

Yellowstone Alliance Adventures
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*Enlarge the place of your tent. Stretch out your tent curtains wide, do not hold back.
Lengthen your cords and strengthen your stakes. Isaiah 54:2*

Dear <<Letter Salutation>>,

It was a brisk day with an air of enthusiasm as I readied myself to recruit summer staff. I was positioned well in a thoroughfare leading to the dining hall. Armed with my best smile and a compelling brochure, I was standing in front of our vibrant display with FREE tasty treats spread across a table. But wait! "What is going on?" I wondered. Only an occasional person was stopping. It was nearly impossible to get these students to make eye contact, let alone converse about opportunities to spend their summer working in Montana! Could it be? Am I really getting older and not coming off as the young cool program director that I still think of myself as? Thankfully, a few weeks later, my confidence was reinstated when my daughter Jessica informed me that her friends say I am "one of the coolest old people they know." Hmmm?

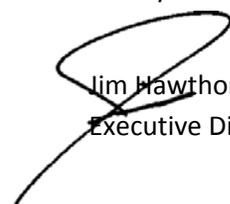
This story depicts how various factors and people consistently push me to anticipate the next stage of ministry for Yellowstone Alliance Adventures. As humbling as it was, it was a necessary nudge to keep me dialed in on my life verse. "Pass on what you heard from me to reliable leaders who are competent to teach others." 2 Timothy 2:2. Instances like this clarify the need to replicate myself and shift my focus from having my hands in everything to investing in and equipping others to lead.

I am proud to report that YAA has been in a healthy period which has enabled us to hire additional staff. In two years, we have grown from three employees, (two of which had to completely raise their own financial support) to six, all of whom the camp is now paying a base level of their salary! It is humbling to see how our ministry of directing people to Jesus Christ and developing them to reflect his character is being strengthened and growing beyond my imagination.

For years I've had a vision for developing YAA to include a holistic life discipleship center where young adults live and work alongside our Christian staff and are mentored through a year-long practicum. YAA would provide a community work and learning environment from which we intentionally guide students on their journey to becoming knowledgeable and effective Christian leaders. I believe that the current health of our existing ministries is now providing the context for us to launch this next component.

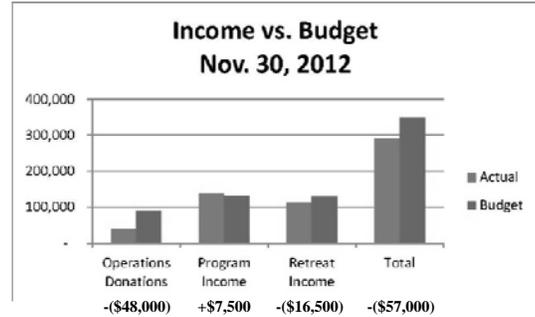
As with any endeavor there are real costs and we continue to need investors who believe in all of our programs. Already, we are well under way in the construction of a new lodge and an apartment that will expand our guest service capabilities for existing programs and house part of the practicum students. On the back of this page you can read specific needs that we currently have to help reach our goals. If you are able to help us now or even in the future, I invite you to partner with us and contribute. Volunteers are always welcome and any amount of financial gift will be gratefully received.

Along with wishing you a wonderful Christmas season I want to thank you for participating in my life and in the ministries of YAA. Warmly,


Jim Hawthorne
Executive Director

We are encouraged as 2012 increased opportunities for our ministries to experience significant success. Youth camp attendance grew by 9% giving us our biggest opportunity to share Christ with kids. Family camps were strong. Unfortunately, we canceled our Labor Day Family Camp because of the Millie forest fire. Full Joshua and Timothy leadership programs allowed us to heavily invest in the lives of young adults for nine weeks. And we've already made five college visits planning for summer 2013.

Unfortunately there has been a reduction in two of our revenue streams. Our retreat ministry experienced a reduced number of groups. And, our general operations donations, which assist us in keeping our rates affordable, have taken a big hit. In total we are currently \$57,000 below our budgeted goal for the year.



Our General Fund is the area of first importance to ask for your participation, as it enables us to fulfill all of our day to day operational objectives.



8-Plex Lodge: Unfinished project costs

Roads and landscaping	\$ 15,000
Cedar Siding	\$ 25,000
Lighting Fixtures	\$ 6,000
Interior Doors and Trim	\$ 15,000
Furniture for 80 people	\$ 30,000
Technology	\$ 10,000
Appliances	\$ 10,000
Flooring	\$ 50,000
Contingency Fund	\$ 14,000

We are filled with anticipation for this new lodge that has 8 private cabins and 2 large meeting areas. It is well under way, debt free and has been built totally from donations! Everyone asks when it will be open. I have to keep telling them that it all depends on how quickly we can raise the remaining \$175,000 to complete it. Please consider taking on one of the unfinished stages with a year-end gift or pledge for the upcoming year.



An addition to this A-frame home will provide adequate living space for one staff family. The addition will also include a private apartment on the second floor.

If you're interested in blessing a particular family and expanding YAAs infrastructure, then, by all means, designate your donation to help finish this project. We only need another \$25,000 to get this building totally livable.

