

Lutherhaven receives millionth dollar from MJ Murdock Charitable Trust

Lauren Gust/Lutherhave Ministries

This year Lutherhaven Ministries of Coeur d'Alene, Idaho was one of four Bible camps in the Northwest named a "Camp that Changes the World" by Chicago's Center for Faith and Service.

Hand-in-hand with that honor, the seventy year-old Christian camp and retreat ministry on Lake Coeur d'Alene was just awarded a \$151,000 grant by the MJ Murdock Charitable Trust to complete the camp's Pinecrest Lodge Retreat Center remodel.

The Murdock grant represents the millionth dollar the camp has received from the Vancouver, Washington foundation in the past twelve years.

Lutherhaven Ministries operates Camp Lutherhaven, south of Coeur d'Alene, and Shoshone Mountain Retreat, a former US Forest Service work center on the North Fork of the Coeur d'Alene River, purchased by Lutherhaven from the US government in 2009.

Lutherhaven runs summer Bible camps and servant-leader programs for kids and families and year-round retreats for all ages. The facility is also open for outside rental groups conducting their own programs.

Lutherhaven's \$650,000 Retreat Center remodel flips the camp's original building into a year-round adult and family-friendly facility with seventeen flexible motel-like retreat rooms, private bathrooms, handicap accessibility and lakefront meeting space.

"The project allows Lutherhaven to serve a wider range of campers and guests," says Executive Director Bob Baker, "allowing for the changing needs of 'campers' of every age."

"Lutherhaven serves more than 9,000 kids, teens, adults and families each year, all year long," Baker adds, "and in the 45 years since its last remodel," he said, "camp's old Retreat Center was just plain worn out."

The three-level project, designed by Forte Architecture of Coeur d'Alene, returns the camp's Pinecrest Lodge to its place as Lutherhaven's central gathering and lodging place, says Baker.

The MJ Murdock Charitable Trust has been a long supporter of Lutherhaven Ministries. The foundation was created by the estate of the late Jack Murdock, co-founder of Tektronix, Inc. in Beaverton, Oregon. Since its establishment in 1975, with a bequest of about \$90 million, the Trust has focused its grants making efforts primarily in five states of the Pacific Northwest, and in the last 40 years has distributed nearly \$800 million through over 5,600 grants.

The Murdock Trust's current assets are valued at about \$1 billion.

"We're equally thrilled and humbled by the foundation's trust, support and advocacy for Lutherhaven," says Baker. "The Murdock Trust's backing encourages us to keep on in our

mission and vision,” he adds, “getting more and more campers of every age outdoors into the natural beauty of our region, building life-changing relationships among them, and nurturing Christian faith formation.”

The camp’s Pinecrest Lodge is being finished in three phases, slated for final completion by spring, 2017. Much of the work is being completed by a cadre of volunteers overseen by camp staff.

“As a ‘Camp that Changes the World,’” says Baker, “Lutherhaven Ministries was recognized for its national role in leadership development and faith formation.”

“Thanks to our Murdock friends for affirming that!” he says.

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