



Antiochian Village Camp

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REPORT TO THE ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN ARCHDIOCESE OF NORTH AMERICA Summer 2023 Phoenix, AZ

Reverend Hierarchs, Brother Clergy, Members of the Village Council, Members of the Board of Trustees,

This ministry is made possible by the support of our hierarchs and parish priests, Village Council and Board of Trustees, camper parents, alumni, and dedicated staff. The strength of the Antiochian Village Camp is the quality of people who come to serve, presenting to our campers a living experience of the Orthodox Faith, where we strive to *transform lives and nurture faith in Jesus Christ through Orthodox Christian community living, worship, education, fellowship, and love.*

Programs – We have been very busy here at the Antiochian Village Camp over the past several months. We are currently in the middle of a full summer camp program welcoming 1,100 campers. We recently held our new Arch Week program for high school graduates and 3 weeks of staff training, and in May we had a sold-out Family Camp (300 people) and started the AV Open Golf event. In the past year we also welcomed Special Olympics Camp, and ran Adult Camp, Fort Ligonier Days food booth, fall camp gathering invite, alumni reunion, St. George Charleston Family retreat, New Year's reunion, Winter Family Camp, and Winter Camp. In the past year we also traveled and did 4 Village at Homes in parishes, hosted 10+ rental groups, formed our new health advisory board, attended trainings, and traveled to parishes to promote AV Camp. This year we will continue our programs and guest groups, as well as start a St. Raphael pilgrimage for his feast day in November.

Facilities – We recently completed the following projects: renamed all cabins to Orthodox Saints, replaced all posts & fascia in the Pavilion, completely renovated the Old Infirmary, replaced benches in the Outdoor Chapel, replaced carpeting in the altar with vinyl floor & refinished the floor in the main area of St. Ignatius Chapel, replaced carpeting with vinyl floor and remodeled bathrooms in the Church basement, replaced the porch roof of the Health Center, completely remodeled the Old Infirmary, replaced the floors in the Volunteer Cabin bathrooms, replaced the shrines of St. Raphael, St. Thekla, & St. Artemius, built 2 new cabins, repaved and expanded a second basketball court with new hoops, and renovated an old cabin into a new laundry room. This fall we will completely renovate the Old Dining Hall and Sports Shed.

Vision/Goals – In the next 2 years, we plan to maintain and improve our current programs, look to grow our year-round staff, and explore opportunities to expand our programs. Our staff works together to prosper and grow by regularly discussing our mission, vision, and goals, and by looking for opportunities to improve this ministry. We also plan to acquire funding to maintain and remodel our many aging buildings.

Obstacles preventing growth – The main obstacles preventing growth are staffing and funding. In order to maintain and grow our current programs we are in need of a kitchen manager and a programs/guest group director. This would enable us to grow our staff, which will enable us to increase and improve our programming, accept the many guest groups we have had to turn away recently, better care for our facilities, and build needed buildings to improve our programs.

5 Year Vision – In 2028, Antiochian Village will embrace its golden anniversary of 50 years! We envision the Village in 5 years to be serving more campers and families, offering more programs such as a Clergy Family retreat, host more guest groups, and to have improved facilities. This will enable the ministry to impact more souls and offer opportunities for people to grow closer to God. We would like to build a larger church, have a cemetery for alumni & clergy, build a recreation center, expand our offices for our growing year-round staff, construct housing for interns and guests, and replace our last old cabin.

We are committed to living out our mission and pursuing our vision and goals here at the Village as we seek to grow closer to Christ. We invite you to be part of this amazing journey as we seek to maintain and expand this ministry. On behalf of our campers and staff we wish to thank His Eminence Metropolitan SABA, His Grace Bishop THOMAS, Mr. Dimitri Zeidan, the members of the Village Council, the Archdiocese Board of Trustees, and the many members of the Order of St. Ignatius of Antioch for their consistent support of this ministry. I am blessed daily to work alongside a terrific staff both here at the Camp and at the Conference Center.

Respectfully submitted,

Fr. Christopher Shadid

Fr. Christopher Shadid, Camp Director