

News From The Haft

December 2019

Looking Back on 2019

As I look back on 2019 I am reminded of how the Bible says: "We can make our plans, but the LORD determines our step. (Proverbs 19:9 NLT) There have been many changes at The Haft this past year. Liz and I committed to serve as directors until the end of 2020.

Merlin and Meriam have experienced a season of heavy loss. Meriam lost her younger sister and her grandfather. Following these losses, the unexpected death of their daughter Amber on April 19 has left them grieving and needing to figure out how to deal with this season of loss. We appreciate your prayers for them as they seek healing in the season ahead. At the end of August they moved to Lewisburg PA, we want to thank them for serving the past few years.

The biggest project this year was tearing down the Shepherds Cottage and building a new cottage. The Creekside Cottage is fully enclosed and we have heat in it. The painting is done and the cabinets are scheduled to go in the week before Christmas. We had a number of construction crews here to help with the cottage. I was reminded of how we need each other and how the different gifts can be used on a project like the cottage.

Thanks to volunteers, our wood shed is full. We had two youth work groups come from Lancaster to help with the wood. The woodshed holds 40 cords of wood and filling it is no small feat.

We still have openings in February and March of 2020.

John Lapp



This fall we had a group of 10 bikers that rode from Lancaster to The Haft (160 miles) to raise funds and awareness for the Haft. Our two oldest boys, Ben and Alvin, were a part of the ride. We had 14 sponsors that helped make this event a success. We are planning on having another bike ride in the fall of 2020. If you want to ride or sponsor the ride, let me know.

Creekside Cottage Update

We are excited by the progress on the Creekside Cottage. It is under roof, windows and doors are in, the drywall and painting are finished, and we are ready to put in beautiful cabinets. Check out the pictures throughout the newsletter.

The Creekside Cottage is designed to accommodate families for an extended Haft experience of 3 months to a year. It will be ideal for pastors or other leaders seeking a sabbatical with their families.

The entire cost for the project was estimated at \$120,000. So far, including some amazing in-kind donations, we have raised almost \$60,000 in our 2019 capital campaign. To meet our goal, we are expecting 30 more \$1K donors, and 40 more



The old Shepherd's Cottage

\$500 donors and 100 more \$100 donors. Will you consider a generous year-end donation to expand our ability to serve leaders who have discovered the benefits of rest?



Monthly Sustainers of The Haft are:

Diana Bombero
 Bruce & Joan Boydell
 Heidi Eisenhard
 Leon & Ruth King
 Phyllis Masso
 Michael Perri
 Enos James Yoder
 Light of Hope Ministries

Year-End Giving Form

- \$25.00 \$50.00 \$100.00
 Other \$ _____
 I would like to become a monthly sustainer.
 New Cottage General Fund
 Staff Support

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Mail to: The Haft, 1 Haft Lane, New Albany, PA 18833 • **Call:** 570.363.2189

Ways you can donate:

- Cash • Check
- Online through our website (www.thehaft.org) or scan the QR code.



Update from the Lapps

In the beginning of the year we moved to The Haft as a year to get away with our family to rest and see what God has for us in the next season of our lives. We have experienced a lot of family bonding. We have also experienced the loss of our dear little friend Amber that lived on the property with us. It has been a life changing and challenging year filled with times of grief and times of joy.



We are now serving as directors and have committed to stay here until the end of 2020. I do cooking for some groups and help our cleaning lady with some of the cleaning. I am also homeschooling our four boys which never leaves a dull moment. God is teaching me to find joy in every situation and I am trusting that He will show us the next step and season for our lives.



Elizabeth Lapp

Our new address is:

John & Liz Lapp, 1 Haft Lane, New Albany, PA 18833



Petra youth group



Bethesda youth group



1 Haft Lane
New Albany, PA 18833

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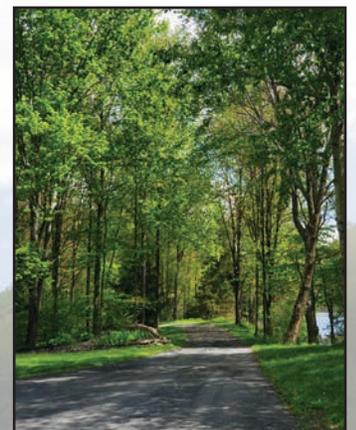
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Testimony from a Guest

I was working at our local crisis pregnancy center about 7 years ago when a beautiful lady named Joan Boydell came up from PA to do a staff training with us. As she was giving a little background about herself, she mentioned that she and her husband were the directors of a Christian retreat center called The Haft. I was intrigued and asked her for a brochure. I kept the brochure year after year in case I ever “needed” some sort of retreat. That time came in June of 2019 when my mother passed away after a long battle with Alzheimer’s. I cared for her in her final months while my dad was in and out of hospitals and rehab with his own health issues. The loss of my mom was devastating to me. I expected to feel sadness, but the anger and intolerance that accompanied it was taking a toll on me and my family. I decided the time for a personal retreat had come, so I contacted The Haft and arranged to stay for a few days with my teenage daughter. Our time at The Barn was exactly what we needed to grieve, rest, and escape from the endless responsibilities at home. We both left feeling

refreshed and ready to return to our busy life. I headed back to The Haft by myself in October and stayed in The Garden Cottage where I was refreshed by the tranquility and beauty of Fall. I recently brought family from New York, PA, and Virginia to The Haft to share time together before my brother and his family move to Colorado. I can’t say enough about how much The Haft has impacted mine and my family’s lives. The directors are wonderful, and the facilities are managed with excellence and tremendous attention to detail. The grounds and the beautiful lake provide a perfect spot to unwind and renew. I’m thankful that God brought Joan to NY all those years ago and introduced me to the place I now call my “second home”.



Paula Shortsleeve
Parish, New York