



JULY, 2024

Dear Spruce Lake Ministries Community,

As you are likely aware, **Pinebrook suffered a devastating fire last September**. Thanks to our insurance carrier, we have been able to completely rebuild the dining room and kitchen in just eight months!

One of the **hidden damages** of a fire like this is the loss of momentum within an organization. As the fire was still burning, the Pinebrook team realized that if we lost the momentum we were experiencing in “refounding” Pinebrook, our ministry was in real trouble. In fact, even after the structures could be rebuilt, it would be a very long journey back if we lost the guests who call Pinebrook home.

So they jumped immediately into action. Within three weeks, we were up and running with a mobile kitchen and a dining tent. Indeed, the hurdles were significant! But the Pinebrook Team performed amazingly, and guest reservations actually grew a bit during the rebuilding process.

This unfortunate incident presented challenges, for sure. However, **it also created the opportunity for growth and improvement!** We could not only restore what was lost, but we could improve it for the future. So we grabbed the opportunity to make some much needed upgrades.

Our goal is to create a warm, welcoming atmosphere where relationships can grow over shared meals, **nourishing both body and spirit**. These upgrades will enable us to serve nutritious and delicious meals more efficiently, catering to the diverse dietary needs of our campers and guests:

- Full buffet lines including salad and drink bars
- An additional Combi oven for faster food production
- An added grill for savory meat preparation
- New front doors to the dining room
- New dining room flooring.

These improvements were costly. In fact, we have incurred **\$186,000 of increased expenses** over the insurance settlement, but **we know they will improve the dining experience long into the future**.

If you are able to help cover any of these costs for us, **your generosity will be much appreciated**. Your ongoing support has been simply amazing, as this community continues to help us achieve our mission of providing a place for spiritual renewal and fellowship at Pinebrook.

Together, we can recover from the ruins of a fire and create a great dining experience for all Pinebrook guests far into the future.

To God be The Glory!

Mark S. Swartley, CEO
Spruce Lake Ministries

P.S. Every dollar counts toward Pinebrook’s rebuilding!

