



Noah Smith when he attended Camp Noah as a child, and today.

REMEMBERING THE FIRST CAMP NOAH

Because a child's brain develops at such a rapid rate, it is uniquely sensitive to the disruptive forces of stress and trauma. Noah Smith attended the very first Camp Noah after evacuating his family home in Grand Forks as an 8-year-old in 1997, when extreme flooding from the Red River reached from Fargo, North Dakota to the Canadian border.

"It was the most awful experience in the world," said a now grown-up Noah.

That year, Noah's mother signed him up for the first-ever session of Camp Noah to ensure her son wasn't suppressing his feelings or hiding questions about what he had been through. He carried fond memories of the experience with him long after the event ended. Ten years later, Noah was inspired to attend Camp Noah again as a volunteer.

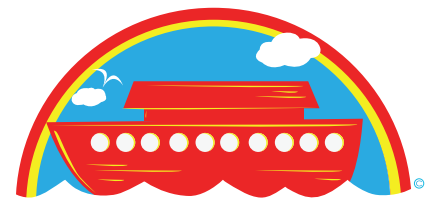
"Seeing the impact Camp Noah has on the kids, this time as an older guy, was cool," Noah said. "I hope that it helps them all the way through their lives, like it did for me."

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 2017 ANNUAL REPORT

CELEBRATING CAMP NOAH'S ANNIVERSARY

In 2017, we celebrated an amazing 20 years of building resiliency, restoring hope and changing lives of children who experience disasters. In a safe space, campers share their disaster stories, grieve their losses, plan for their future, play with a purpose and learn lifelong resiliency skills.

Since it began, Camp Noah has responded to a wide range of natural and human-caused disasters. We are grateful to the thousands of committed volunteers, donors, and community partners who have helped us support more than 14,000 children in 29 states and Puerto Rico.



"So often, following a disaster or traumatic event, a child may think that his or her thoughts or behaviors caused the terrible event to happen. What's worse is that they carry this fear secretly inside."

— Melanie Davis, founder of Camp Noah

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Thank you to the generous congregations, organizations and community members who partnered with Camp Noah this year.

Community Lutheran Partners, Rainelle, WV

First Christian Church of Baton Rouge, Baton Rouge, LA

Grace Lutheran Church, Waseca, MN

InFaith, Minneapolis, MN

International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC)

Kern Valley Aquatics Program, Weldon, CA

Louisiana Conference United Methodist, Baton Rouge, LA

Lutheran Social Services of Illinois

Middletown Community United Methodist Church, Middletown, CA

Save the Children, Rainelle, WV

Step by Step Child Care Center, Inc

United Methodist Committee on ReliefU (UMCOR)

United Way of Howard County, Kokomo, IN

Volunteer Louisiana, Baton Rouge, LA

Week of Compassion, Baton Rouge, LA

West Virginia Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster

CAMP NOAH HIGHLIGHTS

1997

Camp Noah begins in response to **flooding** in Red River Valley of North Dakota & Minnesota.



2005

Hurricane Katrina. Thousands of children attended over 65 camps in response.



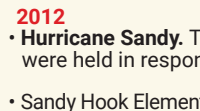
2007

Camp Noah grows dramatically as a national presence in long-term recovery.



2011

First Lady of the United States Michelle Obama visits Camp Noah in Pratt City, AL.



2012

• **Hurricane Sandy.** Two Camps were held in response in 2013.

• Sandy Hook Elementary shooting in Newtown, CT. Camp Noah was held in 2013 to support the community's children.



2013

Tornado in Moore, OK. 9 camps were held in response in 2014–2015.

2013

Curriculum is revised to encompass all learning styles, with specific themes and activities each day building key resiliency skills.

2014

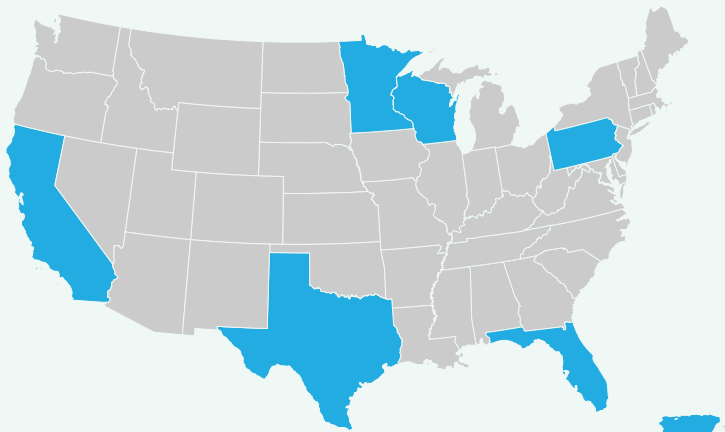
Camp Noah national office moves to St. Paul, MN.

2015

Water Crisis in Flint, MI. Camp Noah hosted two camps in response in 2016.



Where We Served In 2017



In our 20th year, we delivered Camp Noah to more than 380 campers throughout eight states with the help of community partners and our team of 141 volunteers.

California

• Weldon

Louisiana

• Baton Rouge

Connecticut

• Middletown

Minnesota

• Waseca

• Minneapolis

Illinois

• Ottawa

South Dakota

• Pine Ridge

Indiana

• Kokomo

West Virginia

• Rainelle



CAMP NOAH

709 University Avenue West | Saint Paul, MN, 55104
800.987.0061 | campnoah@lssmn.org

www.campnoah.org

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.