

Trinity Center 2023 Annual Report

I am pleased to be able to report to Diocesan Convention that 2023 has been another year of success and progress at Trinity Center. We survived a full year with no major storms, no problems with covid and were able to come back to almost pre pandemic levels of occupancy. The staff of Trinity Center has done an outstanding job adapting and changing as needed to handle many of the difficulties that have come their way. We are very thankful for their hard work and commitment.

John Koch, our new Executive Director, continues to guide Trinity Center in new and exciting directions. He has spent much time observing “the way things work” and how to make changes or adaptations to improve Trinity Center. His expertise and background have certainly been an asset as the staff and Board of Managers work to prioritize how to strengthen the programs, facilities, and activities at Trinity Center.

The Board of Managers has been working hard to develop a Strategic Plan for Trinity Center for the next 3-5 years. This plan has been adopted and some work assignments on the plan have already been completed. The Board of Managers hope to use this new Strategic Plan as a guide for the future. The Board has also been working with the Diocesan Foundation to establish the Alice Hoffman Fund for the benefit of Trinity Center. This fund is a result of the land sale that took place in 2023.

One of the greatest challenges Trinity Center faces is how best to maintain and utilize the facilities and grounds. Severe weather and high tides put stress on all the buildings. This year, especially, the staff housing bungalows for Trinity's Sound to Sea program were particularly hard hit. We are in the process of refurbishing one of the bungalows while working on plans for how best to make repairs or replace the second. On a good note, all the exterior of the buildings on campus (except the Pelican House) were painted giving the campus a fresh and sparkling appearance.

Staffing has been another challenge for this year. Service industry jobs are difficult to fill in an area where cost of living expenses exceed salaries. We have been fortunate to find workers to staff the kitchen and housekeeping staff. Again, a huge thank you to the incredible staff!

Camp Trinity operated this year at full capacity with great success. A staff of 21 served over 600 kids ranging from rising 2nd-12th grades. MaryBeth Bradberry worked hard to keep camp safe and fun for campers from all over North Carolina. Applications for the upcoming camp year and camp staff are in progress right now. We are thankful to have a great staff and families who continue to want to provide a camp experience for their children.

Sound to Sea was busy and full for both school groups and summer day camps. Trinity Center hosted 87 school groups with 4,138 children from places as far away as Floyd, VA and as close as Morehead City, NC. Summer camp offered programs daily for 427 children in the area and was full with a waitlist all summer. Sound to Sea just wrapped up an impromptu Winter Day Program for families during a seemingly long holiday break - 52 children participated ((filling 97

slots, many campers coming multiple days). Kudos to the staff for seeing the opportunity and making it happen.

Trinity hosted around 19,500 bednights (a bednight is one person, spending one night) in 2023 and served over 58,000 meals. We had individuals visit from as close as Pine Knoll Shores and as far away as California and Washington. Many varied programs were offered for groups as well as a wide variety of groups coming to use the facilities. The staff does an incredible job offering “radical hospitality” to each and every guest. The wear and tear on the housing spaces continues to be an ongoing challenge. Constant attention to HVAC systems, water intrusion and fluctuations in temperatures keep the maintenance team busy every day.

As chair of the Board of Managers, I feel lucky to be able to inform each of you of the success and progress being made at Trinity Center. We all should continue to feel fortunate to have this sort of facility available to our Diocese. And should be thankful for the Staff who make it all possible.

Barbara Whitesides
Chair, Trinity Center Board of Managers
January 2024