



Faith  
Mission  
Home

HIGHLIGHTS NEWSLETTER | MAY-JUNE 2026



*Raylan Kempf*

## MEET OUR STUDENTS

Hello everyone, I'd like to tell you about someone who is very special to me. He has taught me so much in life, and I'm still learning. Raylan Kempf is a 15 year old boy and the youngest of the four boys in the E childcare group. You can often find him sitting on the bench in the dining room playing with a Lego toy and watching people walk past. He also enjoys sitting on a stool in the kitchen, drinking sweet tea and watching the cooks as they prepare meals. Raylan also loves to walk around outside. He will carry a football around and watch while I shoot basketball. When I kick the football high in the air, he laughs and giggles. He has the cutest laugh I've ever seen. Things that fly are very intriguing to Raylan. When an airplane flies overhead, he points to it and makes noises. He enjoys watching a remote control helicopter being flown around. He's also very intrigued by certain noises. When someone drives by on the Kubota side by side, or when someone is using the blender in the kitchen, he watches with full attention.

Raylan is nonverbal, but he has ways of communicating to let me know what he wants. When asking for something, he will do a sign from his chest to his mouth with his hand to say "please and thank you". To pray, he will do the same sign, then grab my finger, and I will point to who he is praying for. Raylan's song is, "Pray, Pray, Every Day," and for that he will sign by clapping his hands together.

Speech class is a favorite part of the day for both Raylan and I. He will run down the hallway to the classroom as people line up to watch and cheer him on!

It's not always easy, but the privilege of caring for Raylan has been one of the most valuable experiences I have ever had. I can't wait to meet him in Heaven some day with a new body and made whole.

Joshua Visser/ E - Childcare/ Dundee, OH

# EVENTS



**Former Staff Weekend**  
March 6-8



**ADMIN APPRECIATION SUPPER**  
March 17



**SPRING PROGRAM TRIP**  
April 1-6



**WEDDINGS**  
Joshua Weaver & Britney Plett- April 18



**FAREWELLS**  
Deidrich Kanagy, Charity Peachey - April 24



**CAMP WEEK**  
April 25-May 1



## GROUP SPOTLIGHT

C-BOYS WITH DALLAS MILLER

**WESLEY MCMAHON. CHRISTOPHER FISHER.  
SAMUEL KING. JARED ALLGYER**

## FAREWELL THOUGHTS



Commitment and teamwork are two of the many things that help Faith Mission

Home run smoothly. It has been a privilege to be a part of this commitment to doing our best for the students and the intentional effort that is put into teamwork and working together well.

As I worked with my boys, I experienced the need for God's patience. While working through difficulties, I became more grateful for God's love and His patience with me. God has never run out of patience, and I want to be able to give that to others as I move on from Faith Mission.

Seeing people from many different cultures and backgrounds blend well together has inspired me to be more workable with people that may have a different perspective or mindset than I have. As I go home, I want to be able to put that to practice and to build God's Kingdom wherever I can.

Thank you, Faith Mission Home and staff, for the opportunity to work here. You have blessed me and helped me to grow in more ways than I'll ever know.

**Steven Kurtz | Dogwood Farm Assistant | Adams, NY**

**"Things on the earth and  
things under the earth -  
potatoes!"**

-JOLAN MAST

## STUDENT QUOTE

# CAMPWEEK

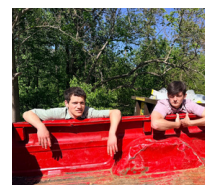
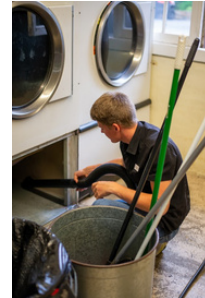
Campweek! What does a campweek at Faith Mission Home consist of? This week of service involves many elements! Campweek presents to you dirty, overlooked corners, ever-present projects waiting for spare hands to complete them, and 20 youth - eager to answer the call for volunteers. Part of camp week's design is to give youth a peep into the experience of being a staff member, and provide the opportunity to meet and interact with our students, the very heart of Faith Mission Home. Their energy is channeled into deep cleaning the main building as well as a variety of other projects.

It begins with varying amounts of nervous excitement but as the days trickle by, it grows into eager anticipation for the next events on the schedule. The floors display a fresh glisten, windows present a more honest picture of the outdoor landscape, and an air of refreshment fills the many classrooms and offices. Other changes take place as well. Friendships develop and grow, comfort zones broaden, and treasured memories are created and remembered with fondness.

The evening activities play a big part in the week. The campers trickled in mostly on Saturday, in time for the evening introductions and ice breakers. Other evening activities included several inspirational sessions by a guest speaker, an evening of special activities planned by current staff, and a famous, traditional ball game featuring the staff guys vs. the camper guys. The week ended Friday night with volleyball and some spontaneous singing in the event center.

However, camp week isn't just about mop buckets and spotless rooms. Not only the students and staff are blessed, but the campers receive a blessing as well. Looking deeper, some gifts depend on each staff person's ability to appreciate the opportunities they encounter to grow in self-sacrifice, patience and putting others first. These are all qualities for any valued worker in God's kingdom. One of these days some of the campers will show up again. They will be the new staff, and the spring of blessing will continue to flow on!

Diane Swartzentruber / *Domestics Supervisor* / Chesapeake, VA



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## NEW STAFF PROFILES



*Bethany Guse*

HALSEY, OR  
07.16.07

ROBERT & KRISTEN



*Alisha Lengacher*

CAMBRIDGE, OH  
06.03.05

GALEN & ESTHER



*Aubrey Funk*

GOSHEN, IN  
05.27.05

TYLER & LILA



*Grant Miller*

SHIPSHEWANA, IN  
10.19.05  
WENDELL & DARLENE