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January 5, 2016

Mr. Harry Davis
Maupin-Sizemore Foundation, Inc.
3138 Stoneridge Road, SW
Roanoke, Virginia 24014

Subject: Potential Funding for Camp Bethel in Fincastle, Virginia

Dear Mr. Davis,

Our good friend and Property Committee Chairman, Kimball Egge, informed us about your Foundation's potential support of capital improvements at Camp Bethel. Significant funding for these projects would make Camp Bethel more self-sustaining, freeing future resources for people-to-people ministry. We seek funds to complete Phase 1 elements of our ongoing Master Site Plan, including and in order of priority:

- \$325,000 for repair and renovation of our historic Graybill House, built in 1842. *Details about repair needs and a brief "Graybill House History" and photos are attached with this letter.*
- \$178,000 to strengthen our Camper Scholarship Endowment to provide summer camp experiences for children and youth who otherwise could not afford to attend.
- \$ 50,000 for purchase of two used vans for camper transportation.
- \$586,000 for the first 6 of 12 new camper cabins and one bathhouse in our "Unity Village."
- \$410,000 for renovation and expansion of our Ark Dining Hall.
- \$430,000 for renovations to existing facilities (pool, cabins, bathhouses, office, gym, shelters).
- \$190,000 for a woodworking shop, tools and a solar kiln at our Maintenance Yard.
- \$210,000 to establish a Summer Missionary Endowment for the hiring and training of summer camp counselors working with children and youth.

Camp Bethel is the outdoor ministry of the Virginia District Church of the Brethren. We are a 501(c)3 non-profit organization, and we are accredited by the American Camp Association. Camp Bethel's mission is to foster and build relationships with God, with each other, and with all of God's creation. We live this ministry through our summer camps, our services, and availability of our facilities to people of all denominations and backgrounds. Camp Bethel has been in continuous operation at our current location since 1927. In 2015 we served 1,209 children in our summer camp programs, and 118 children received "Campership" funds totaling \$29,370. In 2015 we welcomed 23,100 guests from January 1 through December 31.

We are currently in a four-year capital campaign shared with our District titled, "*Seed, Scattered and Sown: Reaching Beyond This Generation.*" Funds received for Camp Bethel from this campaign will be for projects in addition to those listed above. This campaign is at www.VirginaFuture.org.

I look forward to hearing from you regarding an application process and how we can proceed. Please forward proposal guidelines and any other requirements. I can provide detailed information about any of our improvement needs, our Master Site Plan, and our operation in general.

Please contact me with any questions or ideas at 540-992-2940 or CampBethelOffice@gmail.com. Thank you for your assistance and consideration.

Together, in Christ our hope,

Barry LeNoir
Camp Bethel Director

GRAYBILL HOUSE HISTORY:

The house was built in 1842 (see cornerstone in photo) by Joseph Graybill, the grandson of John Graybill who emigrated to Virginia from Pennsylvania in the late 1700s. Joseph Graybill and his sons built 5 homes of similar style across Botetourt County using their signature brick work. All of what is now Camp Bethel plus several surrounding square miles belonged to the Graybill families (John, Solomon, Joseph).

Joseph (and wife Mary "Polly") lived on their portion of the Graybill family farm and had fourteen children from 1833 to 1859, the last eight of which were born in the brick home now belonging to Camp Bethel. In 1842, Joseph and his sons built this home from bricks fired from local clay. Polly and the family kept a large garden from which they supplied most of their food. Joseph was a respected, honest man who loved books and kept an extensive library.

The Fincastle-Blue Ridge Turnpike was completed in 1835, connecting to the Lynchburg-Salem Turnpike over the mountain through Black Horse Gap. Joseph and Polly operated the White Horse Stagecoach Inn and Ordinary on their farm, housing and feeding many Turnpike travelers. During the Civil War, it was said that General Robert E. Lee stayed overnight with troops camping in the adjacent field. The war took its toll as Joseph and Polly's son Ferdinand was killed at age 25 as a prisoner of war in Ohio in 1865. Polly, Joseph and his grandfather John Graybill are buried in the Graybill cemetery on Bethel Road, across from the entrance to Camp Bethel near the railroad.

The home and farm stayed in the Graybill family until the 1920s, and was then sold off in several parcels. In 1926, the Camp Bethel committee purchased 63 acres below the existing house site to establish the beginnings of Camp Bethel. Gaynelle Graybill Crowder (Joseph Graybill's great-grand-niece) purchased the old homeplace with her husband Roy in 1953, adding electricity and indoor plumbing (side porch & bathroom addition) and other fixes.

Gaynelle had a long and positive relationship with former Camp Bethel Director Bob Jones and the Virlina Church of the Brethren, and upon her death in 2001, her estate granted right of first refusal to Camp Bethel to purchase the farm and home. The District was able to raise the funds to purchase the property, but did not acquire the funding needed to restore and repair the old home. Hired in 2002, new Camp Bethel Director Barry LeNoir and his wife Angie set about fixing up the home to make it livable as an on-site staff residence. Without any funding, we were able to piece together a workable kitchen, a laundry porch, re-open the second story for bedrooms and re-established woodstoves as the primary heating.

The house, while still livable, is in great need of repair and restoration as many of the improvements made in 1953 have outlived their lifespan. Needed improvements estimated at \$325,000 include:

- Rebuild "laundry porch/bathroom" roof and add metal roofing to match the rest of the house.
- Replace "laundry porch/bathroom" exterior siding and replace exterior door and frame.
- Rebuild the side-entrance porch.
- New metal roofing; New snow/ice guards on roof; New roof rafters and purlin.
- New rain gutters and downspouts on upper west side and lower north and south sides.
- Re-grout/mortar of much of the base stonework and several areas of the brickwork.
- Rebuild the front porch/veranda and rebuild the upper railing.
- Remove and replace the existing black window shutters.
- Re-plumb the cellar, kitchen, and laundry porch.
- Re-wire much of the interior electricity, and re-wire/conduit exterior electric runs.
- Replace floor joists, sub-floor and floor boards in downstairs bedroom.
- Replace several floor boards throughout house (due to rot and age).
- New flooring in bathroom and kitchen.
- New floor and insulation in the attic.
- Landscaping all around the exterior; ivy removal; remove or cut back large boxwood bushes.



