



Experience Your Creator

CAMP SUSQUE INC.



www.susque.org

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Dear friends @ Lycoming Centre Presbyte,

This past summer, I was walking out to our maintenance building, and I noticed one of our counselors building a campfire in our staff fire pit in the middle of the afternoon. I watched her start the fire, stomp it out, and then start to build another. I asked her what she was doing, and she told me she was practicing. She had struggled to start a fire for Susque Stew night the week before and was not going to let that happen again, especially with rain in the forecast! This commitment to stew success was admirable, and if not for a chance encounter, would have probably never been noticed by her campers or anyone else. This was *unseen work*, a concept I recently read about in a book by Myles Biggs.



The more I reflected on the fire-building practice, the more I realized there are so many unseen, yet crucial elements that make the heart of Camp Susque beat with warmth, love, and transformative experiences. The Thanksgiving season is a time to celebrate and express gratitude for all of the visible successes of Susque, but I think it is equally important to celebrate the unseen work that may go unnoticed.

An integral component of the unseen work at the very backbone of Camp Susque's achievements is the community around us. Your support and dedication have propelled us forward, allowing us to shape the lives of countless young people who have come here to seek emotional support, connection, and to grow in their faith.



Your generosity, whether through donations, volunteering, or advocacy is the unseen force that sustains Camp Susque. Every dollar given, hour volunteered, and encouraging word shared all form the building blocks of a place where lives are changed every day.

There is minimal recognition for this work, though Colossians 3:23-24 provides this context: ***"Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters"*** (NIV). This promises that your work is not unnoticed, and that it is work in service of something much bigger than Camp Susque! This also brings up another aspect of unseen work at Susque: the work of the Holy Spirit. In the realm of spiritual growth, the powerful influence of the Holy Spirit brings about profound transformation and growth in our campers and staff alike.

The combination of the tangible success of our programs and the intangible work of God moves in the lives of campers and staff, bringing about profound transformation and growth.

YOU ARE A PART OF THAT.

We need the work of our community to continue Susque's growth and reach. We depend on the support of donors to operate our summer camps and year-round programming. Each and every camper is, ultimately, subsidized by your donation and support. Our sticker price on a week of camp is only about half of the actual cost to serve the campers, and on average (after discounts and scholarships), we only collect 70% of the sticker price. This leaves an enormous gap each year that is filled by our alumni and local community.

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The cost to operate on a year-to-year basis is only one aspect of the funding that is needed for Susque to continue. We are working toward a large campaign to replace some of our aging infrastructure (specifically, our pool), but to do that, we need a firm financial foundation to launch a campaign.

Will you please make a donation and be a vital part of the unseen work that shapes the future of Camp Susque and the lives of those we touch?

Please consider a generous end-of-year gift to Camp Susque to help further the ongoing work of this ministry. When you donate to Susque, you are joining with Camp Susque in a partnership and a history that has decades of unseen work that will be heralded one day by our Creator. Your donation is like our counselor practicing her fire building. You are making sure that we move the obstacles and challenges that can diminish and distract from our ministry.

Thank you for your love for Camp Susque and its ministry. Thank you for the unseen work you have already contributed to Susque. Please continue this work with prayer, funding, volunteering, and advocacy. I realize this is not a small request, but the accomplishments of this work, both seen and unseen, are worth it. Please make a gift to Susque today.

In Awe of Him,

Peter Swift, *Camp Director*



PS: If you would like to discuss longer-term gifts to Susque, whether it is legacy gifts and inclusion in your estate, or donating stocks or other forms of donation, we would be happy to discuss the best ways you can maximize the impact of those donations to Susque.