



MOUNTAIN T.O.P.

2019 GRATITUDE REPORT



"Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the LORD your God goes with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you."

Deuteronomy 31:6



to provide direct services and organizational support that addresses severe housing issues in our service area.

to promote lifestyles that support healthy choices.

to engage in solutions with community partners for holistic and sustainable community growth.

to provide and support opportunities for lifelong learning and personal growth for all ages.

to foster growth among staff, participants, donors and the community.

ALLEVIATE HEAL DEVELOP EDUCATE LEAD



ERIKA PETERSON SCISSOM

FORMER SUMMER STAFF, CURRENT BOARD MEMBER, AND COMMUNITY MEMBER

Mountain T.O.P. Faithful,

What an amazingly courageous past year of service we have had on the Cumberland Plateau! This ministry and this mountain have sure been blessed through the years by the gracious service and gifts it has received. I have seen these changes over the last 20 years firsthand as I watch the area that I now live and work in change, improve, and grow little by little. My daughter has been coming to Mountain T.O.P. Kaleidoscope camp for three years now - through her experience at camp I have watched her grow, blossom, gain self confidence, try new things, and show love to all around her. There are many more stories just like this.

With the beginning of our 45th year of service on the Cumberland Plateau, there also comes Mountain T.O.P.'s new yearly theme. We have just taken a journey to live courageously (Deuteronomy 31:6) as God has called us to, only to prepare us for this year's path through a season for everything (Ecclesiastes 3:1-14). We all know it takes courage to walk by faith, to serve and give to others, and to listen to His voice and follow. However, knowing that in every season of one's life God's is always present - through times of joy or sadness, sickness or health, building up or tearing down, planting seeds or reaping the crop - the Almighty is there to guide us through these seasons. This year will be the opportunity to explore finding Him in those seasons of life, individually and as a ministry, reaching out to hear the calling to serve others through their season.

The task at hand in the season before us - repairing homes, shaping youth, serving others, developing leaders for our future - requires us to be open, to listen fully, and to see the beauty of God's work around us. It is figuring out the role we will play by following his still voice during the various season's of our life. I know God has big plans for each of us individually as well as for this ministry. Even during this season of change we are all facing right now, we are not alone. In 2020, God is going to speak to us, guide us, dwell within us, and continue to shape us through every season of our life. All we need is to be patient and follow!

So, I thank you from the bottom of my heart for being a part of Mountain T.O.P.'s story. The impacts on the families and children wouldn't be possible without the dedicated financial support, volunteer work efforts, continued prayers, and service that many of you have so courageously and graciously given. You have helped to build a support system on the Cumberland Plateau that provides hope for many, shares opportunities to children limited by the resources around them, and encourages them to know there is so much out there for them to reach and achieve. Mountain T.O.P. continues to reach out, develop partnerships, and strive to meet the physical, social, emotional, and spiritual needs of this community. This work could not be done without each and everyone of you.

Season of Gratitude,
Erika Peterson Scissom



Mountain T.O.P. has improved my life! All the volunteers were good & friendly. They worked their little butts off!

-Major Home Repair Partner Family

46,229

volunteer hours devoted to minor and major home repair projects

1,024,339

dollar value of home repair volunteer hours

145

families not served due to lack of resources

331

families served through minor and major home repair

98

the percentage of families who were satisfied with the quality of work done by Mountain T.O.P.

ALLEVIATE

The impact of alleviating substandard housing:

We provide direct services and organizational support to address severe housing issues in our service area. Since our inception, Mountain T.O.P. has been driven by the core belief that everyone should have a safe, healthy, decent home. From building entryway steps and wheelchair ramps to replacing roofs and re-wiring homes, Mountain T.O.P. is alleviating, with the hope of eliminating, substandard housing in seven counties. Through the process, however, we are meeting the spiritual, emotional, and social needs of partner families as well.



Everyone was nice. I got a lot of stories out of everyone. I have social anxiety and even take medication for it. But I didn't have problems with the volunteers. They felt like more family coming in. I could talk to anybody.

They made me feel comfortable.

-Major Home Repair Partner Family





The rooms with new windows are already warmer now that the repairs are done."

-Major Home Repair Partner Family



268

shoes given at the Fall Festival

16

the percentage of youth surveyed grew in their belief that they are an important person after spending a week at Day Camp

735

healthy lunches provided through all Day Camp programs

HEAL

The impact of promoting healthy lifestyles:

Housing conditions affect our physical and mental health. When we repair a home, we often remove toxins, leading to fewer incidents of sickness and fewer missed days of school or work for partner families. When we clear an entry way, build a porch, or perform yard work, we enable homeowners to move freely about their homes and out into their communities. No matter how small it may seem to us, each repair project we complete empowers a homeowner to lead a more holistically healthy life.



Mt. Top seems like a model about how we should treat each others and how to build community. I hope to keep that as an ideal to strive for."

- Adult camper



The house being safe for us. Improved health since getting rid of the mold. Already breathing better since the project was done!"

-Major Home Repair Partner Family



998

total donors supporting
our programs

10+

total schools represented
by children/youth in all
Day Camp programs

34

community partners
participating in the Fall
Festival

“Spending the summer with these kids help me grow in so many ways. I not only learned passions and problem solving that most people learn when working with kids. I learned how to step away from a tough situation and focus on what’s in control and what’s positive. These kids taught me that. When you take them out of their home situation and spend the time to get to know them with a little push of encouragement and attention these kids show you all the greatness they have and they become more confident. Day Camp is important in a lot of ways but seeing smiles on these kids faces everyday and pushing them to be dreamers is what I always remember.

-Mollie, Day Camp Ministry Coordinator

DEVELOP

The impact of partnership and community development:

Mountain T.O.P. works with local organizations towards holistic, sustainable growth. Developing partnerships in the community forges lasting relationships to address the underlying issues that continue to plague families on the Cumberland Plateau. Among our partnerships, we collaborate with Grundy County schools to develop and recruit for our Day Camp programs, we partner with Sewanee: University of the South and the South Cumberland Community Fund to host Americorp. VISTAs, and we are a member of the ReFrame Association which brings together like-minded home repair organizations. This year we began a partnership with Auburn Rural Studios Architecture school.



91

the percentage of summer staffers agreed that because of their experience on staff, they knew themselves better

135

Summer Staff Training sessions facilitated

2.5

Number of hours per youth spent reading while at camp



Courage to me is no longer leading a revolution. Courage is the small details—the tough conversations, the uncomfortable situations, and the time spent reflecting alone. Courage is choosing to live a life with Jesus by your side, and being unashamed of it.

- Summer Staffer

EDUCATE



Day Camp connects the incredible kids of Grundy County with tangible experiences that teach them about their communities, allow them to build resilience through fostering positive relationships, and most importantly, show them the love God has for them. By directly investing in the lives of the future leaders of Grundy County and beyond,

Day Camp leaves an impact on the community that will last for years to come.

-Kara, Day Camp Manager



The impact of education:

Mountain T.O.P. provides community members, volunteers, and staff opportunities for lifelong learning and personal growth. We are committed to impact of education in all we do.. Whether it is sharing a home maintenance tip with a partner family, sending staff for continuing education, or teaching life skills to Summer Plus Day Campers, education is a value we live out in all we do, every day.



69

the percentage of summer staff agreed who their experience on summer staff prompted them to re-evaluate their personal or career goals.

87

the percentage of our Day Camp children considered themselves a good leader after spending a week at camp

60

the percentage of staffers who increased their confidence in their public speaking and delegating tasks to others

LEAD

The impact of leadership:

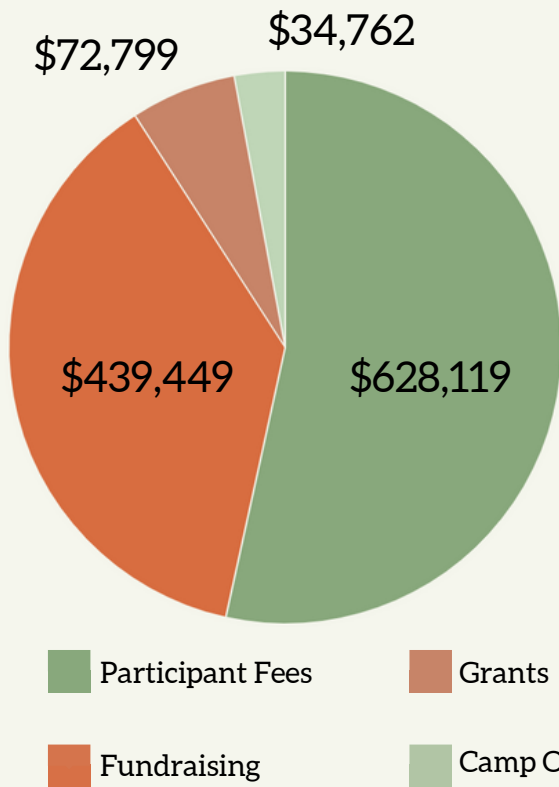
We foster leadership among staff, participants, and the community. Mountain T.O.P. was founded over forty years ago on the premise of servant leadership in action, and this continues at the core of who we are today. Leadership however, is exemplified through so many facets here on the mountain. Our model has evolved into a leadership incubator: Day Camp participants lead peers, community families initiate a need to improve their home, Summer Staff are inspired to move on to leadership careers.



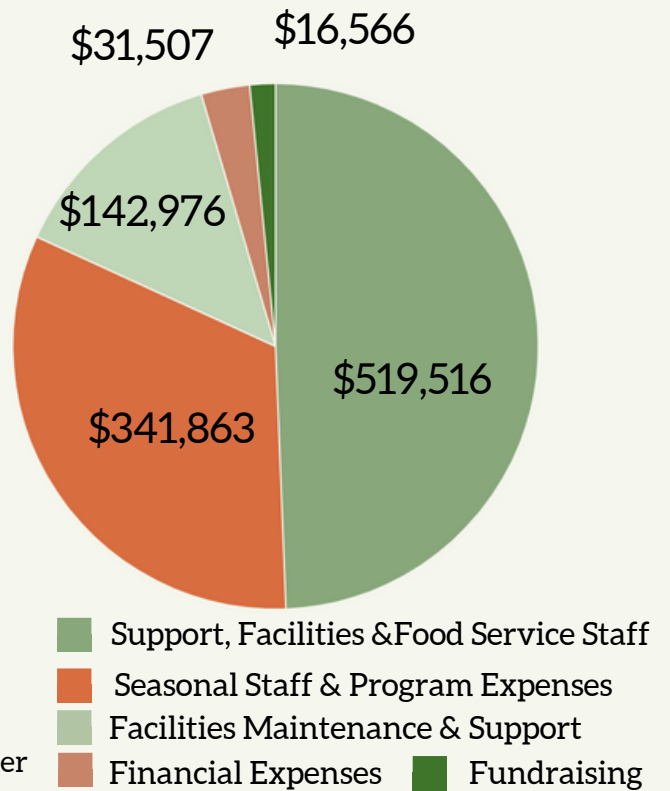
Working with other staffers, maintaining relationships, and being responsible for youth and adults alike were just a few of my duties as a YSM Director. I ended my summer on the mountain with a new found confidence in my leadership abilities and a passion for connecting with people. MTOP helped me cultivate my leadership skills and even inspired my future career aspirations.

-Connor, YSM Director

Income: \$1,175,129

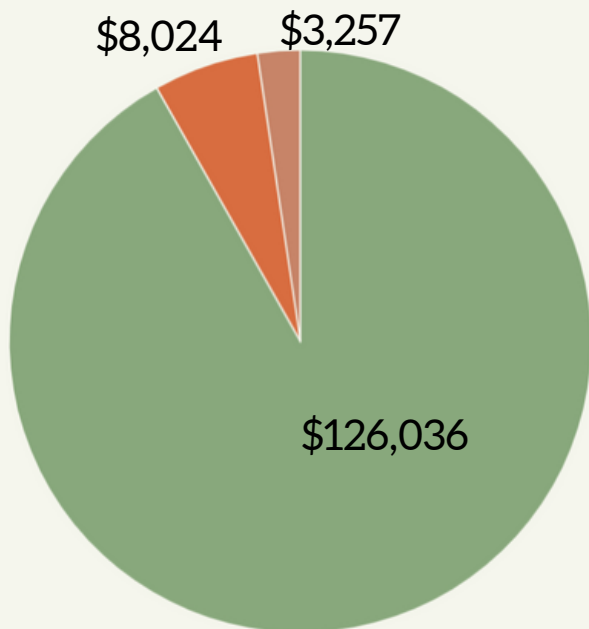


Expenditures: \$1,052,428



2019 FINANCIALS

Endowment Fund Balance: \$137,317



- George Bass Brick and Mortar Fund
- Summer Scholarship Fund
- Michael Reed Summer Staff Fund

- Alexa Hulsey
- Andy Burroughs
- Anna Schmidt
- Ben Nichols
- Betsy Larder
- Brian Richards
- Brian & Sarah Wallace
- Brooke Freeman
- Charles Phillips
- Connie Howard
- Corey & Katie Jewell
- Craig Wright
- Diana & Barry Woodlock
- Edith D. Tashman
- Edward & Glynn Simmons
- Elise Burns
- Elizabeth Bell Blankenship
- Emily Chadwick
- Eric & Mackenzie Savaiano
- Erinn & Paul Haynes
- Germantown UMC
- Greg & Arleen Poquette
- Heritage UMC
- Jamie K. Travis
- Jan Lloyd- Gohl
- Jason & Heather Sawyer
- Jay & Dianne Aubuchon
- Jay Koelbl

BUILDERS CLUB

- Jennifer McDuffie
- John Phillips
- John McCarty
- John Tiffany
- John & Elizabeth Robinson
- Jon Saxton
- Kelly & Aaron Dunnill
- Keri Cress
- Lance Patrick
- Laura Gifford
- Laurie & Joel Durham
- Margaret Kollar
- Mark & Lin Nichols
- Marla Doehring
- Melanie Murray
- Patty Sue Harper
- Phil & Debbie Swords
- Reed & Deeda Bradford
- Rich Peachey
- Richard & Jan Schilling
- Ryan & Jill Anderson
- Sadie Jones
- Sam McGlothlin
- Shelley Stoltz
- Steve Ridley
- Steven Click
- Steven Solomon
- Tate Lenderink
- Tony Brawner
- Tony & Peggy Savaiano
- Zach Moore

- Amy Grant
- Anne Patrick
- Bob Askew
- Dutch Maid Bakery
- East Cobb UMC
- FastenMaster Gold
- Godfrey UMC
- GraceWorks UMC
- Grand Ole Opry
- James Hardie
- Jan Schilling
- Karnak Roof Coating
- Kent UMC
- Lakeside Fellowship UMC
- Lars Swanson
- Little Giant Ladder
- Marshall Graves
- MiraTEC
- Morton Memorial UMC
- Mountain Goat Market
- New Union UMC
- Piqua Grace UMC
- Providence UMC
- Richard McClure
- Rustoleum
- Shoe Show
- Simpson Strong-tie
- Starr Campbell
- Sillwater Retreat
- Stephen Simmons
- USP Structural Connectors
- Vince Gill
- Wick's Pies

IN-KIND GIVING

Looking for ways to make an in-kind or monetary donation? Contact our Development Manager, Sophia at sophia@mountain-top.org or (931) 692-3999.