

# The Oaks Arrow



As good as it is to send kids back to the classroom, one still mourns a bit the passing of summer, those long, languishing days of youth. Until the school bell beckons students back to their studies.

Here at the Oaks we've enjoyed a campus filled with children throughout the Season and kept things quite busy with various activities and events, from summer school to church camps. Five of our youngest attended a



week at Youth Ranch nearby and had a great time filled with lots of physical challenges and Scripture study. Six of our high school kids were blessed with a week at Sky Ranch, high in the Colorado Rockies, their first time on a mountaintop, as well as the first time to be in a plane.

Both turned out to be very positive experiences. And Sky Ranch unforgettable! Thanks to the generosity of two of our donor families both of these inspiring camps were made possible. The spiritual centeredness of both is what we particularly celebrate here. A special thanks, as well, to

First St. Paul of Burlington, CO for providing a delicious feast and gracious fellowship on the return trip home from Sky Ranch, sending us on our way, rejoicing, belting out camp songs.



The two schools our kids now attend—one public & the other Christian—already have a number of weeks behind them, all of our students well into the Fall semester. In fact, the students at Cookson Hills already received their first term report cards—one of whom scoring nearly perfect grades!



This past Labor Day weekend three of our Cookson Hills girls, joined by one more of our girls from Creek Cottage, enjoyed a Synod youth event in Tulsa. Two of them—Ahbrianna & Lexus—came away fired up about the opportunity to serve as officers next year & help plan for the national youth gathering in Minneapolis next summer. The Oaks Indian Mission will be sending a number of our kids there, to both the Multi-cultural Youth Leadership Event (MYLE), as well as the national gathering following it.



The weekend after Labor Day, our boys were hosted by Salem Lutheran, Stillwater, who generously provided fifteen tickets to the Oklahoma State football game against local rival, Tulsa University. The congregation served the Oaks group brunch before sending them to the game, accompanied by members of the Native American Student Association.





Cedric, an Oaks Indian Mission alum and a member of the Creek Nation who has been in an independent living arrangement here on campus for a few years now, while finishing his college degree at nearby Northeastern State University, is presently teaching math and history at the private Christian school

some of our kids are now attending, Cookson Hills. We give thanks for what the Holy Spirit is doing in Cedric's life and how this also serves the Mission. His Wednesday devotions are a popular item



with the kids, who see him as someone who understands them and can relate to their situation in life. He is, indeed, a model of walking by faith—the ultimate goal of our program of child-care, preparing kids to receive the gifts God offers and live by them.

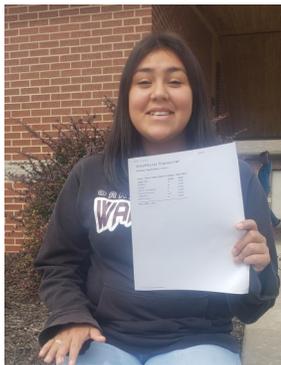


A group of staff & students attended a preseason Oklahoma City Thunder basketball game at the BOK Center in Tulsa. The Oaks Indian Mission, including their short message, was featured on the Jumbotron during the game, to the boisterous delight of our Oaks folks.



Currently, we are blessed with three gifted and diligent piano students, under the able direction of Dolores Deuel, two of whom are already preparing for their Christmas recital. All of the

pianos pictured were blessed gifts from generous donors and have served our students well.



Lexus, Cherokee, displays the report card from her first six week term at Cookson Hills Christian School which includes A's in every class, except for the B in Biology. What a great start to her high school career at a year round, faith-based school. She, along with Ahbrianna, are anchors on the Junior Varsity and Varsity volleyball teams, respectively.

We love to see our kids competing in various athletic events throughout the school year. This Fall we have been especially blessed, having four of our boys on the football field, one of whom, Joshua, Cherokee, being singled out repeatedly in the county newspaper for his stellar play in Oaks Mission School's victories. Also, two of our girls are on the volleyball team at Cookson Hills, Ahbrianna, Cherokee, being one of the star servers on the varsity team. In fact, after competing in the regional, four state tournament in Fort Smith, AR recently, the coaches selected Ahbrianna to the all-tournament and the all-state volleyball teams. She will now compete in the upcoming all-star game.



## BACK TO THE FUTURE...

Cherokee Cottage, one of the oldest buildings on campus and still very much in use as a cottage, had to be demolished this past summer, due to severe water damage, the result of a break in the sprinkler system line in the attic one very cold night in February.

Numerous memories were attached to that cottage, home to hundreds and hundreds of children since 1947. A few of the alums from that early era were on hand the other day for a picnic and celebration of memories, bricks from the structure were made available, as well as photos of old Cherokee. A sign has been posted near the site and the cornerstone will be placed in the nearby museum soon.



The new cottage, our “House of Scholars,” is ready for kids to thoroughly enjoy—which they are referring to as a mansion. You ought to see the look on their faces as they stand in the middle of a room, surveying the surroundings, imagining what a day will be like in such a home, their very own bedroom and a bathroom shared by but one other girl. One thing lacking, however, is a set of cottage-parents. We’re searching for at least a year’s commitment from a couple who would care for six to eight girls, guiding their spiritual and academic lives, while sharing in the things that make up the life of a family. The accommodations are spacious and the rewards priceless.



Pictured above from L to R - Executive Director Rev. Don Marshall, Dick Rathgeber, OIM Board President Pete Sandager, Cherokee Nation Chief Chuck Hoskin Jr., Deputy Chief Bryan Warner, Tribal Council Member Mike Shambaugh and OIM HR Director Dan Cooper.



The Larsen family from Blair, NE, major donors to the Mission museum in the background, on hand for its dedication. The oldest building on campus, it was renovated to house the long rich history of the Mission. It will open soon, with accommodations on the second floor for the curator or local historian.

### OIM RV Park



What a beautiful setting for an RV stay, right next to campus, yet quiet and peaceful, adjacent to Spring Creek. We invite you to park your vehicle and join our ministry for a spell, serving however long in whatever capacity suits you best.



Hallelujah, the Cherokee Nation house built on campus is now ready for occupancy. Sol Bird Mockicin, receiving house key and his beloved Bible, prepares to move in and will soon be helping our kids at the vo-tech center in the area of auto care and maintenance. Sol will also serve as a

liaison between the Cherokee Nation and the community of Oaks, seeking ways to build on a long and vibrant partnership.

*Honors, Memorials & In-kind*  
May—September 2021

**Honorariums**

**Agnes Paulsen's 100th B-day**  
Phil & Florence Larsen

**Ginger Petering**  
Todd Petering

**Margaret Raymond**  
Sam Jonas

**Larry Wallman's B-day**  
Mrs. Norman Wallman

**Donald Pedersen for Father's Day**  
Ted, Ayda, Gillian & Oden

**Rev. Don Marshall**  
Gwen & Rev. Ben Mirtz

**Carole & Roch Vaillancourt**  
Donald Pedersen

**Dr. Reuel Vammen's B-day**  
Nona Culpepper

**Mary Baker Shaw work on CN Tribal Council**  
Philip Viles

**OIM Students**  
John Mark & Dawn Nielsen

**Rev. Elwin Bergstraesser's 67th Ordination**  
Evelyn Phillips

**Rev. Elwin Bergstraesser for Father's Day**  
Evelyn Phillips

**Merl Lindburg**  
Billie Lindberg

**Sally Turner, Proud Member of St. Dunstan's**  
Rev. Don Marshall

**Michael Marshall on the festival of St. Michael**  
Rev. Don Marshall

**Memorials**

**Arthur & Arline Powell**  
Doug & Debbie Lemons

**Merrill Gramke**  
Burdette & Janet Hermanns

**Gretchen Landen**  
Family of Gretchen Landen

**Vada Sue Cox Huffman**  
Sally Schneider

**Dr. John Nielsen**  
Sol Bird Mockicin & OIM Alumni

**Sally Svoboda**  
Kathleen Svoboda

**Jessie & Janie Wolfe**  
Dr. R.E. Vammen

**McNab**  
Burdette & Janet Hermanns

**Milford Kirchhoff**  
Burdette & Janet Hermanns

**Dean Seems**  
Patty Dannenberg  
James & Lynn Hicks

**Joyce Stuckman**  
Herbert & Helen Bechthold

**Rev. Ham Muus**  
Karen Johnson

**Our Parents**  
Herbert & Helen Bechthold

**Lynne Vammen**  
Robert & Jan Jenkins  
Libby Ingram  
Gina Morris

**Bruce Klitzky**  
Patricia Klitzky

**Dennis Latimer**  
Tom & Cherry Jerlow

**Memorials**

**Janet Jensby Parsons**  
Jim & Jean Jensby

**Alwilde Shackelford Wright**  
Ray Shackelford

**Dorothy Travis**  
Herbert & Helen Bechthold

**Gloria Ackerman**  
Steven & Beverly Long

**Gene Turner**  
Eric Sachau

**Betty Nunnalle**  
Mark & Mary Peterson

**Barbara DeKraai**  
Rev. Don Marshall

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Zion LC Women, Creighton, NE  
United LC Bella Vista, AR  
Cherokee Nation Youth Services Dept  
St. Paul LC Villa Park, IL  
United LC Social Ministries, Bella Vista, AR  
Vineyard Church Kansas City, MO

We celebrate the fact that the \$10,000 necessary to release an Anderson Challenge Grant for that amount has been secured and the request for the matching funds submitted. Praise the Lord—and thank you, faithful partners in ministry.

We are pleased to report that all of our staff and every child eligible have been vaccinated for the Covid-19 virus. Thus far this year, 2021, we have suffered only one positive case here on campus and the subsequent quarantine. That staff member is now fully recovered. And the kids have been back in the classroom, masked, since the middle of August. Thanks be to God!

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1. Visit [Thrivent.com/thriventchoice](http://Thrivent.com/thriventchoice)
2. In the "Get Started" section on the right click [Direct Thrivent Choice Dollars](#)
3. Log in by entering your user ID

and password. (if you haven't yet registered on Thrivent.com, click Register for account access.")

4. Choose Oaks Indian Mission to Direct Choice Dollars
5. Choose "Direct All or enter a specific number and click Direct Now."

**By Phone**

1. Call 800-847-4836 and when prompted, say "Thrivent Choice."

As this newsletter went to print, the Thirteenth Annual Oaks Indian Mission Benefit Golf Scramble had just teed off at the Cherokee Hills Golf Course in Catoosa, OK. We are so grateful, yet again, for the faithful support we have received from the Cherokee Nation, each year underwriting the event, and for the wonderful staff there at the Clubhouse who go out of their way to make this such a special day for all the golfers and those of us from the Mission helping with registration, etc. Special thanks to Jim Marrujo, proud Oaks Indian Mission alum, who wears a couple of hats, as it were, at these events, acting as a member of the Cherokee Hills staff and host of the benefit, as well as a golfer, competing on a team that traditionally places high in the tournament and challenges for the title, as they did again this year. We also would like to give a big thank you to all our sponsors this year, who are listed here: ~ Rev. Don Salberg ~ Carey Cadieux ~ Rev. Don Marshall ~ Ed Gibeau ~ Northeast OK Electric Cooperative ~ Kansas Building Supply ~ Community Physician Group ~ Morse & CO ~ State Farm Mark Hodson ~ Therapeutic Service Wakie Johnson ~ Arvest Bank ~ Joe Ragsdale ~ James & Rita Mathine ~ Delora Marshall ~ Cherokee Nation Businesses & Hard Rock Hotel & Casino ~ The Crescent Hotel ~ L & L Pawn ~ The Great Passion Play ~ Hyatt Regency, Tulsa ~ Thrivent Financial, Paul Kent ~ Twenty Twenty Eyecare, Dr. Lynsey Bigheart ~



A new Lutheran Giving brochure is now available for your planned giving options, entitled "What Legacy Will You Leave"? The Oaks Indian Mission is a member of this partnership of ministries, most of whom reside within the Nebraska Synod. The office is located in Omaha and the Executive Director, Sarah Callahan, is available to answer any questions you might have concerning gift planning. The name of the Oaks planned gift program is "The Seventh Generation," after the traditional Iroquois understanding that what we do, the decisions we make today, affect seven generations of descendants after us.

Lutheran Giving can assist if you are just getting started or can help with revisions if your existing circumstances have changed. Lutheran Giving does not sell any products or services. Please call or email to setup an initial appointment to discuss your goals.



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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
**SARAH CALLAHAN**

As Executive Director, Sarah provides charitable gift planning services. Sarah's background is in financial services as well as professional fundraising. She received her BA and MBA from Valparaiso University and has earned the Chartered Advisor in Philanthropy® (CAP®) professional designation from the Richard D. Irwin Graduate School of The American College of Financial Services.



[www.lutherangiving.org](http://www.lutherangiving.org)

**WHAT  
 LEGACY  
 WILL YOU  
 LEAVE?**



Oaks Indian Mission  
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Oaks, Oklahoma 74359  
918-868-2196

## Needs List

### ~Home Items~

Shower Curtains & Liners  
Bath Rugs & Area Rugs  
Twin Comforter Sets  
Home & Bedroom Décor  
Bedside Lamps

### ~Hygiene Items~

Shampoo & Conditioner  
Laundry Detergent  
Fabric Softener  
Toilet Paper  
Hair Brushes

### ~Pantry Items~

Canned Vegetables  
Snack Foods  
Tea  
Aluminum Foil  
Zip Lock Bags Gallon & Quart

### ~Large Items~

Chainsaws (New or Used)  
Pole Saw (New or Used)  
Washer & Dryers (New or Used)

### ~Craft Items~

Model Car Kits  
Model Plane Kits  
Science Experience Kits  
Jewelry Making Kits

*Thank  
you!*