



CAMP LIBERTY INC.
2026 Annual Report
December 31, 2025

Year in Review - In 2025, Camp Liberty Inc.:

- Executed 12 inclusive outdoor recreation activities in support of Veterans and First Responders.
 - 6x Hunts.
 - 2x Land conservation events.
 - 2x Family open house, fundraiser, and awareness events.
 - 1x First annual 5k Trail run/walk event.
 - 1x Volunteer appreciation and recognition luncheon.
- Expanded outreach and further developed relationships with the local surrounding community, various Veterans' Service Organizations, and First Responders from various departments and professions.
- Officially updated our mission statement to include First Responders.
- Completed the fishing pond project which expands onsite inclusive outdoor recreation opportunities.
- Assisted multiple local Michigan Veteran and First Responders with home repair projects and sponsored four families with \$1000 total in Visa gift cards during the holidays.

In 2025, Camp Liberty Inc. ("CLI") continued to build upon the previous year's momentum in fundraising, community outreach, and ensuring outdoor recreation programs were a success. We also had a positive response from the local surrounding community and younger Veteran and First Responder demographics that were drawn to our "open house" style Summer Picnic and Fall Family Fest which were attended by over 500 people.

Our outdoor recreation activities also included 3 deer hunts (83% success rate among 10 hunters in 3 hunts shared between 2 properties- Camp Liberty and a newly welcomed local partner from the Brooklyn area); 2 pheasant hunts (69 pheasants harvested by 39 participants with 3 hunters using track chairs), and 1 turkey hunt (4 hunters with a 100% harvest rate). 53 Veterans and First Responders in total participated in these hunts, 3 of which were females. These events were supported by 16 guides, 10 hosts, 3 companions, and 6 guide dogs – most of these supporting volunteers were also Veterans. More than half of all outdoor recreation activity participants were also disabled Veterans, many of whom were able to use the provided track chairs if needed. In fact, these track chairs were not only utilized at our outdoor events but were also loaned out to other local organizations such as Watkins Lake Foundation for additional use to those facing mobility challenges.

Other key events included two conservation and clean-up days (54 volunteers participated); a volunteer appreciation luncheon, our very first annual 5k run/walk event (28 participants), Veteran homelessness assistance, and various other opportunities for inclusive outdoor recreation. Camp Liberty also participated in Washtenaw County VetFest and conducted other off-site outreach events reaching approximately over 3500 Veterans and their family members. Our amazing volunteer base also assisted multiple Veteran families with home repairs in the local area. We closed out the year by presenting \$250 Visa gift cards to

four local Michigan Veteran and/or First Responder families over the holidays (\$1000 in total).

Camp Liberty was able to complete the pond project by installing two accessible docks, fish habitat structures, aeration, and pump system. This will enable future, new activities to be able to be offered to our participants, with a focus on integrating events such as a “kids fishing derby” in support of our Veterans and Local First Responders family members. Another improvement of the property was the new trail segment that was created to enable ease of movement between the north and south woods on the eastern half of the field near the pond. This portion also became part of our very first annual 5k run/walk event, which was very well received with several participants commenting on how nice the trails were. We anticipate the number of entrants to double for 2026 and look forward to seeing it continue to grow.

Improving local relations was also a focus. Primary engagements included attending events and working with local Chambers of Commerce, Trunk or Treat in Norvell Township, George Long Elementary School in Grass Lake for Veterans Day, Career Day at Napoleon High School, Irish Hills Corvette Club activities, Brooklyn Sportsman Club of Norvell Township event, and networking with numerous surrounding American Legion Posts and Auxiliaries. We also look forward to working with the local River Raisin Watershed Council to incorporate a joint river cleanup in the spring of 2026.

Major media outreach efforts included WMKC 102.9 FM radio station conducting Veteran’s Day interviews of three of our Veteran participants in November, and of our Vice President and another Veteran/host in October prior to the Independence Hunt. WSYM FOX 47 News joined us for the Independence Hunt and interviewed numerous of our hunters and guides. FOX 47 visited again in November to assist Camp Liberty in finding a local homeless Veteran housing while working in conjunction with Habitat for Humanity, and again in December to cover some of the Christmas Visa gift cards being presented to sponsored families. Incorporating numerous local community newspapers in our events, such as the Brooklyn Exponent, have also provided a lot of local visibility and awareness of Camp Liberty’s programs and results.

Heading into 2026, the board has decided to continue to fund two critical positions that ensure stability and continuity of our programs: Executive Director Melinda Schwyn and Administrative Assistant Terri Madden. Their personal drive and positive communication, both internally and externally to the organization, will ensure Camp Liberty’s Strategic Goals remain within reach over years to come.

Financial Highlights – In 2025, Camp Liberty Inc.:

- Spent 86% of every dollar of income on programs and services, exceeding non-profit benchmarks of 70% minimum and the “best practice” of 80%.
- Donor support continued a positive four-year trend, exceeding total fundraising goal by nearly \$30,000.
- 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 board of directors.
- Fundraising events expanded through the support of numerous local businesses and organizations.

For the past four 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 well planned 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 has been 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. Due

to limitations on this agreement, Camp Liberty must secure grants, major donations, or other avenues to generate the income required to purchase the property. This requirement has forced realignment of the strategic goals to ensure the future of the program.

Expansion of fundraising and awareness activities included at least three local businesses, two local clubs, and numerous Veteran non-profit organizations. By incorporating these locations, it not only raised funds but also spread awareness of Camp Liberty's mission and programs available while also drawing in additional potential future volunteers or leaders from the local community.

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. A 2025 year-end income statement will be published soon.

Board of Directors and Committees 2025-2026:

For 2026, we welcome new members to our Board of Directors:

Chad Fires – retired USAF Veteran with 25 years of service and active local community business leader.
Harry Krass – USN Veteran, retired Police Detective, lifetime member of Brooklyn Sportsman's Club, active member of American Legion Post 46 in Ann Arbor, and Camp Liberty Volunteer for over four years.
Craig Pearson – USN Veteran, local business owner, and active advocate/volunteer with various Veteran support organizations.

Continuing Board members for 2026: Allan Lutes, Larry St. Antoine, Jay Truchan, and Richard Briggs.

Retiring Board members: Suzanne Kaiser and myself (Jeremy Briggs). As the outgoing President, I personally want to recognize the talent and efforts of Suzanne. Her experience, professionalism, and enormous heart have helped guide our organization in rebuilding and refocusing during a critical phase. She kept all board members (and particularly me) informed and our meetings in order with her detailed minutes while serving as Secretary. Suzanne also spent countless hours behind the scenes preparing and supporting major events out at Camp Liberty. Thank you on behalf of the entire board Suzanne!

In 2025, the Camp Liberty Board also developed new organizational charts with Non-Voting Committee Directors to better organize and support programs: Fundraising – Robert Langlois; Conservation – Jeff Oswalt; Community Relations – Kathy Sutherland; Maintenance – Ed Madden; Outdoor Recreation – Keith Zastrow; and Volunteer Coordination – currently supported by Melinda Schwynn. Committee Directors help with managing their specific areas and reporting statuses, needs, or issues through our Executive Director, Melinda Schwynn, up to the Board of Directors.

CLI is always looking to add new volunteers or leaders to serve as directors. Those interested in getting involved are encouraged to attend events or join board meetings. Our new board and committee directors are extremely talented individuals who I expect nothing but greatness from. I hope to cross paths with everyone again at future Camp Liberty events and look forward to seeing what amazing things are being done out there.

Strategic Plan – In 2026, Camp Liberty will:

PRIMARY OBJECTIVES

1. Improve fundraising efforts to ensure an enduring program. Fundraising goals will be met by implementing new programs, while maintaining existing funding channels, resulting in at least \$62,400 in cash raised. This effort must include applying for grants and communicating with previous donors while also reaching out to potential new ones so CLI can own all properties and assets within two years to ensure program continuation while also reducing overhead costs. CLI's website donation process must also

be improved to provide more visibility and easier opportunities to generate income.

2. Continue to offer outdoor recreation programs serving Veterans and First Responders. This is our primary mission. In addition, CLI will explore opportunities to enhance programming to provide additional benefits to those we serve.

3. Clarify and broaden external communications. CLI must continue to seek clear external communications to ensure long-term relevance by connecting with more Veterans, First Responders, and community members. Outreach must include local chapters of Veterans Service Organizations, local land conservation groups, and various wildlife conservation groups. This includes improving communications programs by updating the website, catching up on posting historical reports and minutes, updating information to ensure currency and relevance, streamlining our databases, and improving social media and email efforts. Community relations will continue to be a priority goal. This objective will also include networking with groups that have similar goals.

4. Recruit, recognize, and retain volunteers. Camp Liberty must ensure to gain a new volunteer base while also retaining talent of those who have previously volunteered. This will be enabled by publicly recognizing the efforts of those who have dedicated their time and talents to better the organization. Continuing our volunteer appreciation event will also support these efforts.

5. Seek out and engage potential volunteer leaders and future board members. This includes electing two to four additional members for our board of directors and two to four additional volunteers to actively engage in leading committees or events.

SECONDARY OBJECTIVES

6. The Conservation Committee will become a fully functioning committee. This committee will meet at least quarterly with goals specific to the conservation of the property.

7. Work collaboratively with the River Raisin Watershed Council on an event to perform river cleanup along the banks of Camp Liberty.

8. Work with other agencies and groups that will allow CLI's track chairs to be better utilized by those with mobility challenges.

Final Thoughts:

Camp Liberty's programs are dependent upon two major factors: donations from our generous supporters and our amazing volunteer base. Without these two entities we could not continue to support our Veterans, First Responders, and their families. On behalf of Camp Liberty's Board of Directors and those we provide programs or services to; we sincerely appreciate your continued support!

Respectfully,



Jeremy Briggs
2025 Board President