



**ANNUAL REPORT 2023**

## FROM THE DIRECTOR



The Book of Proverbs states that “...hope fulfilled is a tree of life.” (Prov 13:12) As I reflect back on 2023, everything we had hoped for was fulfilled through our summer camps and at the beginning of the school year with 10 boys and girls living full-time on campus. The successes and accomplishments we saw our kids have in 2023—academically, socially, emotionally, and spiritually—were so encouraging!

The four summer camps we had in 2023, each of which were exclusively for disadvantaged children, provided children ages 6-13 with amazing experiences including challenge course activities, an obstacle course, face-painting, and devotional times. Hearing the kids sing the Fruit of the Spirit song (Galatians 5:22) was such a joy to our ears! The Lord once again allowed the summer camps to be used as a bridge to full-time enrollment at New Song, with 14 boys and girls wanting to enroll.

We were also very glad to see the children who lived on campus full-time in 2023 flourish. The experiences and opportunities they had added a firmness to their life’s foundation. I praise God for His care and provision, and I am sincerely thankful for everyone who volunteered, prayed, and financially supported the ministry. By the grace of God and with your help, New Song is continuing to provide the personalized, transformative care children need in order to thrive!

Bob Schloss  
Founder/Executive Director



## MISSION STATEMENT

New Song Mission provides transformational growth opportunities for vulnerable children through holistic, compassionate care and education on a scenic 100-acre campus by the grace of God.

## WHO WE ARE

New Song provides highly personalized, transformative care and education to vulnerable boys and girls from central and southern Indiana. Through this individualized care and education, by the grace of God, the desires of children change, hope emerges, and new possibilities develop for their futures. The Lord uses New Song to equip children foundationally so they can fulfill the wonderful plans He has for their lives. For the children who live with us and experience the love, care and discipleship we provide, New Song is the beginning of generational, transformational change.

## WHO WE SERVE

Poverty, unstable housing, failure in school, and adverse childhood experiences mark the lives of the children we care for and educate. We are so thankful for their parents—who want better lives for their children than they can currently provide—most of whom are single-parent moms who are struggling in life.

## WHAT WE PROVIDE

In their New Song homes, kids see a new way of life and develop new desires and interests, and through the educational component of our ministry, the New Song Leadership Academy, our students taste academic success like they never have before. Most importantly in both our school and homes, boys and girls learn about the amazing love of Jesus that surpasses all understanding.

**“I’m planning on staying here until I graduate!” (Tay, age 11)**

## JAYLEN, AGE 10



### **“I would have never known about New Song if I didn’t go through the hard things.”**

Carmen was struggling with the demands of a single-parent mom raising three children. She had just taken a new job with a lot of potential, but making ends meet was very difficult due to high rent prices and rising food costs. And the school system her kids were in was changing. “What was once wrong was now being taught as ‘right,’” shared Carmen. She was convinced: things had to change for her kids.

“I learned about New Song through Sweetwater (a ministry of Family Hope of Central Indiana),” stated Carmen. “Once my son Jaylen experienced a summer camp there and wanted to enroll on their campus, I knew God was in it.”

Carmen made the call to enroll Jaylen at New Song. Her son came to the ministry as a timid young boy, struggling to connect with others and with God. But after three years on campus, he is now a very successful student (making A’s and B’s), desires to walk with the Lord, and has noticeably grown in his compassion for others.

“He’s learned so much there!” Carmen said joyfully. “And he’s been able to just be a kid, without all of the confusion. And the greatest thing is that Jaylen came to know Jesus there on his own.”

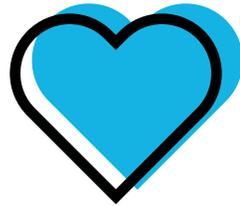
Jaylen is now able to express his thoughts and feelings much better to his mom and be vulnerable with her. He is finding his voice. We are so proud of Carmen and Jaylen for choosing our ministry and we thank God for the chance to help them both.

## ASK THE CHILDREN

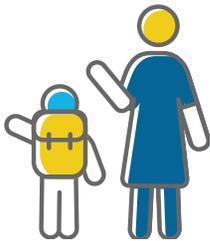
Our full-time students were surveyed with 20 questions about life at New Song and provided some very encouraging feedback, including:



**100%** of the children reported a feeling of safety and security



**100%** of the children reported feeling loved by the adults at New Song Mission



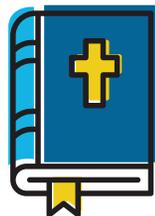
**96%** of the children reported that they felt well cared for



**92%** of the children reported feeling more confident in their school work



**96%** of the children told us that they are learning a lot about God's love for them



**92%** of the children reported that they are learning a lot about living by God's word



## 4,940 HOURS

of high quality classroom instruction with trained teachers and tutors. This includes electives in Spanish, Bible, Phys Ed, Life Skills, and Art.

## 90 NEW LIFE EXPERIENCES

In 2023 our students had about 90 new life experiences at New Song, some of which included pottery making, holiday home decorating, baking, attending Colts and Pacers games, attending the Mount Comfort Air Show, touring an auto repair shop, "Girls' Spa Night," Kelsay Farms Fall Festival outing, and much more!



## 160 HOURS

of biblical discipleship with adult staff members.

# SUMMER ADVENTURE CAMPS 2023

In 2023, 41 campers attended our 3-5 day overnight camps, called the New Song Summer Adventure Camps.

The camps are designed to have smaller numbers, only 12-15 kids attending each of the four camps, so that they can get the one-on-one attention they all need and many seldom receive.

“I remember watching 12 kids sitting on a tarp in the dark, wrapped up in blankets, eating popcorn, and watching the movie Bolt,” shared Julie Hart, New Song’s Student Life Associate, “and I thought, ‘what an amazing experience these kids are having.’”

The campers, K-8 graders from vulnerable backgrounds, usually come to camp quiet and afraid. By the end of the first day their concerns are washed away and their spirited personalities light up our Brown County campus!

Some of our 2023 campers ended up enrolling full-time at New Song, where we help them navigate life. We are so thankful God prompted us to begin the summer camps back in 2020, and it has been a tremendous blessing to have now hosted more than 100 campers!



## WE LOVE OUR SUPPORTERS!



Now in their 70's, Jim and Shirley Eversole remember growing up in a simpler time. "We had a good education interspersed with faith," shared Jim. "The pledge and the Lord's prayer were in public schools. Kids today are missing out on that."

"Childhood is a very formative time of a child's life. I always remember

with amazement the things I learned in childhood. I have such wonderful memories! Shirley and I support New Song to give the kids some of what we had growing up."

"Jim's heart has always been committed to helping others, having heard as a child his Mother's story," stated Shirley. "His Mother and three of her siblings lived in and were schooled at a Masonic Home in Kentucky during the Depression years due to his grandmother being widowed and unable to support her family. The Masonic Home was a gift from God, as is New Song. God bless New Song Mission!"

"Shirley and I used to go to a small Baptist church together growing up in the country near Deputy, Indiana," said Jim. "I was baptized in a creek at 8 or 9 years old. As I came up out of the water, I can still remember seeing what appeared to be golden sunshine. From then we found solace and peace in knowing the Lord."

Jim and Shirley want the children of New Song to have the same solace and peace. "That's why," Jim exclaimed, "we've got to keep praying and supporting you!"

## 2023 FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT



### Individuals

\$365,239.26

### Churches

\$32,721.07

### Foundations

\$15,100.00

### Businesses and Organizations

\$8,025



### Programs

\$287,000

### Admin

\$88,000

### Marketing

\$35,000

**THANK YOU** to all the donors who supported New Song in 2023 through gifts and volunteering. Because of your generosity and sacrifices, New Song has been able to continue caring for, educating, and guiding boys and girls to help them grow and thrive in all areas of their lives—socially, emotionally, spiritually, physically, and academically. PRAISE GOD!

# A YEAR OF AFFIRMATION



**David Benshoof,  
Board President**

When I joined the board nearly five years ago New Song was a solid ministry, but needed to grow and refine how we work with kids. Since that time, by God's grace, we found a way to find boys and girls in need by

creating summer camps, and we strengthened the programming side of the ministry.

In my view 2023 was a "year of affirmation" for New Song, as the success of our programs and operations were validated. That validation came in the fruit we saw in the lives of the children, including five children who accepted Jesus as their Savior.

Last year we also made the subtle but profound realization that what we are foundationally doing with children is helping them learn a new way of life. Boys and girls are seeing and experiencing what it means to live in a home that's more functional, one where the relationships are healthier. They are learning what it feels like to be successful in school.

They are receiving new experiences that are opening up a whole new world and new possibilities to them!

We praise God for the opportunity to help change children's lives at New Song, and on behalf of our whole board I thank you, our supporters, for making it all possible. As outlined below, we hope to expand the ministry further, and we humbly ask for you to join us, for the sake of vulnerable boys and girls who need a new vision for their lives.

## HELP US EXPAND!

Please help us expand New Song's impact and enhance the high quality of care we provide - your support matters now more than ever. Our vision includes the items below as we look forward to 2024 and 2025. But we will need a tremendous outpouring of prayers, volunteering, and financial support.

- Building a fourth home that will be a new temporary school and administrative building
- Having three houseparent couples and 15-18 children living on campus
- Two full-time teachers teaching in our classrooms
- Hosting 60+ campers each summer (30% growth)
- Adding campus amenities such as challenge course implements, a jumping platform and fishing deck at the pond, and outdoor music equipment in the park

We hope you will join us to grow the vibrant community we have at New Song, to the glory of God!



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