



High Braes Refuge, Inc.

196 Waterbury Road

Redfield, NY 13437

To The Glory of God

Phone: 315-599-7362

Fax: 315-599-4005

Email: contactus@highbraes.com

www.highbraes.org

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High Braes Refuge Highlights

To the Glory of God

Fall 2016

Summer Camp 2016

Jeff Andrews

The Summer day camp at the Braes is more than just an event we have each year, it's a ministry with a purpose. We want these campers to find a relationship with Jesus Christ and help them in the process of growing into that faith.

We see new campers each year and we are always pleased to meet them. But we also enjoy seeing many of the same campers coming back year after year. Many of these campers will look back later in life and find roots of their faith at the Braes.

This ministry is aided each

year by the hard work and loving support of our mission team. Fairview Baptist Church from Columbus Mississippi returned again this year and did an amazing job as always. Their ministry here each summer is more than just a mission trip, they truly love our campers and want to see them grow. Seeds are planted and each year they work to water and cultivate them so growth can happen.

God is using the Braes in a special way through this summer ministry.

In 2016 we continued our Student Volunteer Program. These mid-



dle school aged students came up through our day camp ministry and are now returning to help the team with the many tasks that go into a successful day camp. 5 students returned

this year. It is great to be able to maintain a relationship with these students after they have graduated from the day camp program.

I have already been informed that the team from Mississippi are planning to return next summer. This is very exciting news for all of us and I'm sure the campers will agree. I want to give a special thank you to that team and to the others that helped throughout the week to make this a very successful ministry.

Offer yourself to God and you never know how He will use you. On the very first day of camp we had a camper come through registration and as soon as he was with the staff he asked them about accepting Jesus into his heart. Seeds had been planted the year before and he couldn't wait to arrive at camp where he knew there would be people who could help. When I was told this story I asked the team if that made the long trip from Mississippi worth while. They all agreed.

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Prayer Needs of the Ministry

- That God would bring groups to the Braes that need to be here. We don't want to simply fill weekends, we want to be a facility used by God to meet the needs of believers.
- That God would provide the help needed to get ready for winter and for the help needed throughout the winter.
- Pray for the Board of directors as we seek direction and wisdom on a second couple.
- Pray for the financial needs of the ministry.
- Pray for the Braes staff and their families.

Winter Retreats 2016

There are still some weekends available for the upcoming winter retreat season. If you are planning a winter retreat, please consider the Braes as your place to come.

Volunteer Help Needed

Volunteer help has been the element that has made it possible for this ministry to continue all these years. Without it we would simply not be here.

The fall always brings with it a large list of things that need to be done. But this fall seems to have a longer list than any year I can remember.



In the summer I was notified that the insurance on our Chapel roof was cancelled due to the age. I got the word out and God provided a church that generously donated the funds needed for the materials. Thank you LORD. However, we need to find help to get the work done. It would be best to find someone who has some knowledge of

roofing who could help lead.

Other fall work includes the need to cut, split and stack firewood. We need to put about 45 face cord in the wood shed by winter. We have



a pile of logs near the shed ready to go but we need a couple work crews to help.

Burning wood in the Manor House and Orchard Hill saves the Braes thousands of dollars each year. This wood is also used to fill the wood shed in the campground.

There are other fall projects that need to be done as well including cleaning up leaves which can be done by groups or individuals.

If you or a group would like to help with any of the above projects, please contact us at the Braes. Your help is appreciated.

roofing who could help lead.

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Highlights

Annual Banquet



We want to take this opportunity to thank all of you that attended and/or gave during the 2016 Annual Banquet. In total we raised \$13,834. The banquet was held at the Braes once again and we had our largest crowd yet with about 230 in attendance. We had to add a third tent this year and it was full.

This has become a major event for the Braes each year and the consensus is that we need to continue to have it at the Braes. Toni did an amazing job with the dinner as always. The meal moved quickly and no one went home hungry.

Sherry Anne provided music and it was also amazing. Her mom provided a powerful testimony which touched hearts.

We want to thank the many people who were involved in the process of making this large event come together. Dozens of volunteers in all worked to accomplish all the tasks needed to make this a success. Thank you again for all your hard work.

Andrews Support

Toni and I want to take this opportunity to thank all of you that responded to our August letter regarding our support. We came to you with a genuine need as it has become more difficult to maintain this support. You gave generously and we are very grateful and encouraged. During the last several years that we have been raising support

we have always been amazed at how much our base of Braes supporters have stepped up to help provide the need. We know that God is blessing us through you. We feel His love every time we receive your gifts. In this 4 ½ year journey of raising support you have been a constant reminder of Gods goodness to us. There is still a need at this time and we continue to ask that you would pray that God would provide all the support that is needed by the end of the fiscal year. Thank you again for your faithfulness to us and to the Braes.



Changing Times

Help Needed

It is hard to believe that Toni and I have been here at the Braes for almost fourteen years. When we arrived we were younger and more physically able to do all the work that needed to be done in a small ministry like the Braes.

However, as the years have gone by we have realized that this 24/7, hard working life style is taking it's toll. No matter how hard we work, the needs of this ministry are getting ahead of us while our bodies

are getting to the point where we need to slow down a little. This has been a labor of love but it is also something that needs to change in the long term plans of this ministry.

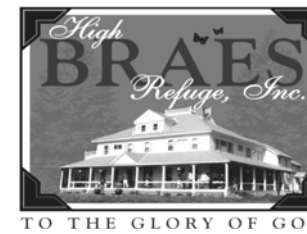
At this point we recognize the need to add some additional help to the day to day process of running the Braes. We would like to add a couple to our staff who will eventually take over some of the responsibilities of the ministry. They would live at the Braes and, at first, work part time helping with all the work that needs to be done.

However, we have an unusual situation. Financially, we have almost nothing we can offer. It has been hard enough to raise the funds needed for our support. This couple will need to come with some support in place, at least enough to cover their part time involvement in the ministry.

This may seem impossible....but we serve the God of the impossible. As a board we have been seeking wisdom as to how we might deal with this problem. We feel another couple answers the problem of the immediate need as well as the long term need as Toni and I slow down.

At this time, we both feel content to remain at the Braes in a full time capacity. However, some day, maybe years down the road, the torch will need to be passed. Taking time to gradually mentor another couple into this life seems like the right thing to do and will make the eventual change more seamless.

Please be in prayer about this need. If you are a couple that has felt called to ministry like this or you know a couple that might be interested, please feel free to contact me and I will answer any questions you might have. Thank you for your prayers.



196 Waterbury Road
tus@highbraes.com
Redfield, NY 13437
(315) 599-7362

Email: contac-

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Yes, I would like to help support High Braes Refuge.

Please designate my monthly financial gift of \$ _____ ; or my one time gift of \$ _____

toward the following: General Fund \$ _____ Andrews Support \$ _____

Summer Camp \$ _____ Improvement Fund \$ _____

I would like to volunteer my time at the Braes, please notify me of opportunities:

Email Address: _____

Bridge Repairs

There always seems to be a list of needed improvements and repairs projects that need to be done at the Braes. And then, every so often, something just pops up that you never expected. This was one of those years when we discovered in late Winter that an ice jam had badly damaged our bridge up at the Lower Falls.



This bridge is important to our campers and retreat guests as it is the only way to safely get people down to the falls. So...we changed some priorities and got to work. I'm happy to say it is all back together and being used again. A special thank you to our SOWER volunteers who were instrumental in getting this project completed.

Perfect Faithfulness

Yahweh, You are my God; I will exalt You. I will praise Your name, for You have accomplished wonders, plans formed long ago, with perfect faithfulness. Isiah 25:1

We live in a world that seems to be coming unglued. The nations have become restless. Even in our own country the divide is growing stronger and more hostile. There is more uncertainty than any time I can remember.

We can say that God is on the throne, and He is, but we don't see it playing out in front of us. The Psalmist sometimes refers to God as being far away. If we are honest, that's the way it feels at times.

But there is nothing that surprises God. There has never been a point where He said, "I never saw that coming." His plans were made long ago, before the earth was ever formed, and nothing is off schedule. Nothing is out of place. It is all playing out just the way He knew it would.

As Christians, we tend to see life through the lens of our own circumstances. Unfortunately, we've leaned this from the culture around us. It's hard to see ourselves in God's big picture. We feel lost in that. But God hasn't lost anyone, especially you. He knows right where you are. Even in the midst of all the worldly changes occurring everyday, He sees you and carries out those plans for your life with "perfect faithfulness."

I would encourage you to look for where your life fits into the big picture. The presence of God is most often found when living out the purpose of God. And relax in knowing this, even when we loose track of Him, He never loses track of us. In fact, in those moments where He seems far away, He is probably closer than ever.