

# CAMP CRESTRIDGE ALUMNAE & FRIENDS



## CCAF Fall Newsletter

November 2017

**Ridgecrest Summer Camps recently welcomed back former staffer Ashley Southerland Genoble as the new Assistant Director for Camp Crestridge! Here's a note from Ashley introducing herself to you:**

My name is Ashley Genoble and I am the new Assistant Director at Camp Crestridge. I worked for four summers, from 2009-2012, where I served as a Cherokee counselor for two summers and then Cherokee Village Director for two summers. I am so excited to be back at Crestridge full time. Over the last five years, since working at camp, I have worked at a couple of churches in full time youth ministry. It was during this time that I met my husband, Josh. We are quickly making Black Mountain our new home and thankful the Lord has brought us here. While I am very familiar with what a summer at Crestridge looks like, I am looking forward to all that the off season has in store. My main responsibilities will include supervising our two year-long interns, Becky Haltiwanger and Elise Moffatt, overseeing and managing the recruitment and hiring of our summer staff, assisting with the development of our summer theme and curriculum, and many other tasks that ensure Crestridge continues to seek excellence. I feel incredibly blessed to be a part of such an incredible team and family that truly seeks to impact lives for God's glory through discipleship and adventure. Thank you for the role that you play and I look forward to crossing paths with you all very soon!

**CCAF welcomes Ashley & Josh! Let's pray for Ashley as she serves the Lord at camp!**



Josh & Ashley Genoble

*"We pledge our  
love and  
loyalty to  
Camp  
Crestridge"*

*~"The Mountains  
Rise"*

**I lift my eyes toward the mountains.  
Where will my help come from?  
My help comes from the LORD,  
the Maker of heaven and earth.**

## In This Issue

- Welcome new Camp Assistant Director!
- Julie Parkerson—by Cara Pollard
- New CCAF board members
- Bike Trail News
- Financial Report
- Save the Dates—MTM 2018 & Reunion 2019

## Julie Parkerson - GLYSDI by Cara Pollard



My first memory of knowing Julie Parkerson was in 1986. I was attending second session for the first time ever because of some youth group scheduling conflicts. My friends from home had already been to camp, and had a wonderful time. Several of them had been in Choctaw 4, Julie's cabin. Soon after I arrived at camp, Julie sought me out to let me know that she had been their counselor. That four weeks, I spent some of my free time in Choctaw 4, hanging out with new friends from Kentucky and Virginia (you know who you are!) I got to know Julie as a person, not just the Waterfront Wonder I had known of before.

That Fall, I received my first Julie letter. I had never read such a long letter! She included details of all the campers and staff she had been in touch with since camp ended. She always included their names followed by parentheses and the years they attended camp. She signed her letters GLYSDI (God Loves You and So Do I), which was a song from a Chip-Chick musical my first year of camp. Julie had an amazing gift for keeping in touch with people long before the convenience of email and social media. She was the Crestridge Grapevine, keeping us all in touch, in between receiving the quarterly issue of the Bear Tracks newsletter. I count myself lucky to be on her letter writing list, and would love to know how many letters she wrote in a week's time.

Julie's mental database of campers and staffers helped her work with boys camp alumni to form Ridgecrest Camps Alumni Association, before CCAF branched out on their own. She made a Crestridge museum in the front room of the house by the small riding ring. She displayed photos from the beginning of camp, the 60s, 70s, and 80s. I'm not sure when she began making scrapbooks for each four weeks, but Julie scrapbooked before scrapbooking was the thing to do. Julie was the unofficial historian of camp for many years.

Her dedication to camp didn't stop there. Long before the Maintain the Memories Memorial Day Alumnae work weekend was started, a small group of staffers would descend on camp right after their college finals. This group would rake, rake, and rake all of camp, tarp leaves and branches, clear out the creek so water could flow, clean cabins for staff week, and many other dirty tasks. It took two weeks to do what CCAF Alums can accomplish in two days. Julie was usually a part of this pre-camp clean up group. I have a wonderful mental image of Julie, hip-deep in a black garbage bag, a rake full of leaves in her arms being dumped into the bag she stood inside. At times we would have to remind her, "Stop raking the woods, Julie!"

Julie was the Waterfront Director for years, teaching many dedicated swimmers synchronized swimming. They put on a synchro show before each closing program. Even though I never took synchro, I can do a water wheel like nobody's business, while singing, "Lifesaver- my life was sinking, down, and down, and down." Julie taught Advanced Lifesaving classes at camp. Her presence at camp was not restricted to the waterfront. Many Sunday nights, she accompanied Singspiration on her clarinet, and taped the evening on her tape recorder. She photographed camp life before we had an official camp photographer. Her love for Crestridge was evident in every minute she gave to the place we all love.

After spending some time in the Army, Julie decided she wanted to be a high school teacher. In the mid 1990s, she went back to school while living and working at the conference center. In the Spring of 1997, Julie was student teaching in McDowell county when she contracted spinal meningitis. Sadly, her disease went undiagnosed and Julie passed away a few days before her birthday.

Years ago, an Endowment Fund Named Scholarship was started in Julie Parkerson's memory. She was an integral part of camp for a generation of campers and staff. She gave so much of herself, it is right that she should be remembered by a scholarship, so a new generation of girls can know of Julie and her gifts. In this year, the 20th anniversary of Julie's death, let us raise the funds necessary to complete a named scholarship for her. Please donate any amount you are able. Then write a letter to one of your camp friends and sign it GLYSDI.

**UPDATE: This scholarship now complete! Please donate to others scholarships so we can bless other girls!**

## New faces on the CCAF Board . . .



**Meredith Gaffney**  
Camper—2003-2011; Staff—2011-2015

"I am excited to be involved in CCAF for more opportunities to grow Crestridge, as a way of saying thank you for the ways camp has grown me."



**Sarah Massey**  
Camper—8 years; Staff—3 years

"I wanted to be a part of the alumni association to be able to give back to camp. I also wanted to help maintain the authenticity of camp as it grows and evolves with time."



**Anna Clare Pierce**  
Camper: 1996-2005, Staffer: 2006-2009, 2011, 2015

"I wanted to take part in giving back to the place that helped develop so much of who I am today. I have always known that CCAF did a lot of awesome things and I'm excited to learn and be a part of that!"



**Lisa Turner**  
Camper 1972-1978, Staff 1979

"I have been a board member on & off throughout the years to give back to the place that meant so much to me growing up, to keep old friends close, and to help clear the path future campers and staff can use to walk closer to Christ."



**Robyn Wilson**  
Camper 1969-1972, Staff 1974-79 & 1996-2013

"Camp played a very important role in my life and faith, as a camper and a staffer. Camp friends have become life-long friends. Working with CCAF is a way to give back."

“Enter His  
gates with  
thanks-  
giving  
and His  
courts  
with  
praise.  
Give  
thanks to  
Him and  
praise His  
name.  
For  
Yahweh is  
good, and  
His love is  
eternal;  
His faith-  
fulness  
endures  
through  
all  
genera-  
tions.”



## *Bike Trail Update . . .*

This past year, CCAF asked for donations for a new mountain biking trail to be added to Crestridge. The trail became a reality for this past summer's programming! The following is a note from Sharon Aylestock about the bike trail addition.

We love being able to keep camp "fresh" and add new programming areas and activities to camp! This past summer was the first time we had a legitimate bike trail for our mountain biking skill! Campers had the opportunity to ride on the mountain side as opposed to a paved road. Since many of our campers come from Florida or a less mountainous area, they had the chance to work on accomplishing the trail and all of its twists and turns. Thank you for your investment in making camp a better place each year!

**Sharon Aylestock**  
*Director, Camp Crestridge for Girls*

*"I loved having the bike trail on campus because it was so convenient and allowed us to use our time more efficiently. It allowed us to work on more technical skills and provided a challenge for the girls to work towards. They loved being able to set goals for themselves, and the trail provided additional opportunities for goal setting."* **Hannah Johnston—Mtn. Biking Director—Summer 2017**



**Chippewa, Chickasaw, Creek, Cheyenne, Catawba, Choctaw, Cherokee**

## *Financial Report from Susan Nielsen:*

Alumnae and Friends achieved a milestone by donating \$20,000 toward full or partial scholarships for the summer of 2017. This was achieved by combining \$9,100 in interest from the endowment fund, \$9,000 in donations and the remainder from summer merchandise sales. Donors also contributed \$7,000 to combine with funds already held to build the new bike trail on the mountainside.

The current balance in the Endowment Fund as of 6/30/2017 is \$294,246. The amount added to the fund in 2017 to date is \$21,945. There are 14 fully funded named scholarships and 5 actively in progress. In addition, seven individuals or families have had donations made in their memory or honor. A named scholarship means a total of \$10,000 or more has been donated in honor or memory of an individual or family. The estimated interest that could be paid toward 2018 scholarships is \$9,200.

Fully funded named scholarships are:

Sally Driggers/Willa McGimsey	Ramey Driggers/Kara Cooley	Tad Driggers
Johnnie Armstrong	Ron Springs Ridgecrest Summer Camps	
Judye MacMillan	Marva Rawlings and Janie Belue	
Maggie Lee Henson	Logan and Morgan Flecke	
Mama Ruth Burkett	Ginnie Burriss	Julie Parkerson
Burkett Family Fund	Hege Family Fund	

In addition, these named scholarships are currently in progress—Adrienne Wade Hollis, Lucille Belue, Nancy Britt Roberson, Young Family Fund, & Karen Stitt/Susan Stitt Yenney, Megan & Chris Yenney.

Proceeds from the sale of Stepping Stones are also added to the Endowment Fund.

CCAF has 32 lifetime members and 142 members have paid dues for 2017.

All donations are tax deductible.

*Save the Dates...*

Maintain the Memories Weekend—

May 25-27, 2018

Camp Crestridge is having it's  
65th Anniversary Reunion in 2019!



Our 65th reunion gets closer by the day! Go ahead and set aside time in your 2019 summer to be at camp. As always, it will be a time to see old friends, meet new ones, a time to reminisce about old camp days, and see the exciting ways Crestridge is growing and changing!

*Hope to see you then or before!*

*"With my feet on the ground and my heart attune, I shall reach for the stars."*

## Contact Us

You may reach the  
Alumnae Association at:

**Crestridge Alumnae &  
Friends**

P.O. Box 2128  
Matthews, NC 28106  
(555) 555-0123

Visit us on the web at  
[www.crestridgealumnae.com](http://www.crestridgealumnae.com)

**Camp Crestridge Alumnae & Friends**

P.O. Box 2128

Matthews, NC 28106