



RIDING OUT THE STORMS

Living in the southern part of the United States for most of his life, Ray Funnye didn't personally know a lot of Lutherans, but those he did know, "had love in their hearts for people." When Ray and The Village Group, the social service organization he leads, had the chance to partner with Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota (LSS) through Camp Noah, he had a gut feeling this was an opportunity he didn't want to pass up.

"In the past year, with the pandemic and several hurricanes that flooded the area, our kids have experienced a lot of trauma," Ray said. "Camp Noah gave them the platform to talk about that. The team came prepared with a curriculum that was tailored for us, and then helped the kids understand the power of their individual ability to bounce back from adversity."

Camp Noah celebrates every child as special. Children are encouraged to face their fears, grieve their losses, identify and share their unique gifts and talents, and plan for an amazing future. Due to the pandemic, Camp Noah shifted to offer this important camp virtually.

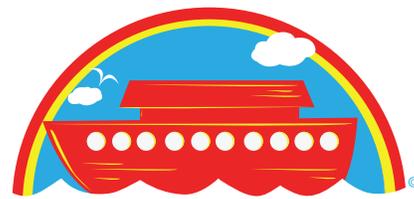
Ray is glad he followed his instincts. "The first thing the kids said on the last day of camp was, 'Can we meet next week, too?' That's when I knew we made a difference in these kids' lives — helping them ride out the storms in their lives. Our community is better off today because of Camp Noah."

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.



CAMP NOAH 2020 ANNUAL REPORT

BUILDING RESILIENCY AND RESTORING HOPE IN THE AGE OF COVID-19



As we look back on the past year and all the changes that COVID-19 has brought to our lives, it's important to remember that children throughout this country continue to deal with the aftereffects of devastating storms. Despite mask mandates and travel restrictions, we at Camp Noah knew we had to find new, safe ways to bring hope and healing to these children.

Here's how we did that:

1. Developed new protocols to safely handle and pack all essential (including PPE) camp supplies to avoid cross contamination.
2. Limited registration for in-person camps to allow for social distancing.
3. Kept children in small pods, including the same participants and adults every day.
4. Developed a fully virtual camp curriculum.
5. Created flexible enrichment models designed to fit various afterschool programs.
6. Partnered with organizations that continued to serve children throughout the pandemic.

These efforts allowed us to serve 317 children living in North and South Carolina as they continued to recover from Hurricane Florence. A special thanks to the American Red Cross for their flexibility and support as we devised new ways to serve children in need.

A special thank you to our partners in North and South Carolina:

- Boys & Girls Clubs of the Coastal Plain
- Palmetto Works
- P.A.C.E.
- Capture, Inc.
- YMCA New River/YWCSS/OCSS
- The Village Group
- Whittaker Head Start
- Girls University

WHAT CAMPERS LEARNED

"How to feel safe but not afraid."

"That I can do anything if I put my mind to it."

"That I am somebody special."

"I learned that it's good to be yourself."

"I learned that even though you know nobody at first, you can form a bond with a person you never knew, that's how you make friends."



Where We Served In 2020



North Carolina

- Jacksonville
- New Bern
- Beaufort
- Morehead City
- Havelock

South Carolina

- Conway
- Loris
- Georgetown
- Florence
- Hartsville
- Little Rock

317 campers participated in Camp Noah curriculum and were supported by a total of 61 volunteers.

WHAT PARENTS OBSERVED AFTER CAMP ENDED

"My children said Camp Noah was so much fun. They were surprised at how much fun it was in Zoom. They would love to participate again."

"I have truly seen a huge change in the way my child deals with his emotions: he uses the tactics he's learned during instruction. I am truly grateful for the impact this has had on him."

"I could feel her energy lighten up considerably. I haven't seen her like that in a long time. She seems happier. I am praying there are more programs like this to keep sending her to because the further out we get from the camp, I can see she is getting sad again."

"My children's well-beings were impacted by Camp Noah in a positive way. It helped them deal with the changes and challenges that have spawned from the COVID-19 pandemic. Also, during their week at Camp Noah, we had a tropical storm cause damage in our area, so the subject matter covered was spot on in helping them cope with anxieties and fears that arose."

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Camp Noah is a service of Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota, which serves **all people** regardless of race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, disability or age.



CAMP NOAH