

Western Kentucky Youth Camp Introduces New Summer Session

(March 10, 2020) MARION, Ky. – Wonderfully Made Weekend is a weekend summer session specifically for individuals with special needs.

WKYC is expanding its mission of *building strong Christians* in a powerful way: for the first time, individuals with special needs will have a weekend dedicated entirely to their spiritual growth.

Officially known as "Wonderfully Made Weekend," this session is designed to bring these campers into a close encounter with Christ through worship, devotionals, and Bible classes that are tailored to their needs as students.

Wonderfully Made Weekend was born out of a deep passion for the special needs community held by this weekend's director, Noah Steele. "Putting my love for individuals with special needs into words doesn't do it justice. Their genuine love and joy are contagious and brings out the best in people. Working with these people has forever impacted my life in ways they'll never know. Having the opportunity to grow with them in our relationship with Christ will be an incredible blessing," he said.

The goal of Wonderfully Made Weekend is to extend the gospel to individuals with special needs in an environment that is safe and loving, and one that reflects the love of Christ.

"The Board of Directors is thrilled to offer this program to the community," remarked Board President Tim Teel. "We have the best, most dedicated staff with a love for Jesus and for others. This will be a wonderful way to encounter Christ."

While opportunities to minister to the physical needs of individuals with special needs exist in the region, Steele discovered that the closest program that offered a spiritual component to their development was in Texas. Recognizing the tremendous need for this ministry, Steele partnered with Mallory Warmack to develop a weekend program that teaches, edifies, and encourages its participants.

"I've always had an incredible passion for foreign missions. This is a mission field foreign to 99% of the Christian population. A perfect place for God to use me," noted Warmack. As Director of Public Relations for New Pathways for Children, she advocates for at-risk children and remains dedicated to supporting underserved populations.

Steele brings a wealth of experience to the directorship. A biology degree graduate from Murray State University, he has served as a basketball, track and field, and bowling coach for the Marshall Co. Special Olympics for the last three years. A unified golf partner, Steele holds classes once a week at Benton Snap Fitness designed to promote healthy lifestyles and serve as a social opportunity for special needs participants. Recently, Steele finished his training to become a Community Living Support/Respite Provider for an individual with special needs.

Wonderfully Made Weekend will take place July 24-26. Registration for this weekend and the other eight summer sessions is now open at www.wkyc.org.