



Fall 2022 Newsletter



CONTINUED PROGRAM BLESSINGS & GROWTH A Bright Future Ahead

As we enter 2023, Lifeline will celebrate its 60th year. Not many non-profits get to celebrate those types of milestones, but the foundation that Irv Polk built when he founded Lifeline in 1963 has paved the way for continued growth. I think of Irv often – the many years he served our youth, the conversations we had in the short time we worked together, and how we have honored his words the night before he passed: "Don't let it die."

Our new building is really coming along, and our move-in date is August 2023. Within a 1.5-mile radius of our new building are 2,376 apartments and approximately 4,000 homes. What an incredible location God has given us! We can now centralize our staff while serving the community of 6,000+ school aged children on Elkhart's south side.

This building will be 54,000 sqft. with 3 sport courts (1 soccer, 2 basketball, volleyball, pickleball etc.), a homework lab, classrooms, art room, game room, kitchen and much more. We have allocated 6,000 sqft. to our vocational training. With the strength of our construction program, we are bringing an online t-shirt business and embroidery business. We hope to add more of these vocational programs in the future. The building will provide growth in numbers and programming. We are working with like-minded organizations to occupy space in our building while Lifeline is not using it. This provides additional programming for the community, reduces Lifeline's expenses, and maximizes the use of the building.

We realize that collaboration is key and have already lined up collaborators for adult education classes. While Lifeline is providing quality programming, caregivers can use a separate entrance to obtain classes such as Financial Peace, GED, English as a 2nd language, parenting classes and much more. There is something for the whole family.

As you can see by the back page, our staff has grown quite a bit. Our internship program continues to grow and bring incredible young people to serve our mission. This has been a great feeder program for Lifeline and several other entities. At this point, I am the only person on staff who did not come through the internship program.

Thank you for your partnership. As our programs grow, so do our expenses. The prayers, volunteers, and financial support are critical in our growth process and we appreciate you doing your part to serve our community.

Many Blessings,
DARRELL PETERSON
Lifeline Executive Director



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR	p1
ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL SUMMER CAMP	p2
DEVELOPING LEADERS	p2
ROBERT DENNO (STUDENT OF THE YEAR)	p3
SOARING TO NEW HEIGHTS WITH ETHOS	p3
SPONSOR A LIFELINE STAFF MEMBER	p4

STAY IN THE KNOW

WANT TO STAY UPDATED ON ALL THINGS LIFELINE?
Sign up to receive our e-newsletter by emailing info@elkhartlifeline.com with "Sign me up for e-newsletters" in the subject line.

GET A HOLD OF US!

MAILING ADDRESS: P.O. Box 73 | Elkhart, IN 46515
ADDRESS: 174 State Street | Elkhart, IN 46516
EMAIL: firstname@elkhartlifeline.com
574-294-7407 | www.elkhartlifeline.com





ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL SUMMER WITH STUDENTS **Lifeline Summer Camp**

Every year the staff gets together to discuss how we can make the next Lifeline Summer Camp better than the last. Because of these conversations, the programming advances in intentionality, education, and making sure that all kids have heard the Gospel!

I love watching our counselors being intentional with their kids. They take the time to go to kids' sporting events, take them to church, and even go over to their houses to play board games with the family. Our partners have allowed the students to learn science, reading, and engineering without them even knowing that it is educational.

Finally, it is our goal every year that all who come through Lifeline will have heard the Gospel. They get to hear about Jesus every day during lesson time, but it is outside our lesson time where our counselors sit with students to have Gospel-centered conversations. We know that it has been a great summer when on the last day of summer camp we have to carry crying kids to their cars because they don't want to leave!

»DAVID GAONA — *Lifeline Senior Program Director*

Developing Leaders

FROM JCC TO LEADER IN THE COMMUNITY

Part of Lifeline's purpose is to develop student leaders within our community. Our Junior Camp Counselor (or "JCC") program gives high schoolers who have attended Lifeline the opportunity to serve elementary students during the summer. They work alongside our interns and Camp Counselors, learning leadership and relationship-building skills as well as what it looks like to share the love of Jesus. Our JCCs play a huge role in our Summer Camp program and we love seeing them learn to encourage, challenge, and have fun with the campers!

"WHAT WAS YOUR FAVORITE PART ABOUT BEING A JCC?"

"Seeing the way the kids would engage during small groups after our Bible lessons. It was nice to see the kids being curious & wanting to learn more about God."

»AYELEN — *Junior Camp Counselor in 2022*

"Being able to see the campers grow – as well as myself – regarding faith and other aspects of being a well-rounded individual. With the outbreak of Covid, social anxiety for young people was at an all time high. So being able to see some of the quieter kids open up and flourish was reassuring and showed me I was in the right place."

»HAYLA — *Junior Camp Counselor in 2021-22*

"Working and having a good time with the kids and my counselors, Caden and Olivia." »OMAR — *Junior Camp Counselor in 2022*



Robert Denno

"ELKHART ACADEMY STUDENT OF THE YEAR"

Robert Denno is a recent graduate of Elkhart Academy. When I initially met Robert, he was struggling at school. He had not yet found something that motivated him toward graduation and truly engaged him to succeed.

Robert's academic career experienced a major turnaround during his junior year. He began participating in Lifeline's construction internship program, where he found connection and community. His decisions improved both inside and outside of school and his academic performance improved in every area. He also became a positive influence on his peers, participated as a peer mentor for younger students at a local elementary school, and graduated with his class. I am extremely proud of Robert and can say with confidence that Lifeline has played a major role in his success and continues to do so.

»BRYAN HAMMONTREE — *Elkhart Academy School Principal*



Ethos Partnership

SOARING TO NEW HEIGHTS WITH ETHOS

This past summer, ETHOS had the privilege of partnering with Lifeline Youth Ministries as their "STEM" (Science Technology Engineering and Math) curriculum provider. We were excited to showcase our incredibly popular "Lab in a Bag" program for the first time in an IN-PERSON group setting and Lifeline proved to be a PHENOMENAL partner.

For seven weeks, we joined together with the counselors at Lifeline to lead the kids in fun, engaging, and hands-on STEM activities. We sat with them, listened to them, laughed with them, encouraged them, and most importantly, built connections with them. What began as a partnership to deliver STEM to kids, turned into a life-changing summer for our entire ETHOS team. You can feel the love and joy Lifeline brings to everything they do. Having the opportunity to personally connect with the kids and staff at Lifeline proved to be critical and had a profound impact on everyone involved. By the end of the summer, the Lifeline staff and kids had become like family to ETHOS.

THANK YOU for an AMAZING summer! By working together, we are transforming education both in and out of the classroom! One thing is for sure... THE BEST IS YET TO COME!

» MEGAN BAUGHMAN — *ETHOS CEO*





SPONSOR A LIFELINE Staff Member

We are often asked, "How can I get involved?" This year, our major ask is prayer and financial support for our staff. We ask all of our staff to raise their own salary support and that can be a very difficult task. We ask each director to raise \$30,000 and the other staff members to raise \$12,000. As you can see by their bios below, our staff is incredibly talented and is making a great impact on our youth. Would you prayerfully consider being part of their ministry?

For further information contact Darrell Peterson via email at darrell@elkhartlifeline.com or call the office at 574-294-7407. To donate online, go to www.elkhartlifeline.com.



DARRELL PETERSON is Lifeline's Executive Director and has been a part of the team since 2009. He loves to see lives transformed through the ministry and students attaining hope for their futures.
HOMETOWN: Elkhart, Indiana



DAVID GAONA is the Senior Program Director at Lifeline. He feels privileged that he is able to help provide a safe, loving place for students to be themselves. He has been a part of our team since 2017!
HOMETOWN: Elkhart, Indiana



DOUG BUCKLES is the Construction Team Coordinator at Lifeline. He has been a part of the team since 2017. He enjoys seeing students grow in the knowledge of Jesus, themselves, and construction skills.
HOMETOWN: De Moines, Iowa



CASEY SILLIMAN is our Girls Club Director as well as the Program Director at Concord West Side. She has been a part of our team since 2020 and loves how she has been able to use her passion for mentorship at Lifeline.
HOMETOWN: Oxford, Pennsylvania



TYLER LITWILLER is the Boys Club Director here at Lifeline. He has been a part of our team since 2018 and loves building relationships with the students as well as growing alongside them as their encourager and mentor.
HOMETOWN: Elkhart, Indiana



KENTON SCHIELE JR helps out with Boys Clubs and has been a part of our team since 2020. He loves spending time with the kids and building relationships with all of them; especially during Lifeline summer camps!
HOMETOWN: Kansas City, Missouri



CAROLINE TICE is in charge of the after-school program at Monger as well as our athletics. She joined our team this year and is excited for the variety of her schedule as well as the relationships she gets to build!
HOMETOWN: South Bend, Indiana



NOAH ROSE SCHUMACHER just joined the team after spending the summer as a Lifeline camp counselor! She is excited to use her gifts of photography and graphic design to serve on staff as our Digital Media Specialist.
HOMETOWN: Ridgeville, Ohio

Lifeline Interns



JESSE RASBERRY is helping out with Boys Clubs and serving at Pierre Moran Middle School. He's excited to be a mentor and build lasting relationships.
HOMETOWN: Arlington, Texas



MELISSA THEIS works with Mary Beck Elementary. She is so excited to get to know the other interns better as well as build meaningful relationships with the kids at the schools!
HOMETOWN: Olinda, Brazil



JOSEPH WHEELER works at Pride Academy and Monger Elementary. He is excited for the opportunity to experience hands-on ministry!
HOMETOWN: Washington, D.C.



NOAH WHITELY works with the construction team as well as in Boys Clubs. He is excited to work and minister alongside his fellow employees.
HOMETOWN: Mentor, Ohio



KAYLYN YOUNG is helping out at Mary Beck Elementary. She is excited to get to know her students and the other interns!
HOMETOWN: Twelve Mile, Indiana



SAMUEL ROBINSON works with Pierre Moran and Monger schools. He is excited to create and grow new relationships with the youth of Elkhart!
HOMETOWN: Elizabethtown, Pennsylvania



KEVIN PORRAS works at Pride Academy and Monger. He wants to be a good example for the students and show them what a relationship with Jesus is like!
HOMETOWN: Plainfield, Connecticut



TODRIYANA GAONA PETERSON works with the students at Roosevelt Elementary. She is excited to put what she has learned in college into action!
HOMETOWN: Elkhart, Indiana

