



Lutheran Outdoor Ministries Indiana-Kentucky Receives \$1.5 Million from Lilly Endowment Inc. to Improve Facilities at Lutherwald and Lutheran Hills

Lutheran Outdoor Ministries Indiana-Kentucky, Inc. (LOMIK Camps & Retreat Centers) has received two \$750,000 implementation grants, totaling \$1.5 million, from Lilly Endowment Inc. through its Capital Project Initiative for Residential Youth Camps. These grants are part of Phase 2 of the initiative, which supports Indiana residential youth camps in improving the overall camp experience and outcomes for youth through new, enhanced, and expanded facilities integral to quality youth camp programming.

The grants will support major facility repairs and upgrades at Lutherwald and Lutheran Hills, two of LOMIK's three camp sites serving children and youth across Indiana and the region. Both camps will use the funding to address deferred maintenance, improve safety and accessibility, and create more welcoming and functional spaces that strengthen the quality and sustainability of their programs.

Lutherwald, in operation since 1950, has served generations of Indiana youth through Christ-centered programs that build faith and lifelong relationships in a safe, caring, and fun environment. As one of Indiana's longstanding residential camps, Lutherwald faces significant infrastructure challenges due to the age of its facilities. The grant will allow LOMIK to strategically address building repairs, infrastructure, and mechanical systems, using planning work already completed to ensure funds are used effectively and responsibly.

Lutheran Hills, founded in 1967, similarly serves Indiana youth through immersive outdoor ministry and faith-formation experiences. Like many camps established in the mid-90s, Lutheran Hills has facilities that require substantial updates to support modern programming and safety expectations. Grant funding will enable critical repairs and upgrades that improve usability, extend the life of camp buildings, and enhance the overall experience for campers and staff.

"This funding allows us to care for these sacred places in a way that matches the impact they have on young people's lives," said Chris Miller, Executive Director of Lutheran Outdoor Ministries Indiana-Kentucky. "Because of Lilly Endowment's generosity, we can move beyond short-term fixes and make

thoughtful, long-term improvements that ensure Lutherwald and Lutheran Hills remain safe, welcoming, and transformative spaces where youth can grow in faith, confidence, and community.”

Lutheran Outdoor Ministries Indiana-Kentucky, Inc. operates three outdoor ministry sites—Lutherwald, Lake Luther, and Lutheran Hills—serving children, youth, families, and congregations across Indiana and Kentucky. Through residential camps and outdoor programs, LOMIK creates intentional experiences that nurture faith, build lasting relationships, and offer safe, welcoming spaces where individuals of all ages can grow and belong.

About Lilly Endowment Inc.

Lilly Endowment Inc. is an Indianapolis-based private foundation created in 1937 by J.K. Lilly, Sr. and his sons Eli and J.K. Jr. through gifts of stock in their pharmaceutical business, Eli Lilly and Company. Although the gifts of stock remain a financial bedrock of the Endowment, it is a separate entity from the company, with a distinct governing board, staff and location. In keeping with the founders’ wishes, the Endowment supports the causes of community development, education and religion. The Endowment funds programs throughout the United States, especially in the field of religion, and maintains a special commitment to its founders’ hometown, Indianapolis, and home state, Indiana.

About Lutheran Outdoor Ministries Indiana-Kentucky (LOMIK)

Lutheran Outdoor Ministries Indiana-Kentucky, Inc. (LOMIK) is a nonprofit outdoor ministry organization that operates three camp sites—Lutherwald, Lake Luther, and Lutheran Hills—serving children, youth, families, and congregations across Indiana and Kentucky. Through Christ-centered outdoor experiences, LOMIK welcomes all and creates spaces where faith is nurtured, relationships are built, and individuals grow through meaningful connection with nature and community. Each site offers a unique setting and program focus. Lutherwald and Lutheran Hills provide traditional residential youth camp experiences rooted in outdoor ministry and faith formation. Lake Luther, located near Angola, Indiana, offers both summer camp and family camping experiences, providing opportunities for recreation, rest, and renewal in a lakeside setting. Together, these sites allow LOMIK to serve a wide range of ages and communities while remaining committed to safety, hospitality, and high-quality programming.

