boat. The Boat is currently one of our four wheelchair accessible elements and is not only challenging but has become a camp favorite. The boat was built with funds donated in loving memory of Evan Skias, by his family and friends.

In 2018, the newest element, Jungle Crossing was added. The goal of this element is for groups to improve problem solving skills and realize how important it is to plan ahead.

The Climbing Tower and Zip Line continue to be a focal point of the Challenge Course. In 2019, our focus was on switching our harnesses over to a version that would meet all new required specifications and still be comfortable. We faced the problem of needing harnesses that were not only certified for climbing, but also met certification specifications for the zip line. We were able to achieve this goal after I put the facilitators through testing a few designs.

The Climbing Tower will have a new challenge for our campers. We are adding a new climb to the tower. This will be a nice addition for the campers who have

met their goal of making it up the vertical side. The plan for the future is to add a high ropes course as soon as funding is available. This will be another one-of-a-kind addition to the Challenge Course. It will be an adaptive course that is wheelchair accessible. After speaking with a wheelchair group that participates at the tower, it has been decided that the high ropes course will be designed so that a wheelchair bound person is out of their chair while on the course. This high ropes course will be for every member of the family to participate on and have fun while high up in the trees.

The Challenge Course has been blessed by many donations through the years; including three new padded, full body harnesses this past year. **To everyone who has donated to the Challenge Course you have my heartfelt “Thank You”. You’ve made a great and positive difference in many lives!**

The Challenge Course staff strives to make memorable experiences for the participants. I would like to share one of my favorite stories of a memorable experience. A couple years ago we had a group with special needs attend the Challenge Course. One of the participants was a beautiful young lady in a wheelchair accompanied by her father. During the day she needed to be transferred a few times from her chair to adaptations we use for wheelchair bound participants. Her father insisted on doing all the transfers and I noticed that every time he had to lift her up or reposition her it was like he was giving her a great big hug. I immediately had great admiration for this man. When it came time for her to climb and zip he was very nervous for her (she was all smiles and raring to go), but we continued to reassure him that we were going to take great care and she would be safe. Off she went up the wall and down the zip line. This girl’s dad had tears in his eyes and couldn’t believe what his daughter was able to achieve (he wasn’t the only one with tears in his eyes). I was still to be amazed by this man. The teacher/leader from the group came over me to tell me a very impressive fact about this father, daughter duo. He was not her biological father. He adopted her when he married her mother. How amazing is unconditional love? I know because I experienced it.



TESTIMONY'S FROM JEAN'S STAFF

The following statements are a testimony to this wonderful camp from member Rob Trott:

“I started working at Lions Bear Lake Camp nine years ago as a Facilitator and didn’t know if it was really something I would like. However, quite honestly I couldn’t have been more wrong! I love this camp and these kids; they plain and simple tug at your heart! To see a young blind kid take on the many obstacles of the challenge course, and literally fly through it while smiling all the time! To watch them walk across a wire or swing from one platform to another, well it never fails to amaze me. Even more amazing is watching them climb a 40’ wall and making it look easy; and for many it becomes a lifetime goal achieved. The smiles I see as they come down the zip line, well it tugs at your heart! I personally look forward to each summer and working with some of the most wonderful kids you’ll ever meet. When one of the kids says to me, “I did it Mr. T, I really did it”; well that’s the reason I’ll likely be working at Lions Bear Lake Camp until “There is a reason I come back to camp year after year and let’s just say it’s not

for the bugs and the sweat. I started my employment at Lions Bear Lake Camp as a junior in high school. Eight years later I still get excited for every adventure at camp. You don't realize that while you are helping the kids reach their goals and changing their lives, they are they carry me away!"

The following statements are a testimony to this wonderful camp from member Bob Feierabend:

"I enjoy the camp very much. The campers all have so much fun, and at the same time work so hard to overcome their personal challenges in life. I like being part of that. I like being there for support and encouragement as they challenge themselves to a higher goal. The staff at the camp is so good to work with. They all put the campers ahead of their own personal needs. The staff works very hard to help those that do not want to participate face their issue and become part of the group. By the end of each camp session, I see such an improvement in all the campers and they are all working together to help each other. Personally, I wish children without disabilities would spend time with those with challenges such as autism, blind, juvenile arthritis, and hard of hearing/deaf. This would allow them to see what commitment and dedication these young people have as they overcome their challenges in life. As I have worked with the campers I have learned that my lack of hearing, arthritis pain, and poor flexibility is nothing compared to what the campers deal with every day of their life. I am very proud to be part of their lives as I watch them from year to year mature and grow into young adults and become the future leaders of our great country."

The following statements are a testimony to this wonderful camp from member Elizabeth Jones:

"There is something about watching a child who can't hear or see advance through challenge course elements, or watching a kid who is wheelchair bound climb to the top of the rock wall and zip down our zip line with the biggest smile. Not only are they doing team building and problem solving, but they are having the time of their life! The feeling of watching them succeed is unparalleled to any other feeling. These life changing camp experiences have shaped me to be who I am today. That is what keeps me coming back! That is why I love camp and the campers!"



"4 Our Kids" is a 5 year capital campaign to raise \$500,000 that will enhance our programs and complete major renovations to our facilities. Since Lions Bear Lake Camp opened its gates in 2000, we have served over 6,000 people who are physically or medically challenged. Every summer, over 500 campers are provided the opportunity to have a life changing experience that is fun and enriching. In a week, we strive to plant seeds that lead to independence, self confidence and a sense of belonging and support. We also provide a Challenge Course and Team-Building activities from April through October that is available to schools and community groups. Securing capital funds will allow us to make these improvements without taking away from our annual donations. The annual donations allow us to provide our programs to families for little or no cost.

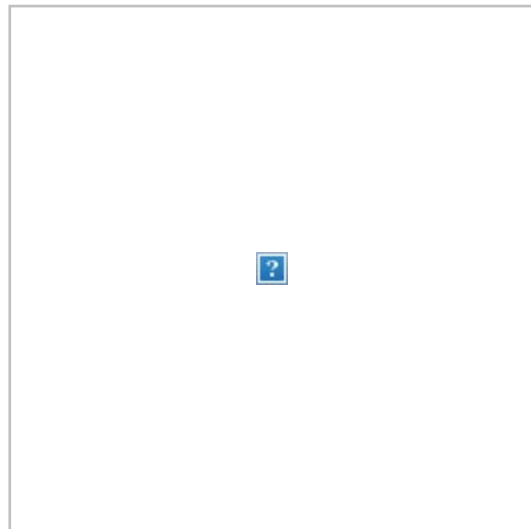
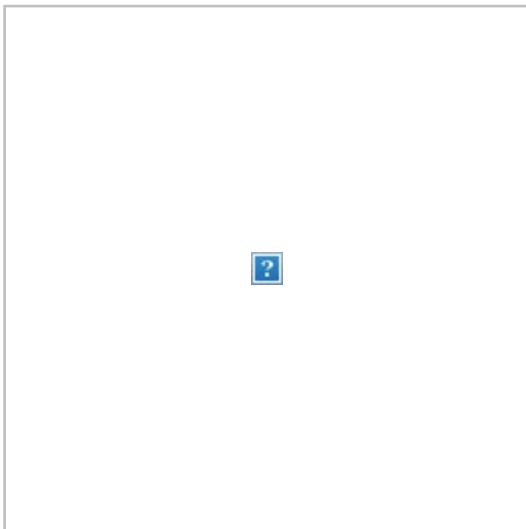
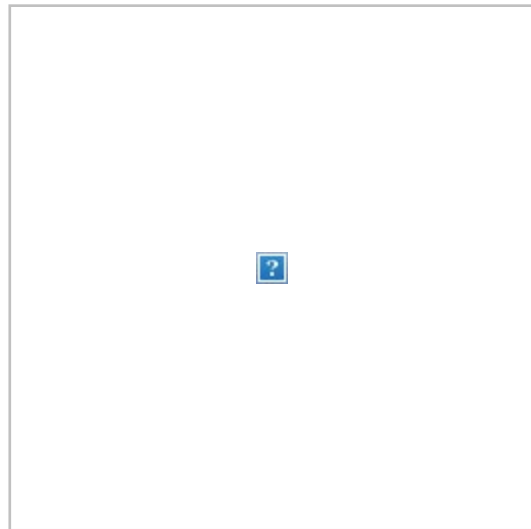
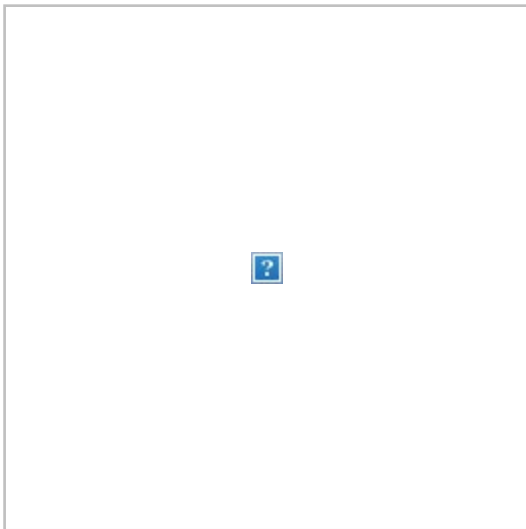
The "4 Our Kids" campaign is going into its 3rd year. We have raised over half of our goal to date, which has allowed us to move forward with many much needed renovations.

Thanks to the many donations and a matching grant from LCIF, we were able to significantly upgrade the following:

1. Replacement of the fresh air exchange system in the kitchen of the Dining Hall.
2. Installation of a Universally Accessible Launch and Dock System with cement walk access.
3. Replacement of three cement areas needed around the camp.
4. Addition of the alarm system and walk-in refrigerator.
5. Replacement of half of the cabin ramps.
6. Renovations to the inside of each cabin with new paint, trim and carpet squares (4 of 10 are done).
7. Replacement of the Dining Hall roof with new steel and a railing around the roof-top equipment with safety line hook-ups and a permanent lockable ladder to those units.
8. Addition of the outdoor pavilion attached to the Dining Hall.
9. Addition of a steel fence around the front patio and pavilion addition of the Dining Hall.

Our adventures however, not complete, as we still the following projects to conquer:

1. Replacement roofs for the Art Building, Nature Center and the Camp Director's Residence.
2. Replacement siding and ramps for the Art Building and Nature Center.
3. Installation of handicap accessible doors on the Dining Hall bathroom and outside doors.
4. Installation of a generator for the Camp Director's residence.



CAMP WISH LIST

The Camp Wish List contains items that we need throughout the year to keep running. If you have any leads or see something at a garage sale or auction, please think of us.

Office Furniture

8 Foot Tables

Camper Shirts

Art Center Supplies

Office Supplies and Copy Paper

Health Center Supplies Large & Small Totes w/ Lids

Maintenance Supplies

Drill Bits & Impact Hand Tools

Walk Behind Blower

Kitchen

Serving Bowls

Medium Size Refrigerator

Coffee Pot

Challenge Course Program

Materials to build addition to Climbing Wall

Supplies for Challenge Course

Nature Center Program

Monocular

Garden Bird Bath

Binoculars

Bird Houses

Case of Newsprint

Bird Feeders

Visually Impaired Program

Full Set of Bases (goal ball)

Magic Texture Paper

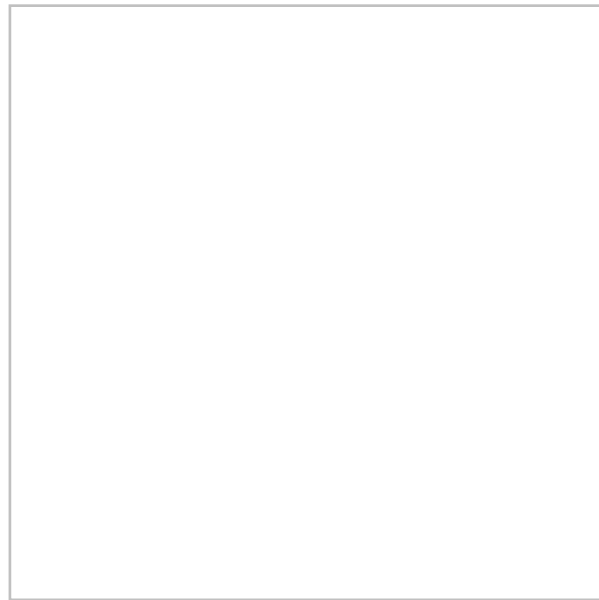
Deaf and Hard of Hearing Program

Books for DHH Camp

Go Pro Camera

Go Pro Head Strap

Karaoke Machine & CD's



MARK YOUR CALENDARS Fundraisers and Other Events:

Walk4Hearing, Michigan Walk

Virtual Walk

May 16, 2020

[Click here to Signup](#)

This fundraiser supports our Deaf and Hard of Hearing Programming

Lions Bear Lake Camp Work Bee

Hosted at Lions Bear Lake Camp

POSTPONED

*Look for e-mails about tasks that need to be completed! Bear Lake Camp
Once the mandates are lifted, please feel free to schedule to have your club
complete a task.*

Lions Bear Lake Camp Ribbon Cutting Ceremony

Hosted at Lions Bear Lake Camp

POSTPONED

Lions Bear Lake Camp Buffalo & Boar Wild Game Dinner Fundraiser

Hosted at Bear Lake Camp

June 20, 2020

*Unless the Governor's Mandate does not allow
if we cannot host this event in 2020 we will reimburse all ticket purchases*

Lions Bear Lake Camp Golf Outing Fundraiser

Hosted at Metamora Golf & Country Club

August 23, 2020

Lions Bear Lake Camp Ultra-Marathon Fundraiser

Hosted at Bear Lake Camp

October 16&17, 2020

[Click here for more information](#)

Lions Bear Lake Camp Wine Fundraiser

Hosted at Metamora Golf & Country Club

October 23, 2020

[Click here for more information](#)

Dennis's Retirement

Hosted at Canterbury Village, Lake Orion

November 14, 2020

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Board of Directors

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