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“Serving one another in love” — Galatians 5:13
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“Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord...” - Colossians 3:23

NEW ADDITIONS TO THE STAFF

The ministry is excited to have two new members on staff. Both of them are Fort Thompson community members with long family connections to the community.



Dennis getting the snowplow on the truck.

Dennis Onihan is not a new face at Diamond Willow Ministries. In fact Dennis volunteered his heavy equipment operating skills to assist with the digging of the basement for the ministry’s Ikce Oyate Christian Center in 2004. Dennis now has a diverse role as the Facility Coordinator, meeting many physical needs at the ministry itself, while helping to meet emotional and spiritual needs within the community.



Kristen with Girls at the TYC.

Kristin Ziegler is the Program Coordinator for Diamond Willow Ministries’ Tokata Youth Center where she is assisting in all aspects of developing and implementing the youth programs. Kristin’s grandmother, 98-year old Julia Yellow Robe commented, “This is the job that God has been preparing Kristen for all of her life!” Kristen is from a large family, with 10 siblings and many nieces and nephews with whom she has always had a very active role in mentoring.

RELIEF vs DEVELOPMENT

As a ministry, Diamond Willow Ministries, makes intentional and strategic decisions in implementing ministry programs and outreach. We are focusing on “development” rather than “relief” activities in association with our core vision of sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ. Our objective, as stated in our mission statement, is to “empower and develop healthy Christian youth, families and leaders”. Now more of our time and effort is spent on mentoring and discipleship activities. So other things, such as accepting clothing donations to distribute, are now less emphasized. Please check with us before sending these type of donations to ensure that they can be accepted and can be properly utilized here. “Teach a man how to fish rather than giving him a fish.” is an old saying that simply summarizes our developmental philosophy.

STAY CONNECTED!

Both of our websites are newly reformatted and updated. You can check them out at:

- ◆ www.d-w-m.org (Diamond Willow Ministries)
- ◆ www.tokatayouthcenter.org (Tokata Youth Center)

In addition:

- ◆ Like us on Facebook at “Diamond Willow Ministries” and the “Tokata Youth Center”
- ◆ If you are on Instagram, follow the Tokata Youth Center on “tyclife”.

DISCIPLING THROUGH MUSIC

For the last year, Melinda “Cricket” Vaughn has been working with a group of young ladies, most ranging between 8 and 12 years old, to assist with singing for worship on Sunday mornings. Recently, the "vocal team girls" spent an entire Sunday afternoon at a Vocal Team Retreat. They worked hard on new and old music, but also ate and played games together that promoted teamwork and trust.

Through Vocal Team practices and worship times, Cricket encourages these girls that their talents can be used for God. The group prays together and also have lessons about what their songs mean, and what worshipping God is all about.

“He put a new song in my mouth, A song of praise to our God.

Many will see and fear, and put their trust in the Lord.”

Psalm 40:3



“Creating and leading this group of girls has meant more to me than making music. These girls are growing in their faith and singing ability, and that is awesome to see.” - Cricket

SIMPLE WAYS TO HELP WHILE ONLINE!

There are some easy ways you can help support programming at Diamond Willow Ministries (and the Tokata Youth Center). Simply use the Yahoo! Powered search engine Goodsearch.com as you surf the web. They will donate a penny to Diamond Willow every time you do a search!

Shopping online for Christmas, or at any time of the year, you can benefit the ministry by using one of the following online shopping malls:

Goodshop.com offers shopping options with thousands of retailers. Go to “<http://www.goodshop.com/>”, select Diamond Willow Ministries as your charity of choice and a percent of each online purchase will be sent to DWM. There is also a dining program with over 10,000 participating restaurants nationwide. Up to 6% of every dollar spent will benefit DWM.



Another easy option to support DWM if shopping on Amazon is to go to <http://smile.amazon.com> and select Diamond Willow as your charity of choice. Shop away and support the ministry at the same time!

PRAYER & PRAISE POINTS

- ◆ Praise God that the outbreak of suicides experienced at the beginning of the year has subsided.
- ◆ Continue to pray for those contemplating suicide and families that have already been impacted by completed suicides.
- ◆ The tribal building that is being utilized for the Tokata Youth Center is operating over capacity. Please pray that God makes a way for a larger, better equipped facility to serve the youth.
- ◆ Need for an air conditioning unit in the Mato Family Center (old horse barn), so it can be more effectively utilized during the summer's Cantemawaste Youth Camps. (\$9,000.00 estimate)
- ◆ As our opportunities to share Christ have increased, so has staff size and expenses. Ongoing regular financial support and special financial gifts are greatly needed and appreciated.

“IT’S THE MOST WONDERFUL TIME OF THE YEAR..”

Wishing you and yours a joyous upcoming holiday season. We certainly have countless reasons to GIVE THANKS and look forward to celebrating the BIRTH OF CHRIST. This is a time of year when we come together for many special gathering as a community of believers. It is a time of much joy.

However, it is also a time of the year that brings hardships to many. The often bitterly cold Northern Plains winter weather has no mercy on those that do not have homes, and even presents a challenge for those that do have housing, to pay their high heating costs. As children are home from school during the holidays, it is also a challenge for many families to provide meals.

Some specific needs we have during this time of year are for:

- ◆ Funds to assist with cold-weather related needs within the community
- ◆ Portable electric heaters
- ◆ Funding for the special family community gatherings such as the Christmas program (photos below) where we provide a community meal and useful gifts for everyone in attendance



Shepherds, angels, and sheep are all part of the annual Community Christmas Celebration.

COME VISIT US AT ICOM

There is so much happening onsite at DWM, we don't have the opportunity to "get out much". However we do have a booth at the International Conference on Missions (ICOM) annually. This year the conference is in Lexington, KY from November 18th - 20th. Look for us in the rotunda of Rupp Arena. For more information go to www.theicom.org. We hope to see you there!



Toksa Ake

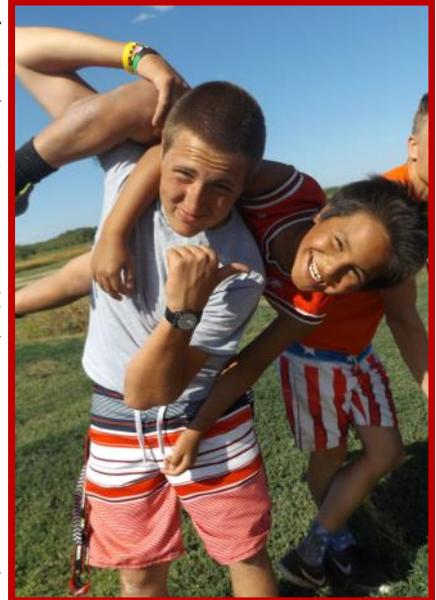
As we close out this newsletter with a hearty “toksa ake” (See you later!), we’d like to look ahead to the summer of 2017 and the start of **Cantemawaste Youth Camps**. These camps are conducted onsite for the youth of the communities on the Crow Creek Sioux Reservation.

People from around the country come and assist as staff for these camps. Some come as part of a church group, others come and serve with their family, and some come with a friend or by themselves. There is a need for cooks, cleaners, and those with the ENERGY and LOVE to pour themselves into the lives of the youth for a week.

There are also several internship opportunities during the summer months. These positions are often filled by young adults, typically those attending Bible college and seeking a place to learn and further develop ministry skills.

If you are interested in serving in any capacity at camp, please contact **Annie Bishop** at annie.bishop@d-w-m.org.

If you are unable to come personally, please consider sponsoring a youth at camp. The ministries’ cost per youth served is \$150.00. And above all else, please pray for the children!



Chad, an intern, having fun with a camper!

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RESERVATION
CROW CREEK SIOUX



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