



## **CAMP LIBERTY INC.**

### **2025 Annual Report**

January 23, 2025

#### **Year in Review - In 2024, Camp Liberty Inc.:**

- Delivered 17 outdoor recreation programs or events that were attended by nearly 600 people.
- Hosted inclusive programs in which more than half of the participants were disabled.
- Expanded outreach and built new relationships with Veterans' Service Organizations.
- Added programming targeted at First Responders and those with mobility challenges.
- Created a new Community Outreach Committee to increase awareness in local communities.

Camp Liberty Inc. ("CLI") improved its operations and impact in 2025 by delivering greater programming and improved communications allowing the charity to reach and assist more people. Programs such as our Summer Picnic and Fall Family Fest were structured to increase family participation, which aided in attracting a younger Veteran demographic. Other programs included guided hunts, conservation days, a volunteer appreciation luncheon, Memorial Day presentations and seminars on VA benefits, Veteran Homelessness, and Opportunities for Inclusive Outdoor Recreation in Michigan. Through our communications and off-site events, we educated an estimated 2500 people with our messages of supporting Veterans and promoting inclusive outdoor recreation.

Much of this success can be attributed to the engagement of professional staff to supplement the efforts of the volunteer board of directors. The staffing provided consistent efforts toward our strategic plan goals and programming. Volunteer engagement, fundraising, outreach to VSO's and community leaders, and program operations all benefited by their work.

For 2025, Melinda Schwyn continues to serve as our Executive Director, and Terri Madden is providing administrative support. We anticipate similar programming and goal achievements this year with their help.

#### **Financial Highlights – In 2024, Camp Liberty Inc.:**

- Spent 86 percent of every dollar of income on programs and services.
- Met our total fundraising goal.
- Operated at a small loss, which was anticipated due to the added staff costs.
- Maintained a strong balance sheet with financial reserves.
- Continued the \$1 per year agreement for using the property and facilities.
- Provided no compensation, benefits, or other perks to its directors or officers.

Donor support continued a three-year upward trend. For 2025, financial donations fell short of our budgeted expectations by \$7000, but donations of goods and services exceeded our target budget expectations by \$9400. CLI's programs are dependent upon donations from our generous supporters. Without those donations, we could not provide our programs.

For the past three years, Camp Liberty's expenditure on its programs and services to benefit Veterans and provide inclusive outdoor recreation activities have exceeded 80% of its revenues. A benchmark for the effective management of charities is that at least 70% of the organization's revenues should be spent to accomplish its mission. A "best practice" is that the expenditure on charitable programs and services exceeds 80% of revenues. Through good budgeting and financial management, CLI is proud to we continue to achieve this "best practice" and use our financial resources to benefit others.

A large part of this financial success is the continuation of the \$1.00 per year land use agreement negotiated as part of the 2021 reorganization. Under that agreement, CLI does not have to pay for the maintenance, repair, or operating expenses to use the property or the Darlene Soave Lodge. Without the burden of these expenses, more of CLI's funds can be dedicated to delivering programs and services. However, with the property's increasing operational costs, it is not known how long the generous donation of the use of these facilities will continue. A future goal of Camp Liberty will be to locate grants, donors, or another path for the charity to purchase the property outright.

The board of directors continues its commitment to transparency with our operations and finances so that our supporters can see how the organization is being managed. Meeting minutes and our nonprofit tax return are posted on our website. Those interested in getting involved are invited to join board meetings. The preliminary 2024 year-end income statement is included at the end of this report.

For 2025, we have new leaders stepping forward to assume key positions. Jeremy Briggs (currently serving as a Major in the Army National Guard) has been elected to take the reins as board president. Jay Truchan will serve as vice president. Allan Lutes, who has served as president and treasurer for the past three years, will serve as treasurer. Suzanne Kiser will continue as board secretary for a fourth year. Larry St. Antoine (retired from service as a Navy Petty Officer) and Richard Briggs (retired from service as a Major in the U.S. Air Force) serve as directors-at-large. Kathy Sutherland chairs the new Community Relations Committee. CLI is actively recruiting additional volunteer leaders to serve as directors or chairpersons and expects to welcome more to these roles soon.

### **Strategic Plan – In 2025, Camp Liberty will:**

- Expand our programming to include First Responders from surrounding communities. Programming focusing on Active-duty military members, Veterans, and those with mobility challenges will continue.
- Build relationships and greater interactions with citizens, businesses, and leaders in the local communities.
- Add communication efforts using social media, email, newsletters and our website to share our message with more people.
- Improve recognition of volunteers and donors.
- Engage additional volunteer leaders.
- Increase fundraising efforts.

CLI will continue to advance the charity's mission. Those who protect us and serve our country and communities deserve our thanks and support, and when we identify a need within these target groups, we hope to be able to provide resources to help. To meet this first goal, we need to share this message and enlist greater community support. We can reach our target audiences and communities through increased and better communications. These strategic goals are all closely related and interdependent. Achieving these first four goals should allow us to meet our two final objectives of adding volunteer leaders and increasing fundraising efforts. Our board desires to pursue grants and ongoing donations so we can continue to expand our programming and serve more people.

On behalf of the board of directors and the people we serve, Camp Liberty sincerely thanks you for your support.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in red ink that reads "Allan P. Lutes". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized 'L'.

Allan Lutes  
2024 Board President and Treasurer

Attachment (Preliminary 2024 Income Statement)

# Camp Liberty Inc.

## Preliminary Income Statement

01/01/24 - 12/31/24 (cash basis)  
20-Jan-25

	Amount
<b>INCOME</b>	
4000 Income	
4015 Interest Earned	6,204.68
4025 Dividend Income	1,304.30
4050 Donations - Annual Giving	38,394.20
4033 Donations - Restricted	7,000.00
4034 Donations - In-Kind	44,417.56
4000 Total Income	97,320.74
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>97,320.74</b>
<b>EXPENSE</b>	
6400 ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES	
6401 Accounting	500.00
6402 ACH Processing fees	93.43
6418 Advertising and Marketing	752.20
6403 Bank Charges	18.00
6406 Insurance	4,885.00
6412 Corporate Reg. and Annual Reports	20.00
6420 Professional Fees - Development	15,600.00
6400 TOTAL ADMINISTRATIVE	21,868.63
5900 PROGRAM EXPENSES	
5901 Events and Programs	17,425.52
5902 Compassionate Care	200.00
5903 Professional Fees - Programs	16,900.00
5904 Conservation Plan & Food Plots	1,046.52
5905 Program Equipment	822.93
5906 Equipment Repairs and Maintenance	1,129.77
5908 Building and Land Lease	1.00
5909 Program and Property Expense - Donation In Kind	44,417.56
5911 Pond Project	1,738.29
5900 TOTAL PROGRAM EXPENSES	83,681.59
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>105,550.22</b>
<b>OTHER INCOME</b>	
4998 Gain/Loss on Sale of Assets	200.00
<b>TOTAL OTHER INCOME</b>	<b>200.00</b>
<b>NET SURPLUS OR LOSS</b>	<b>-8,029.48</b>