



.2024 impact report



GRAVATT CAMP & CONFERENCE CENTER

greetings

from Executive Director & Board of Trustees Chair

As we reflect on the incredible year that was 2024, we are filled with gratitude and excitement for all that we accomplished together at Gravatt Camp and Conference Center. This year, we celebrated a monumental milestone—our 75th anniversary. For three-quarters of a century, Gravatt has been a sanctuary where individuals of all ages experience transformation, connection, and renewal. It is a place where lifelong friendships are made, spiritual growth is fostered, and lives are impacted in profound ways.

In 2024, we were fortunate to mark this milestone by expanding our facilities with the help of our devoted community. Thanks to the tireless efforts of the Advent Mission Team, we were able to build two new summer camp cabins, offering more opportunities for young campers to experience the magic of Gravatt's programs. These new cabins are not only a physical expansion of our camp, but a symbol of our ongoing commitment to providing the best possible experience for every child who walks through our doors.

Gravatt also continued its commitment to broadening its impact within the community by introducing two new programs: UP Outdoors and Women Need Women. These new initiatives reflect our ongoing mission to provide meaningful, transformative experiences for a diverse range of individuals and groups.

In 2024, we were thrilled to welcome back Fletcher Spigner to lead our summer camp program. Fletcher, a former camper, counselor, camp director, board member and long-time advocate for Gravatt, rejoined our community in a leadership role that has already begun to leave a meaningful mark. His passion for camp ministry, combined with his deep understanding of Gravatt's mission, has reinvigorated our efforts

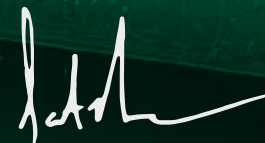
to nurture the next generation of leaders and ensure that our traditions continue to thrive. Fletcher's return is more than a homecoming—it is a powerful reminder of the lasting bonds and transformative experiences that define Gravatt.

While we celebrate these achievements, we also remain mindful of the challenges that come with maintaining a nonprofit organization in an ever-changing world. Our commitment to keeping Gravatt affordable and accessible to all remains at the core of our work. As we continue to grow and evolve, we are mindful of the importance of responsible stewardship, ensuring that every improvement—large or small—enhances the experience of our campers and guests.

As you read through this year's impact report, you'll see the incredible ways in which Gravatt continues to make a lasting difference in the lives of those who visit. From the feedback we receive from camper families to the stories of transformation shared by our guests, it is clear that the work we do here is more important than ever.

Thank you for being a part of this wonderful community.

Shalom,



Scott McNeely
Executive Director

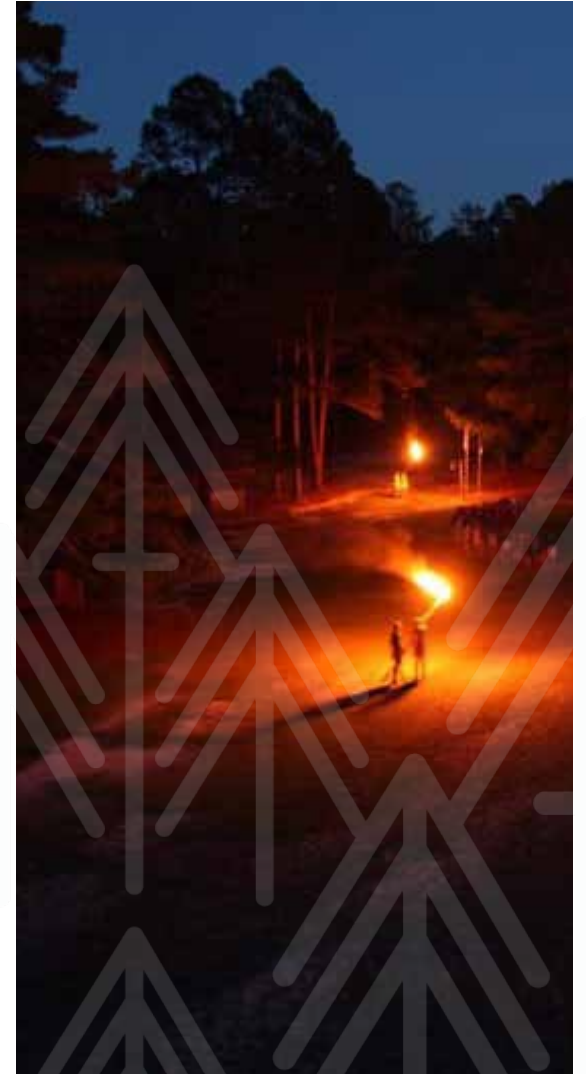


Heath Stewart
Board of Trustees, Chair



mission

Gravatt is a sanctuary for the ministry of faith formation, hospitality, leadership development, and environmental stewardship



board & staff

2024 Year Round Staff

Scott McNeely
Executive Director

Fletcher Spigner
*Associate Director and Summer
Camp Director*

Wendi Spratt
Development Director

Thomas Coleman
*Director of Facilities and
Environmental Stewardship*

Pat Millette
Director of Dining Services

Evan Mikula
Director of Programming

Graham Knowles
Program Assistant

Danielle Steger
Director of Hospitality

Emily Smith
Finance Manager

Andy Price
Director of Grounds

Christine Koutrakos
Director of Marketing and Events

Jason Hadden
Facilities Assistant

Brad Wimberly
Facilities Assistant

Hayden Ifkovits
Hospitality Intern

Blair Sims
Hospitality Intern

Daniel Yeargin
Hospitality Intern

2024 Board of Trustees

Heath Stewart
Chair

Meredith Blocker
Vice Chair

Charlotte Hodge
Secretary

Whitney Evans
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Jenny Buck

The Rev. Robert Byrne

The Rev. Mary Balfour Dunlap

Jason Edens

Starke Farley

The Rev. Jimmy Hartley

Chris How

The Rt. Rev. Daniel Richards



Bishop Richards of the Episcopal Diocese of Upper South Carolina



funding

Expenses:

SUMMER CAMP \$490,401.03 (27%)
CONFERENCE CENTER \$661,332.48 (36%)
ADMINISTRATIVE \$685,929.31 (37%)

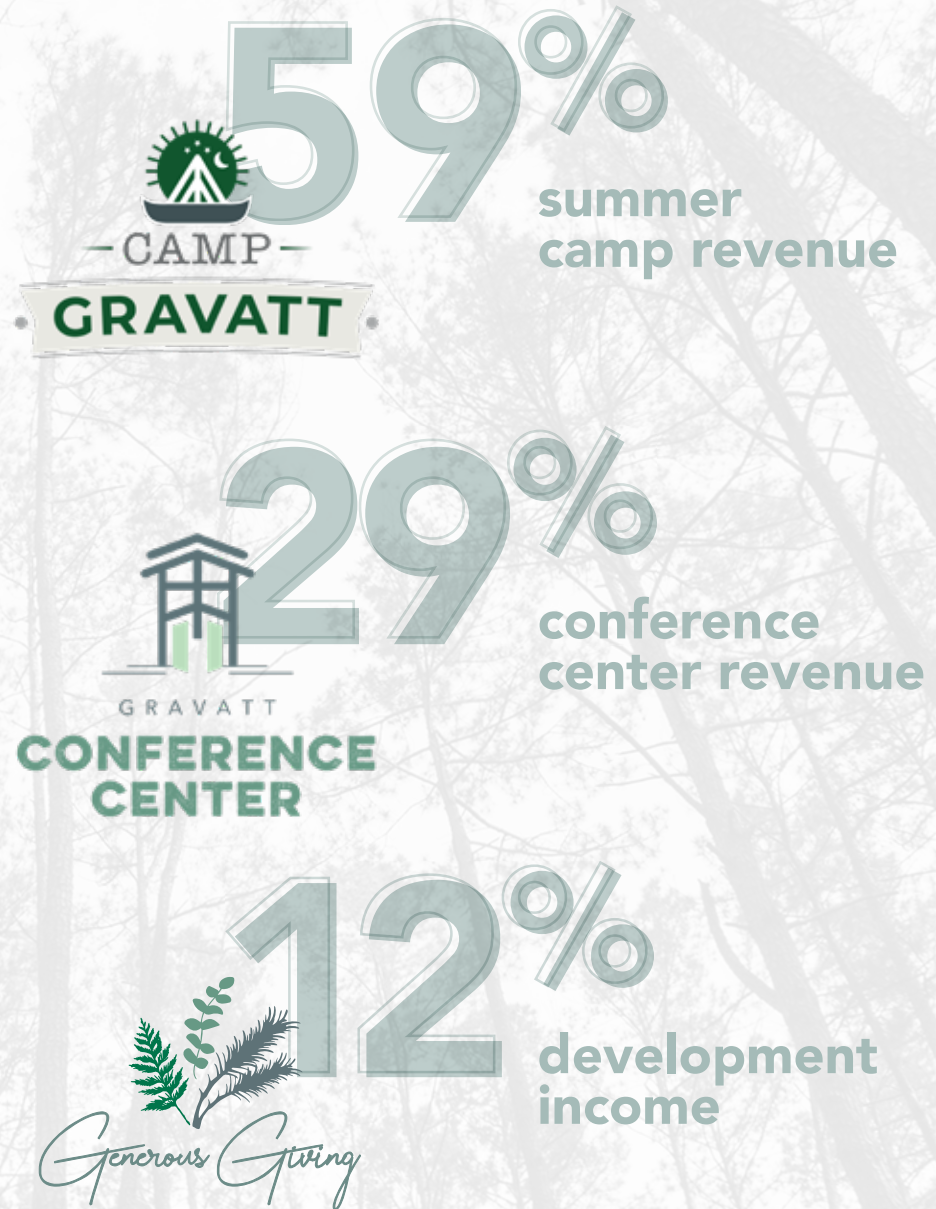
Total \$1,837,663.82

Revenue:

SUMMER CAMP \$1,034,623.23 (59%)
CONFERENCE CENTER \$500,918.09 (29%)
DEVELOPMENT INCOME \$211,782.17 (12%)

Total \$1,747,323.49

**September and October revenue were negatively impacted due to Hurricane Helene causing lost revenue from previously booked groups who cancelled and the \$11,000 food loss replacement from the multi-day power outage.*



facilities

Stewardship of existing facilities and capital projects

The past year was marked by new construction, and a commitment to the care and maintenance of our existing infrastructure. From plumbing improvements to roofing upgrades, every project reflects Gravatt's dedication to improving the guest and camper experience. Our year began with a significant project: the installation of a new roof on Cole Lodge, as part of our facility and building maintenance plan.

It was also a milestone year for our partnership with the Church of the Advent Mission Team from Spartanburg, who took the lead on the design and construction of two new cabins on the camp side. The Mission Team also installed a new luxury vinyl floor in the Ireland Room—a beautiful, durable upgrade made even more affordable thanks to one member's assistance in securing materials at a reduced cost. With a fresh coat of paint applied by our staff, the Ireland Room now shines with new life.

Water Tower Restoration

Caring for our water systems exemplifies our ongoing commitment to infrastructure maintenance. Each plumbing repair in 2024 wasn't just a fix—it was an opportunity to enhance and modernize our systems, ensuring long-term reliability and service. Gravatt's water source consists of two wells and water which is stored in a 7,500 gallon tank located on the conference side. The water is tested monthly to ensure it meets drinking and regulatory standards. In September, Gravatt's water tank was inspected. As part of this process, the tank was disinfected, and the interior sandblasted and sealed.

The galvanized lines leading to the booster station were replaced and water sampling was conducted to reinstate the tank to service. This process helps to prevent contamination, reduce waterborne bacteria, and extends the life of the tank.

Perhaps the most noticeable updates took place on the camp side, where nine structures received new standing seam metal roofs. These roofs, installed directly over the existing shingles, bring numerous advantages: enhanced durability, improved weather resistance, and minimal maintenance needs. They are an investment in the camp's future, designed to last for decades.



Water tower restoration ^

In 2024, we made meaningful progress—adding new structures and caring for those that have long served us. Stewardship means building and preserving. Thank you to everyone who gave their time, expertise, and generosity. With your support, we look ahead to another year of growth and care.

Hurricane Helene

Gravatt was fortunate to have been spared from major damage during Hurricane Helene. However the property was without power for five days, during which time we were not able to accommodate the previously booked conference groups. This allowed staff to assess storm damage and work on cleaning up the downed trees, of which about 100 trees were lost to the storm. Gravatt's Atlantic White Cedar bog lost many trees.

While several parts of Aiken and the region continued to deal with power outages and substantial storm damage, Gravatt thankfully was able to quickly recover. We were able to provide housing to Dominion Energy crews from around the state and to linemen who worked extended hours on restoring service to the Aiken region.



environmental stewardship

We serve many guests throughout the year at Gravatt and during 2024, nearly 1,000 guests came to Gravatt to experience a variety of programming offerings. These groups enjoyed activities such as honing new skills at the archery range, working to become better teammates or coworkers on the team-building course, reaching new heights on our challenge course, or learning about the ecosystems at Gravatt with environmental education programs. Of the nearly 1,000 guests, we welcomed 197 students to Gravatt to learn about our Sandhills ecosystem through our UP Outdoors Program (see page 8). Environmental Stewardship is a pillar of Gravatt's mission, and this past year we have been hard at work crafting a curriculum that meets SC State Science Standards and is easily adaptable for various grade levels. Whether it is a Forest Ecology hike through Sparkleberry, an edible plants cooking lesson, or a night spent stargazing and learning about nocturnal animals, we are educating youth about the importance of the three ecosystems that co-exist at Gravatt.

Forestry Management

In 2024 one of our biggest forestry accomplishments was the creation of a forestry management plan. We have taken plans written by both a private forester and the SC Forest Commission and compiled them together to create a focused plan on how we manage our property. This plan provides a framework for how we promote, protect, and conserve our natural resources.

We started the year with a more complete and vigorous approach in maintaining our firebreaks. This strategy has kept our firebreaks clean and ready for prescribed fire any week of the year. Well maintained firebreaks also protect our property against any wildfires.

We were not without loss this year. After Hurricane Helene passed through, we noticed significant destruction and loss to our Atlantic White Cedar population. Gravatt staff was able to work with the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources (SCDNR) to understand the impact of this



loss. Fortunately, several younger trees are remaining and that will help ensure the longevity of Atlantic White Cedars in our bogs, a significant and unique part of Gravatt's natural environment. Working with the SCDNR helped staff to learn more about how to protect this threatened ecosystem. Flooding caused by beaver dams was identified as a major concern to the health of our cedar stands. Measures have been taken to control beaver populations and beaver dam removal. These actions will help lower the flooding and return this habitat back to a more original state to allow new cedars to recolonize. Additionally, manual thinning was conducted to give new cedar saplings a chance to reach much needed sunlight. With these efforts we are seeing new growth in abundance as cedar saplings grow higher and reclaim the once flooded beaver ponds.



up outdoors

Adventure & Education Await

The Upland Pine Outdoor Adventure Center (UP Outdoors) is an outdoor, adventure, and environmental education service for public, private, and homeschool students. By participating in UP Outdoors, students gain confidence through individual and group activities, develop an appreciation for the outdoors, and learn about how our environment plays a role in our everyday lives. Gravatt hosts students for day, overnight, or multi-night experiences. Evan Mikula and the program staff teach and lead activities. UP Outdoors facilities include multiple lakes, trails, outdoor classrooms, recreation areas, two dining halls, climate-controlled lodging and meeting spaces, along with platform tents and cabins. UP Outdoors participants utilize our Team-Building Course (Low Ropes) and our industry-leading Challenge Course (High Ropes), along with our numerous recreational activities like canoeing, archery, hiking, games, and more.

The UP Outdoors curriculum combines environmental, experiential, and adventure-based education programs to create meaningful, challenging, and rich learning experiences for students of all ages. Our standards-based curriculum provides hands-on experiences that get students actively engaged in their outdoor world while also challenging them to grow individually and as a group. Students engage in fun activities that focus on forest and wetland ecology, water systems, biodiversity, conservation, astronomy, botany, and much more.

UPLAND
PINE **OUTDOOR**
ADVENTURE
CENTER



Jumpstarting UP Outdoors in 2024...

As we have been preparing our curriculum and studying the natural rhythms of Gravatt, we discovered some exciting curiosities. Perhaps our biggest discovery of the year was in identifying two healthy colonies of Sweet Pitcher Plants, *Sarracenia Rubra*. The pitcher plant is a carnivorous plant that is native to the southeast. For years, we knew of only one colony down in our Atlantic White Cedar bog, it was overshadowed and struggling for life. To find two new healthy colonies gives us hope that as our Atlantic White Cedar bog returns to a resilient equilibrium, we will see the return of plant species we thought were long gone from Gravatt's environment. Our bog is classified as a hillside seepage bog, where waters travel underground downhill until they hit a hard clay layer and percolate up through the soil. This seepage absorbs many of the nutrients and minerals from the surrounding area and balances the acidity and nutrient content of the brackish waters that support and give life to plant communities. As we continue to learn and conduct field studies, we are confident that new discoveries are sure to be found. There is always something new to learn and discover at our old and sacred home under the pines.

[MORE ABOUT UP OUTDOORS](#)



summer camp

A traditional, co-ed, overnight camp



In 2024 Camp Gravatt celebrated the 75th anniversary of providing “A Place To Run Home To” for countless campers each summer. Our staff, as they do every year, created a positive and meaningful environment that nurtured each camper’s spirit while empowering

them to practice independence, gain confidence, and create lasting relationships. As is the case each summer, the Mac Westmoreland Scholarship Fund ensured that every camper was able to attend camp without cost acting as a barrier. New cabins were built, old traditions were upheld, and our “Everlasting Circle of Friends” continued to grow. New elements on our challenge course safely and lovingly pushed campers outside of their comfort zones, a new blob was purchased to ensure maximum fun at the waterfront, and we danced to “Stairway to Heaven” on our newly-donated sound system.

Despite all the new physical additions to camp in 2024, our staff challenged themselves to create and provide the same meaningful, spiritual, and welcoming community that has been the definitive hallmark of Camp Gravatt for 75 years.

We continue to be thankful for and proud of our staff, campers, and supporters who help make a difference in the lives of every camper who calls this place home summer after summer.



impact

1,417
campers



20+
volunteers



45
permanent
staff



60
junior staff
volunteers



8
nurses



8
chaplains



Want to help us make an impact?

View our Amazon Gravatt Supplies Wishlist by clicking below.

[PURCHASE SUPPLIES](#)



Gravatt Camp & Conference Center

\$32,741K
Awarded!



summer camp 2024



conference

A year-round retreat center for meetings, lodging, community building, worship, recreation, relaxation, and dining



Gravatt Camp and Conference Center prioritizes the individual needs of each guest and group. In 2024, nearly 2,500 guests enjoyed our serene natural surroundings, versatile facilities, indoor and outdoor spaces while meeting, worshiping, engaging in recreation, relaxing, and dining.

At Gravatt, hospitality is our cornerstone. We pride ourselves on creating the most comfortable guest experience including exceptional food service, where each meal is carefully prepared to satisfy your palate. Our dedicated team ensures that every dietary need is not just met — but exceeded.



conference service

71

number of groups served

2,425

number of guests

9,426

total meals served

Meals by group:

SCHOOLS **24%**

RELIGIOUS **44%**

EPISCOPAL **23%**

PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS **37%**



events

75th Anniversary and events that shape our legacy



For 75 years, lives have been changed at Gravatt.

"The amazing thing that Jesus hopes for us is not just that we have peace for

ourselves, but that we have the kind of peace that changes the room we are in." - Bishop Daniel Richards

The peace people find at Gravatt changes the room - or field - or cabin - or tent and ultimately changes lives.

Under those tall pine trees, children and adults have found joy and unconditional love, many have found faith and renewal, others have worked through recovery, and organizations have built their teams and empowered individuals. We as a community have benefited from a gift of land in 1949.

In 2024 we celebrated all those lives touched and all that Gravatt is. We celebrated a little extra at each Gravatt event. The first Women Need Women, a retreat for all women, was hosted in January bringing women of all ages and stages together to celebrate friendship among women. Several Gravatt Service Sundays

were held allowing volunteers to celebrate Gravatt by serving the land and facilities. Under the Tent was truly under a tent in 2024. A large crowd celebrated Gravatt by their presence, laughter, and words fondly remembering Gravatt's history. Alumni Weekend and the Gravatt Fishing Tournament brought more people to this special place in the woods. The Christmas Retreat for Military Families closed the year serving those who serve our country. Throughout 2024, Gravatt's 75th Anniversary was celebrated each Monday on our social media platforms with Monday Memories.

Every week highlighted a little piece of Gravatt - history, a person, a quote, a memory from young and old - all part of this beautiful story at this place in the woods that has found a place in so many hearts.



Alumni Weekend ^



Under the Tent 2024 ^



impact of giving

Gravatt's 75th anniversary was a cornerstone for reconnecting and engaging with people who have been touched by Gravatt Camp and Conference Center's ministry over the past several decades. We give thanks to our donors, grantors, sponsors, and partners.

Your support helps Gravatt strengthen our programs, invest in the future, and make a lasting impact on campers and guests.

Gravatt's 75th anniversary was bookended with two key projects that would not have been possible without donor and partner support. The first half of the year was marked by hours of design, planning and material purchasing for the addition of two camp cabins. In the early spring, the Advent Mission Team arrived at Gravatt with an ambitious schedule to follow. With more than a week's worth of volunteer labor from the Advent Mission Team on two camp cabins, their partnership saved Gravatt more than \$29,000 in construction costs, the remaining project cost was underwritten with financial support from a few select donors totaling nearly \$30,000. Together with the Advent Mission Team and donors, the construction of the two cabins were fully funded.

Westmoreland Director's Cabin

In the fall of 2024, Gravatt launched a complete renovation of the camp director's cabin. With assistance from two long-time Gravatt supporters, Kate Gellatly and David Melnyk, whose association began as campers, and working in tandem with staff, connections were made far and wide to people and families with current and past Gravatt ties. The last quarter of the year yielded a robust start to raising \$20,000 of the \$60,000 fundraising goal, which culminated in the project's completion in March of 2025.



Check presentation from the Advent Mission Team for two new camp cabins ^



2024 Military Retreat

Gravatt is thankful for the many generous gifts that contributed significantly to the success of Gravatt's 75th year and our ability to provide scholarships to 6% of last summer's campers, fund Gravatt's Military Family Christmas Retreat for more than 80 family members at no cost, expand our programs and guest experiences, and make Gravatt a welcoming home to so many people each year. It is with your generosity that Gravatt continues to be a place of connections, rejuvenation, and spiritual growth for future generations.

Gravatt takes responsibility for being a good financial steward of your gifts. As part of the stewardship process, Gravatt is expanding our commitment to establishing a comprehensive strategy to support organizational long-term financial stability. We invite you to visit our Gravatt planned giving landing page to learn about new development policies, resources, and exciting announcements to support and invest in Gravatt's long-term financial growth and opportunities for building a legacy.



gravatt giving

*With so many ways to give,
join Gravatt in making a difference.*

Your financial generosity is critical to the continued success of Gravatt Camp and Conference Center's ongoing operation and fulfillment of our mission.

Gravatt Camp and Conference Center is a self-sustaining non-profit and is independent of the Episcopal Diocese of Upper South Carolina.

Types of Support

Annual Fund

Supports the general operations of Gravatt throughout the year. Gravatt Camp and Conference Center operates year-round with staff providing lodging, meals, programs and other services for conference guests and day groups. Gravatt Camp and Conference Center operates on nearly 300 acres and provides services to more than 4,000 guests visiting our properties annually. Operating costs include staffing, scheduled routine maintenance of conference and camp facilities, unexpected major repairs, managing aging infrastructure, and capital improvements. Your gift helps to offset these expenses and maximize our operating budget.

Mac Westmoreland Scholarship Fund

With the generosity of donors and grant support, scholarships are available annually for campers with demonstrated financial need. Camp Gravatt believes a faith-based camp is an experience that should be readily available for all children and youth. Families are encouraged to seek additional support from the home congregation and other sources to supplement the Mac Westmoreland Scholarship funding.

Christmas Retreat for Military Families

Each year Gravatt hosts a weekend full of fun during the Christmas Military Retreat for military families. The Retreat is provided at NO COST for families to enjoy a weekend of camp activities, fellowship, homemade meals, and Christmas festivities. Made possible through sponsorships, grant and donor funding, the Gravatt Christmas Retreat serves approximately 120 family members annually.

Under the Tent

Under the Tent is Gravatt's premier annual fundraising event which includes live music, craft cocktails and mocktails, beer, and wine and an elegant al fresco meal under the

stars at Gravatt. Guests enjoy an extensive selection of desserts prepared by local bakers, the Gravatt Artisan Market, optional overnight options, and a late night "Porch Party,". It's an evening you do not want to miss.

Proceeds primarily support the Westmoreland Scholarship Fund with the goal of bringing the opportunity of camp to as many children as possible and it also supports special projects to improve the camper / guest experience at Gravatt.

Legacy Giving

A planned or legacy gift can be one of the most powerful ways to support Gravatt. This is a major gift that can be made in a variety of ways and donated during a donor's lifetime or upon death. Visit us online to learn about all the ways to give.

A planned gift to Gravatt would ensure the ministries you love continue for future generations, and depending on the terms of the gift, in some situations, the impact of your gift will continue in perpetuity.





NEW! The Venerable Frederick Colclough Byrd Endowment Fund

With a generous seed donation from The Venerable Frederick Colclough Byrd, Gravatt established the first ever endowment fund to support capital repairs, special projects, and property acquisition for Gravatt Camp and Conference Center.



Creating a Lasting Legacy

"I am who I am because of my loving family and the nurturing community of Gravatt, where my journey began as a camper in 1953. It was there, surrounded by faith-filled mentors and holy ground, that I first felt God's call. One life-shaping moment came at 16, talking ministry with Bishop Cole by

Lake Henry—a seed planted that led to priesthood."



Let me share this reflection from one of my summers as camp director:

"In the cool of the evening when the lights are out, the campers are tired and quiet, the campfire is but a pile of glowing embers, a majestic blanket of stars is brightly visible with an occasional shooting star, the faithful whippoorwills and frogs begin their serenade, and a cool breeze drifts across Lake Sylvia, I would sit quietly at the campfire circle and thank Almighty God that we have our beloved Gravatt where good and beautiful things happen for our children and wonderful relationships and memories will stay with them forever."

The Venerable Frederick C. Byrd
Archdeacon Emeritus, Episcopal Diocese of Upper South Carolina

ways to give



Make a one-time or recurring gift via Gravatt's secure online donation platform



Mail a donation to Gravatt with name, contact information and the fund you wish to support.



You can support Gravatt with a donation of securities. If you have an IRA and are over the age of 70.5, consider donating a portion of the mandatory distribution.



Make an honorarium or memory gift to recognize someone. Gifts of any amount may be designated in "honor" or "memory" of someone. Include details in your online donation or mailed gift. Gravatt will notify the honoree or next of kin of your special gift.



Matching Gift Program, many companies offer matching gifts to encourage employees and retirees to make charitable donations and often match dollar for dollar. Check with your human resources department for eligibility.

Do you have questions about giving or ideas about leaving a legacy to Gravatt? Contact Wendi Spratt, Development Director at wendi@campgravatt.org.

SUPPORT GRAVATT





GRAVATT CAMP & CONFERENCE CENTER

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