



## Report to Blackhawk Presbytery Assembly

September 8, 2020

*Terry Mohaupt, Moderator, Stronghold Committee; Chair, Stronghold Center, Inc., Board of Directors*

### Separation Task Force

1. Stronghold Center, Inc., now has its own Employer Identification Number (EIN). New accounts are being created.
2. Our previous attorney resigned. We have not yet hired a replacement.
3. Work on the IRS 1023 application for 501(c)(3) not-for-profit status nears completion.

### Stronghold Committee/Stronghold Center, Inc. Board of Directors

1. We are planning to work on Policy Manuals, including job descriptions and Standard Operating Procedures. Personnel Manual already has been completed by previous intern.
2. We are discussing how to handle recent donations (*cf. fundraising 3. below in Danny's report*), capital expenditures, and possible closure for a time during the winter.

### Camp, from *Danny Pierce, Executive Director*

We have been open since May 29th following new protocols under Phase IV of Restore Illinois. Necessary adjustments have been made in an attempt to offset lost revenue. Staffing has been reduced, volunteers/mission groups are helping to maintain the property and we have partnered with local restaurants to provide our food service.

The reality of the matter is that, to date, we have experienced over \$250,000 of lost revenue. Through God's grace, hard work and the support from the friends of Stronghold, we continue to be steadfast on our faith journey.

1. *Old English Faire* is cancelled for this year.
2. *Insurance*: Because of summer camp being closed, Workman's Comp coverage was reduced, resulting in a \$7,000 credit.
3. *Fundraising*:
  - a. Recent donations of \$27,790 from First Presbyterian Church of Dixon Challenge. Take a look at the Stronghold Challenge Leader Board below. *Wouldn't it be nice to see your congregation on it?* We sure think so! We offer our sincere thanks to each and every one of you for keeping Stronghold strong. 2020 Stronghold Challenge Leader Board
    - i. **Central Presbyterian**, New Lenox
    - ii. **First Presbyterian**, Dixon
    - iii. **First Presbyterian**, Sterling
    - iv. **United Presbytery**, Woodhull
    - v. **Third Presbyterian**, Rockford
  - b. \$185,000 bequest for pavement
  - c. \$150,000 from Freeport church closing



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4. We want to thank the very, *very*, **very** hard-working group from **First Presbyterian Church of Morris**. Such an amazing group that came to do mission work at Stronghold from the Leap of Faith clean up, finishing roof repair at the cabins, helping level out some land, to building new benches at the Castle fire circle!
5. We have available dates for—
  - retreats
  - camping
  - day programs
  - challenge course activities
  - or just an overnight stay
  - REMINDER - if you have not visited Stronghold grounds lately, pastors and church leaders can tour campus to see facilities available for their congregations, and how superb the grounds look due to the efforts of volunteers and staff

Call Kitty at (815)732-6111 Ext. 613 or email <reservations@strongholdcenter.org>

### **Finally**, two positive stories:

1. Danny had been contacted by the *Make-a-Wish Foundation* for a 14-year-old girl with organ failure. Her wish had been to go to Europe and tour castles, but her health would not allow that. So, one Saturday in August, she and her family came to Stronghold to enjoy the castle and fulfill that wish.
2. After a recent staff meeting, Danny was on his way out of camp when he saw a car pull into the entrance; the people got out and started taking photos by the Stronghold sign. When Danny asked how he could help, the dad said he'd been at an event a year or so ago and was bringing his family, including a son with Down Syndrome, to show them the wonderful place he remembered. He asked if they could see the castle. Danny turned around and spent the next half hour showing them around the castle. The family was thrilled—the son was *ecstatic*!

THAT'S WHY we are working so hard to keep Stronghold alive.

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