



Illinois Campers On Mission

September 2026

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President's letter———

September already! We have a few big maple trees that leafed out early and now starting to show colors of yellow and red so fall will be coming soon!

We are headed to SICC (Southern Illinois Christian Camp) for our last big work project of the year. I have not received a complete work list yet but will send it out when it comes. Don't forget another highlight of September is Fall Fest at the Baptist Children's Home at Carmi. We have several members who will be there to help with the COM booth that day and also for set up the day before. Thanks to all of you for the hard work or preparing and manning the booth at the festival. IL Com has also donated 2 quilts for the quilt auction this year.

As you have received the emails about all of the illnesses, deaths and prayer requests in our COM family lately, please remember to lift them up. We need each other and that is what COM does so well—supports one another.

Please make sure that the end of year fall rally is on your calendars. We want to end our year strong and we have a lot of business and plans to discuss as well as office elections.. Fred



COM Officers

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Food Supervisor— Francie Lindeman, 618-713-2402

Historian - Irma Burnett, 309-253-8557

National Coordinators—Don & Jan Kragness, campersonmission72@gmail.com

National website: campersonmission.org

Tentative 2026—2027 schedule

September 20 – 25 - SICC, Makanda, IL

September 19 - Carmi Fall Fest

October 18 – 23 – Lake Sallateeska & Fall Rally

November 12 – 21- Passion Play, Eureka Springs, AR

Dec. 5 – COM Christmas luncheon, FBC Farina

Jan. 18 – 30, 2027 – Piney Woods, TX

March 15—27, 2027 (possible) —Passion Play, Eureka Springs, AR

June 15—17, 2027—National Rally, Amana, IA



Lifetime Achievement Award

Randy & Kay McClellan receiving their Lifetime Achievement Award for 2026 from President Fred Riley. Randy and Kay have been faithful workers in COM and DR and have blessed many people that they have served.

Thank you for your continued faithfulness, hard work, encouragement and prayers through the years serving with COM.



5 Sonny	McKenzie
5 Debbie	Odum
7 Don & Jan	Kragness
8 Jim & Chloe	Page
9 Kaleigh	Bonnell
10 Ken & Marty	Ramsey
12 Lois	Nattier
12 John	Lindeman
13 Leroy & Irma	Burnett
14 Emil & Lois	Nattier
28 Eve	Diercks



Potential work list for SICC projects.

This list has been formulated for the Labor Of Love weekend work days for the general public and will be revised after the weekend is done so we will have a better idea of what projects are left for us.

Labor Of Love 2026 Projects List

Build Bunk Beds

Tear Down Girls 4

Fix doors to Boys 3 & Boys 1

Window in Little 2

Tree line clearing, starting behind girls shower house working towards basketball court

Pressure Wash

Work on dirt, getting it below foundation on cabins

Outdoor locks for beach box and hydrant

Address leak(s) in boys shower

Repair ceiling in BB next to stairs

Clean out gutters

Touch up paint in BB

Clean out under stairs in BB

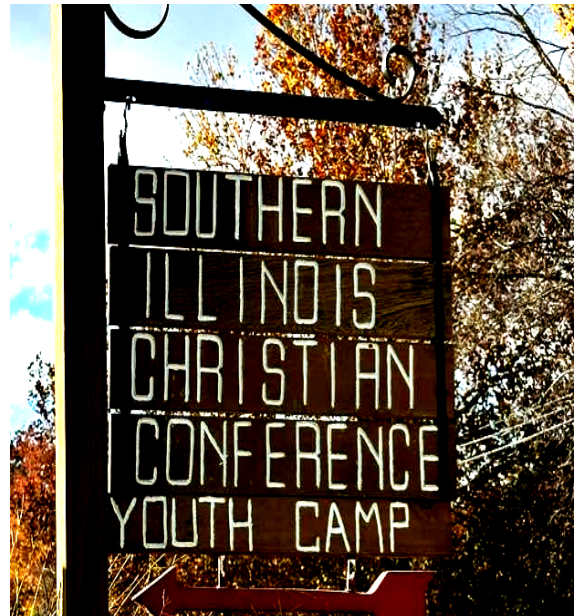
Finish cleaning out garage

Clean out gravel between G1 & GSH

Metal picnic table rehab work

Weed eating

Plan landscaping around hose bib and water shut off

**COM**

Finish painting in G1

Sanding/Painting G2 Sanding Painting B1 After walls complete, hang back up shelves in cabins (in attic now)

Straighten VB pole

Fix/Replace gutters on BB (Gutter guards)

Bring in window A/C units for the season?

FAITH FOCUS— Autumn's Palette

There are few things more beautiful than the changing of the leaves in Autumn.

Orange--the color of gratitude, is used for many Fall decorations. Pumpkins are a sure sign of Thanksgiving and gratitude.

Brown--the color of stability. Seasons come and seasons go, in nature and in life. Think of the many people who have had a season in your life, perhaps they are still here, or have been gone from your life. Name them and pray for them.

Yellow--the color of the stars. Too many in the Heavens to count, yet our Father has named them all. We may have forgotten some of the people from seasons in our lives, but God will never forget them.

Green--the color of forever. Not only does the Lord not forget who we ARE, but He doesn't remember who we WERE. That is a reason to praise him every day!

Gray--the color of rain. During the Fall and Winter months, the dismal gray of the sky can weaken the human spirit, it's easy to fall into depression. Although the gray skies, snow, and rain may not be what we are fond of, what a sad Spring it would be if the ground wasn't strengthened by that moisture.

Red--the color of redemption. Red seems to make its way into every season in some form or another. From pinks of Easter to Holly berries of Christmas, every season of the life of a child of God has been covered by the blood of Jesus. God's not impressed with our strength, for it's nothing in comparison to his, but he is impressed with the humility of a person who depends on him and has hope in his mercy.

Psalm 147--Praise the Lord because he is good. Sing praises to our God, for it is good and pleasant to praise him.

God of all seasons, we thank you for Autumn. We thank you for the touch of coolness in the air that gives us a new burst of energy, for the coloring of the trees that shows your creativity, for the falling leaves that reveal the strength of the branches. As you transform the Earth, transform us by your Spirit. Amen



Jim and Marilyn Diercks,
chaplains





Happy birthday
Sonny and John.
Both are turning 80
and still working hard
with COM.

Project photos
from the week. Just a
brief glimpse into the
hard work done at the
Baptist Children's
Home by the whole
team working at
many tasks to help
build the kingdom of
God.

Changing out lights, pouring
cement, sewing bears and bags
and celebrating special times
with friends. That is a week in
the life of the IL COM family.



Baptist Children's Home Work Project Report**August 16 – 21, 2026**

Fred & Paula Riley

Terry & Debbie Odum

John & Francie Lindeman

Randy & Sandy Tedford

Richard & Anita Evans

Sonny & Sondra McKenzie

Andy & Marilyn Thompson

Cathryn St. Dennis

Doug & Suzy Kingsbury

Paul & Debbie Shelton

Leroy & Irma Burnett

Jim & Marilyn Diercks & Family (7)

Dick & Karen Mowers

Roger & Vicki Walker

Jessica Bonnell & Family (7)

Randy & Kay McClellan

Gary & Karen Watson

Don & Jan Kragness

Bryan & Terri Keller

Guests: Mike Young, Mary Carter, residents and house parents from BCH, Jake Swift & family

Meet & greet with Mike Young, IBSA COM liaison

Tear out and rebuild deck at the ranch

Power wash the basketball court

Weed eat the grounds

Rake and remove weeds from the sewer pond

Add landscape mulch to area in front of the gym

Scrape & paint handrails on Staley

Clean, sort and organize food pantry area

Sewing repairs for boy residents

Sewed 30 gospel girls

Sewed approximately 120 As You Go Bears

Sewed 33 large drawstring bags plus 1 sling bag

Trimmed trees and cut where needed around the campus

Trimmed bushes and vegetation around campus

Hosted a carnival for youth at First Baptist Church, Carmi with 26 kids, 4 teen helpers,

11 parents and 33 COM members in attendance

Repaired bicycles for residents

Donated 2 quilts for the Carmi Fall Fest Quilt auction

Prepared 242 meals

Hosted the residents and house parents at a potluck

Poured concrete behind gym area for a storage shed

Remove and demolished the shed from behind the gym

Fixed siding on Ballard shed

Pressure washed sidewalk by the gym

Add light to the food pantry

Change furnace filters around campus

Clean apartment in Staley

Cleaned leaves from stairways at Hathaway



BCH Work Project report continued

Painted pole by gas pumps
Fixed cabinet drawer pull at the Ranch
Cleaned 3 apartments in Hathaway
Cleaned tables in gym
Reinstall soap dispenser in men's bathroom at the gym
Repaired plug in campground area
16 baby blankets were gathered for Angel's Cove
Convert lights to LED in gym, entry way and storage rooms
Painted handrails at Hathaway
Gave group devotions for 4 days
Clean rooms at Verhines
Cleaned gutters around campus
Added concrete at Verhines garage
Replaced thermostat in Verhines
Removed forms from concrete at back of gym





FBC Carmi Carnival for the kids. Calk walk, lollipop game, fishing game, sno-cones, cup stacking, ping pong ball toss, ring toss, Ducky game & more. So much fun was had by all!

