

**Love Let Go Project Proposal : Entry # 1384****Submissions for this round of proposals will be due before the end of the day, May 17, 2020.****Sponsoring Congregation Member Name**

Erika Wold

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Prince of Peace Camp Scholarship Fund

**Brief, one sentence summary of the project proposal.**

This scholarship fund would provide the finances necessary to continue our current scholarship mission as well as allow us to grow current and future programming.

**Total Amount Requested**

\$25,000.00

**Other Funding Sources and Amounts to be Contributed**

Future fundraising as needed.

**Who will be the "Fiscal Agent" for this Project?**

Prince of Peace

**Detailed Description of Grant Proposal**

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Dear Committee,

Over the past several years, Prince of Peace has been on a mission to get our members to camp. Getting out of the city and suburbs and into the great outdoors to partake in God's creation brings regenerative and spiritual health to the soul and we want to make sure that the experience is both physically and financially accessible to all. We have been sending our youngest members to Camp Wapo for Summer Camp for several years. At camp, our youth make new friends, develop new skills and build confidence in themselves and the world around them. Recently, a new Confirmation Retreat program has been developed. For the past two years, the confirmation groups have ventured to camp together not just to process their confirmation material but also to bond together as a class. Another ministry has been the Fall Retreat. It is an inter-generational trek to camp for a weekend of ministry outside the walls of our church building. It is amazing to see the God inspired growth and development that can take place in the heart of nature.

As we all know, camp and programming come at an expense. In order to provide a measure of scholarship, we have been fundraising to make camp costs more accessible. Bake sales, cups of hot cocoa, and giving tree's, and generous donations have provided us with the necessary amounts but as our camp programs continue to grow and develop, we have learned that there is so much more we need to do to be fully inclusive of all. Would more kids participate in summer camp if we were able to offer more scholarship money? We have outgrown our current Fall Retreat accommodations. Moving to a larger facility allows more participation. We have come to realize that some of the facilities we have utilized limit some of our handicapped or elderly members from participating. What if we were able to rent a retreat space with accessible rooms and bathrooms?

We are so blessed to have had Rose as a member of our congregation and the money she left behind is a true gift. We hope that this camp scholarship proposal would become an enduring gift from her endowment. With a micro-grant we would not only be able to build upon our current programming offerings but would be able to ensure a camp opportunity for every member of Prince of Peace now and for years to come.

### Who is the "target community" being served?

We would anticipate that this micro grant would serve 100 individuals each year with the hope that we would grow our numbers to 125-150+ a year. The target community would be Prince of Peace members but could also be used to broaden our scope. For example, we currently send 10-12 campers to camp each Summer. PoP contributes \$100 plus t-shirts or other little give-aways to campers to help encourage participation as well as to assist families. Camp costs \$400 per camper for a week of programming. That can be a large expense for families and we know that the \$100 can make a big difference in sign up. Would more sign up if we could offer \$125 or \$150? But the money is not just for our members. Our Summer campers are also encouraged to bring a friend from outside of our congregation to camp. That friend also receives a small monetary contribution to their camp balance because it's great to share God and a little bit of monetary assistance in the process.

Our Fall Retreat generates an attendance of approximately 60+ people. With this number of people, we have outgrown our current space and it has been difficult to offer quality programming within the confined spaces. The space we use is also not handicap accessible nor is it inviting to our older population whose interest peaks at the mention of camp but quickly fades when they realize that bunk-beds are not as practical or that the cabin at the top of the hill can only be accessed via the trail through the grass. With the micro grant, we would be able to expand on our Fall Retreat programming and vision. What if we could rent out the larger lodge -which is handicap accessible. What if we were able to host an all church weekend and rent out the entire camp? Is there a need for couples retreats? Maybe a men's retreat? Can we send a group of our teens to the Mountains or the Boundary Waters? Our needs are ever changing and an ongoing fund would allow us to change and grow along with our congregation.

The Confirmation Retreat is a newer program that has recently been developed and has been a wonderful way for our confirmation students to have a weekend away at camp focusing on Confirmation studies and materials. On these weekends they get in-depth lessons in God and faith and get a chance to really bond and grow with each other.

### How can PoP members be involved?

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All members of PoP are invited to participate in camp as well as invited to create new program opportunities along with PoP staff. Information regarding camp is marketed out to our members and we will work to continue to provide inter generation and all inclusive programming.

**How many people do you anticipate this project will serve?**

100-150

**How does this project further PoP's mission\* in the community being served?**

We have grown so many wonderful relationships through our current camp programs. We have watched Confirmation students bond together, new families attend the Fall Retreat and feel welcomed and connected, and sent nervous campers off to camp just to have them return bounding with stories of all their adventures and the new friends they have made. We have also solidified relationships at Wapo and Luther Point. We share a mission and it is a joy that we have been able to work together on various projects in ministry.

\*The programs that connect us are what keep us coming back and camp programming this is another vital resource for to our ministry at Prince of Peace.

**Anticipated Start Date**

01/01/2021

**Other information you would like to share with the committee:**

This fund would be on-going, indefinite.

Thank you all for your creative contributions to the micro grant proposals and for your work in the submission process.

Erika

**Notes****Love Let Go Project Proposal (ID: 5cad0140e204d)**

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