

WKYC Partner Profile: Campaign Strengthened by Gift from Gunn Family

For more than 60 years, Western KY Youth Camp has lived out its mission of *building strong Christians* in partnership with area churches and their families. Together we've maintained a firm commitment to creating meaningful faith-forming experiences for our campers that lead to lives forever changed by the power of the Gospel.

WKYC is delighted to recognize one such partnership by highlighting a family whose generosity will continue to *build strong Christians* for years to come: the Gunn family.

Throughout WKYC's history, donors have played a pivotal role in the lives of our campers, and our camp would not be where it is today without the foresight and generosity of families like Chris and Melissa Gunn.

The Gunn family has strong roots in the region. Chris – a graduate of Lipscomb University, and Melissa, a graduate of both Lipscomb University and Murray State University - returned from college to grow their family back in their hometown of Benton, KY. The couple models the importance of being rooted in and investing in your community, as Chris serves as President of insurance agency Morgan, Trevathan, & Gunn Inc., and Melissa is a retired gymnastics and cheerleading coach. They are active members of the Benton church of Christ and have three children: Collin, a recent Lipscomb University graduate in accounting, Carmen, a freshman who plays soccer at Harding University, and Candice a 4th grader who loves soccer and music.

Over the years and despite their busy schedules, their family has made it a point to attend WKYC. As Melissa has described their experience, "Our children love to go!" Making a gift to the *Stronger Together Campaign* in support of the new cabin construction project was a way for them to give back to an organization that has helped foster the spiritual development of their children.

When asked what part of WKYC's work and mission interests the family the most, Melissa said "Teaching the Bible to the kids... and providing them the opportunity to grow closer to Christ and to each other." Partnerships with the Gunn family and others allow WKYC and its donors the opportunity to answer Jesus' call to action in Matthew 19:14, when Christ says, "...Let the little children come to Me, and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven."

Their support of WKYC is a way to pay it forward to the next generation, so that other children will have the chance to form friendships with campers and staff who are passionate about Christ, and who will help them on their spiritual journeys.

In 2018, WKYC launched the *Stronger Together Campaign*, with Phase I focused on offering new, modern housing to its campers and staff. For the first time in 60 years, campers will be able to enjoy air conditioning and heat, as well as bathrooms and showers in the cabins. The new cabins will expand camp's capacity for each session, allowing WKYC to host even more campers each summer.

To learn more about WKYC and ways to support its mission, visit www.wkyc.org/stronger-together.