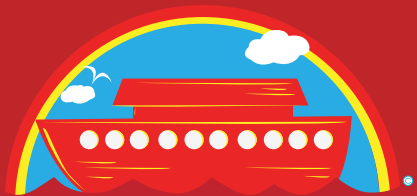




2016

CAMP NOAH



# CAMP NOAH

## 2016 in Review



**Lutheran  
Social Service**  
of Minnesota

Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota serves all people regardless of race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, disability or age.

Camp Noah provides a safe, caring and fun environment where children build resiliency skills within the familiarity of their own communities, using a proven curriculum designed to help children process their disaster and/or trauma experience.

Camp Noah celebrates every child as special. In this safe and supportive setting, children are encouraged to face their fears, grieve their losses, identify and share their unique gifts and talents, and plan for an amazing future.

### **Mission**

Camp Noah brings hope and healing to communities that have been impacted by disaster.

### **Vision**

Camp Noah will serve disaster-impacted children and families by building resiliency, restoring hope and changing lives.

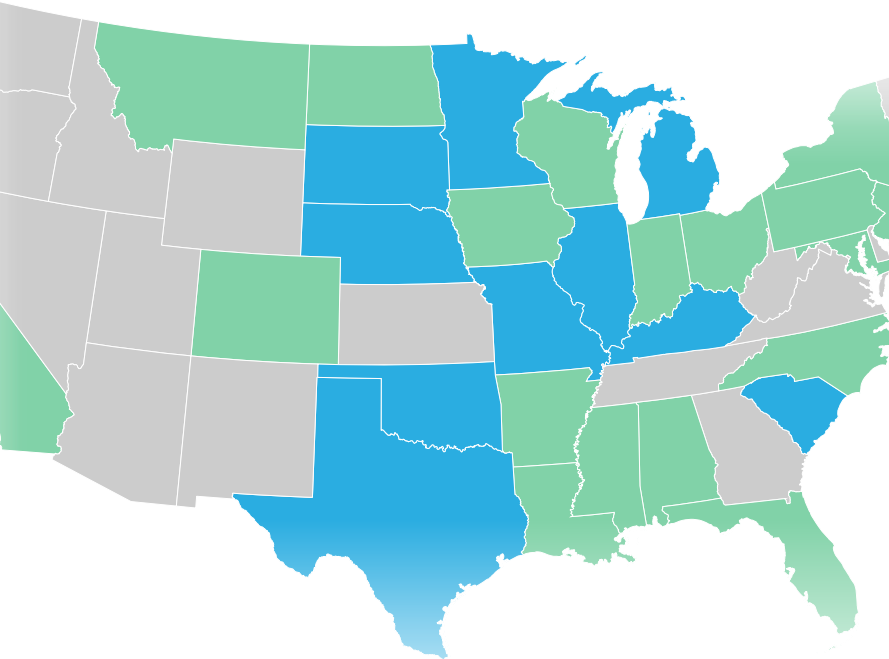


“Our community was extremely thankful and honestly blown away by the kindness of the program. Our lives are forever changed”

— Community Member, St. Charles, MO

## The Impact

### Serving **943** Campers



- 24** Camps
- 11** States
- 23** Teams
- 167** Certified Camp Staff
- 900+** Blankets Donated
- 21** Site Coordinators
- 25** Mental Health Professionals
- 20** Team Leaders
- 20,760** Hours Served
- 640** Local Volunteers
- MANY** Partners
- Hundreds** of Families

**2016**

1997-2015



## Moving Past a Double Storm



Twin tornadoes didn't discriminate as they wielded their power across Northeast Nebraska in the summer of 2014. When the storm was over, the windows and doors of the house where Graycen and Ashlyn Trautman took cover were gone.

The tornadoes were the second major blow for their family. Just a month earlier, the girls'

parents Andrea and Levi were anticipating the birth of healthy, identical twins. Then the unexpected happened and one of the twins was stillborn. The twin tornadoes left the family to cope with even more devastation.

Five-year-old Graycen started kindergarten later that summer, and it became apparent these traumas had affected her sense of identity. Graycen's teacher asked her students to make a collage about themselves. Out of dozens of photos, including pictures of herself dancing and playing soccer, Graycen choose images depicting two things: her little sisters and the tornadoes. "It was then I realized that she was defining who she was by these events," said Andrea.

When Camp Noah came to Nebraska the following summer, Andrea enrolled Graycen, hoping this would help her daughter find a path back to her bubbly pre-storm self. In the safe and supportive setting of Camp Noah,





children are encouraged to face their fears, grieve their losses, identify and share their unique gifts and talents, and plan for an amazing future.

Andrea credits Camp Noah with helping Graycen relearn to experience hope and joy.

“I knew Camp Noah meant a lot to her when she gave up the end-of-summer pool party she’d been anticipating for months to go to the closing day of Camp Noah. She didn’t want to miss even one day of Camp. We saw a happy child again. Graycen would laugh and smile. Camp Noah is amazing.”

“When a storm comes, I am  
not scared! Want to know why?  
**Because I am prepared!**”

– Noah’s Wise Words, Day 2



## THE RESULTS 2016 in Review

**98%** of campers reported learning 2 or more resiliency skills.

- ◆ My daughter feels safer knowing that the preparedness backpack she got from Camp Noah is ready to grab at any moment. At camp she made some really great friends who were dealing with similar loss. — **Parent**
- ◆ Each day my son learned something new and was very interested and excited about sharing his day. He is now not afraid when a storm comes. He shares with me how to stay calm. — **Parent**
- ◆ He seems to be more comfortable with changes and the fact that we never know how my illness is going to affect our lives from one day to the next. His confidence level also appears to have grown back up to pre-flood days. — **Parent**



## 100% of parents would recommend Camp Noah to other parents.

- ◆ I want to thank everyone who was involved in making it possible for my daughter to be a part of such great program! Kudos to all of the great volunteers they did an awesome job. I strongly recommend Camp Noah to anyone that has children that have suffered great loss because of natural disasters. — **Parent**
- ◆ They loved it! I would recommend this to anyone I know! — **Parent**

## 100% of Site Coordinators said Camp Noah had a positive impact on campers and the community.

- ◆ Just days after the camp a storm came through the area, I saw a Facebook post from a camper's parent about how prepared and well-adjusted their child was during the storm. — **Site Coordinator**
- ◆ I had many parents call/text me telling me how much fun their children were having all week. I was also impressed with our community because the parents provided supper for the staff members every night of the week! — **Site Coordinator**







# 98% of campers had fun at Camp Noah!

- ◆ I love how we learned in fun ways.  
— **Camper, Age 11**
- ◆ Camp Noah is awesome!  
— **Camper, Age 10**
- ◆ This is the best camp ever!!!  
I <3 Camp Noah.  
— **Camper, Age 11**
- ◆ It's a great camp with good food,  
and it helps everyone feel better.  
— **Camper, Age 9**
- ◆ "It's tripel, tripel, dipel, snipel, blipel fun!"  
— **Camper, Age 7**





# CAMP NOAH

## Highlights & Looking Ahead



### 2016 Highlights

- ◆ New populations: Liberian Community, Transitional Housing Community
- ◆ Camps in new states: South Carolina & Kentucky
- ◆ 10 amazing interns
- ◆ 943 campers who made us laugh and cry, and who proved that they are resilient—sometimes they just need some additional encouragement and support.
- ◆ Hundreds of volunteers who made blankets, put together Kids Kits, prepared and served meals, lead small groups, and gave campers across the US the chance to come to Camp Noah.
- ◆ Camp Noah is especially grateful to our 2016 disaster recovery partners for the support they provided to us. Thank you to International Orthodox Christian Charities, United Methodist Committee on Relief and Presbyterian Disaster Assistance.

**Thank You**  
to everyone who was  
a part of Camp Noah  
in 2016!

## Looking ahead to 2017

- ◆ More new populations
- ◆ Providing camp in states we have never worked before
- ◆ New recruitment strategies
- ◆ Expanded fundraising strategies
- ◆ New service delivery options

It takes hundreds of people and connections to make each Camp Noah happen. We wish we could list every one of your names and organizations. Thank you for volunteering, donating, connecting, and collaborating with us in 2016. We look forward to working with many of you in 2017! Thanks!!!

If you are interested in more information about Camp Noah and how you can be a part of this amazing program please contact us at [campnoah@lssmn.org](mailto:campnoah@lssmn.org) or 1.800.987.0061.



Find out more about Camp Noah:

[www.campnoah.org](http://www.campnoah.org)

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