



ECHOING HILLS

2026
First Edition Newsletter

INSPIRING HOPE CELEBRATING LIFE





A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT & CEO

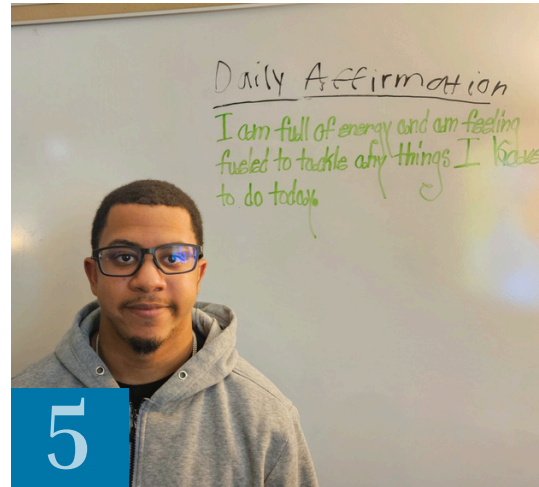
Spring has sprung! As I look across the landscape at everything budding and blossoming, I can't help but think of my own growth here at Echoing Hills. Starting as a camp counselor in 1991, I returned two decades later. Serving as a Director, Regional Director, and Vice President led me to my role today. Through it all, the best part has been watching those we serve grow and thrive.

Growth occurs through community, relationships, and finding purpose. Events like races or taking part in a choir show individuals they can pursue their interests and gain confidence in the process.

Often, growth happens because someone invests in you, helping you to believe in yourself. I think about a conversation I had with our former CEO. The words he shared gave me the push I needed to go back for my master's degree. For our friends at EchoingU of Northern Ohio, daily affirmations remind each person who they are and what they are capable of. It's exciting to think about what can happen because of these encouraging words!

Thank you for believing in Echoing Hills. Your generosity of time, talent, and treasure leads to continued, positive change – for the ministry and those we serve. You play an integral part in the growth we experience year after year!

Timothy D. Neville
President and CEO




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PURPOSE
Creating opportunities for individuals with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities to know and experience Jesus Christ



MISSION
Revolutionizing Lives where people live, learn, connect, play, and worship



IMPACT
Through team members, volunteers, and gracious donors, we serve and support approximately 900 individuals every year



Echoing Hills Welcomes Volunteer Outreach Specialist

Connecting Volunteers With Opportunities

Late last year, Echoing Hills created the *Volunteer Outreach Specialist* role to help coordinate volunteer efforts. Camille Adams has stepped into this newly created position; however, she is not a new face to the ministry. Previously serving as a DSP and a House Manager in the Northern region, Camille brings a long history of making a difference to the organization.



“For over two decades, I’ve had the privilege of working directly with incredible individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities,” she shares. **“Each day has reminded me why our mission matters – it’s about people, purpose, and possibility. I’ve witnessed countless moments of joy, growth, and connection.”**

In her new role, Camille will work directly with volunteers across the state, creating opportunities to make a difference for those we serve.

“My position is a bridge between Echoing Hills and the greater community. I look forward to creating opportunities for people to experience the joy of service firsthand. Whether it’s a one-time occurrence or an ongoing commitment, every volunteer brings a unique light that helps Echoing Hills shine even brighter.”

Volunteer Opportunities At Echoing Hills

Looking to serve close to 300 individuals this summer at camp, we are actively seeking volunteers! Come by yourself, with family and friends, or as part of a large group to volunteer for a day, a week, or more! Opportunities are available to work directly with campers, behind the scenes, or on special projects. Now is the perfect time to get involved!

To find out more about volunteer opportunities across the ministry, contact Camille at cadams@ehvi.org



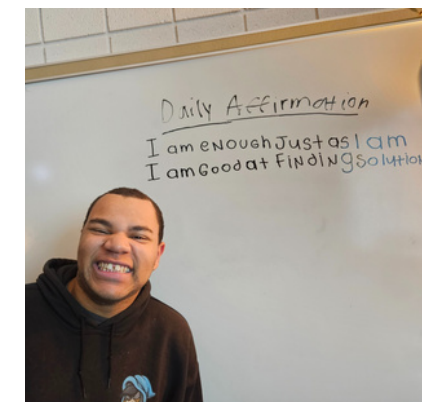
Growing Towards Greatness One Skill at a Time

“Life is like a box of chocolates; you never know what you’re going to get.”
– Forrest Gump

Whether studying finance, volunteering in the community, building job skills, or making a new recipe, EchoingU of Northern Ohio brings energy, promoting drive and ambition. Focusing on the interests of individuals, the program highlights abilities and encourages independence with words of affirmation. Camara, the Program Director, explains, **“It’s definitely a learning experience as the individuals and I work together; I don’t know who’s learning more.”**

Included in one of the lessons is learning to respect one another. Respect is earned by character, and Olivia, a participant at EchoingU, describes, **“It means to get along with one another.”** Developing teamwork and budgeting skills through her favorite activity, recipe preparation, Olivia’s goal is to find a job answering phones. Confident and capable, she’s becoming someone she can be proud of.

With confidence in the kitchen and much like Olivia, AJ enjoys recipe preparation, too. Additionally, the two of them share a love for the movie *Forrest Gump*. AJ explains, **“It makes me think about choices in life and how there are easy and tough decisions.”**

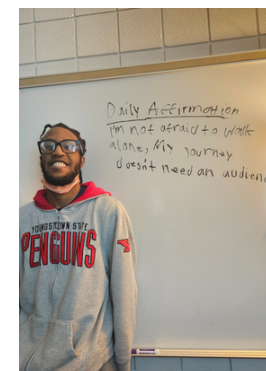


Working towards his goal to save money for his own apartment, AJ is learning financial literacy skills. EchoingU has helped him decide on the choices he wants to make and the goal he’s wanting to achieve. The program has also helped others to pursue their personal growth. People like Ahron.

“I have gained money, coping, and life skills with the help of staff. I want to be a good person and be the best version of myself.”

A big focus for EchoingU has been to help individuals improve their communication skills, with many aspiring to have interesting conversations. Putting this desire into action, Camara has big plans for the future of EchoingU. Individuals will have the opportunity to communicate with others through an upcoming pen pal program. They will be partnering with EchoingU of Northeast Ohio and using templates to get to know one another.

“I would like to see this initiative extend,” Camara shares. **“I hope there will be opportunities to meet pen pals in person.”**



Everyone has a voice that matters. Unique abilities, talents, and gifts create a community where all can feel valued.

Echoing Hills of Southeast Ohio provides those we serve with opportunities to share their gifts through a variety of activities and branch out of their comfort zones by stepping out into the spotlight.

Participating in programs like the Athens County Community Singers and Team Heart and Sole, individuals grow in independence and confidence by creating and reaching their goals with the help of family, friends, Echoing Hills staff, and the greater community.

PASSION, CONFIDENCE, AND BELONGING – MUSIC TO OUR EARS

Eli is a joyful social butterfly; Kristen is gentle and quiet, wanting to step outside her comfort zone. What unites them? A love for singing.

Artists and musicians of all abilities are welcome in the Athens County Community Singers. The choir's mission: promote inclusion and acceptance. For 13 years, the program has helped individuals achieve their musical dreams.

Rachel Ulbrich, Program Director at Echoing Connections, works hard to plan and communicate so individuals at Echoing Hills have opportunities like the singing program. Explaining her involvement, "I work with homes on rehearsal details, provide transportation, attend board meetings, and sometimes I take pictures at performances."

With a total of 34 singers in the choir, Echoing Hills is joined by people from the local community and those served by other disability services. Reflecting on a challenging time, Rachel mentions, "During the pandemic, we maintained participation by using Zoom. This year, everyone gathers at our building or can join virtually if they prefer. Overall, everyone looks forward to rehearsals."

Part of the excitement of the program is choosing the music! Individuals enjoy picking songs together to rehearse and perform. Additionally, they love to sing solos.

During a holiday performance at the Market on State, Kristen sang a solo of "Grandma Got Run Over by a Reindeer." Just before her performance, Kristen's loved one passed away. Although making it harder, she stepped up to sing, demonstrating beauty and grace. Rachel and other staff at Echoing Hills have loved encouraging Kristen and seeing her growth over the past two years.

Finding her confidence, Kristen says, "I enjoy getting my voice out there."

Eli shares Kristen's love for Christmas music. His favorites include "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer" and "Jingle Bells." Being involved in the community singing group for ten years, the staff at Echoing Hills, along with other members in the group, love seeing his smile year after year.

With a sweet spot for the holidays, Rachel explains, "The audience is encouraged to sing with us during holiday concerts. This makes those performances all the more fun!"

Rachel doesn't work alone. Gage, a Direct Support Professional, has two years of experience working for Echoing Hills. Not only does he assist Rachel with setting up rehearsals and providing transportation, but he also supports individuals during performances.

"Those in the choir get excited about going out into the community and performing," he shares. "It's a great program for those with a passion for singing."



RUNNING TOWARDS RELATIONSHIPS WITH HEART & SOLE

Like the Athens County Community Singers, Team Heart and Sole's mission includes creating inclusive opportunities for individuals with disabilities. Authentic relationships are built through participation in running events across Ohio.

Paul Richard, leader of the Athens chapter, shares, "Teammates and champions run side by side throughout the course; together we build awareness and understanding of developmental disabilities."

It takes a team to make outings happen. Like the choir, Rachel coordinates transportation for the eight individuals involved in the running group. "We have individuals and staff who run and cheer! I enjoy being able to take people to the events and supporting them while there."

An energetic cheerleader, Eli uses his voice for more than singing. He enjoys motivating his peers at Echoing Hills and running alongside them. Since joining the team in 2014, he's encouraged others to participate in the fun. People like Tiffany.

During events, Tiffany likes riding her bike, walking, hanging out with her friends from Echoing Hills, and making new friends. "I always look forward to the Race for a Reason," she shares.

Races exercise mutual trust between champions and teammates. Marianne, a loving mom, has learned to believe in the Echoing Hills team as she trusts them with her daughter's care.

"It was a difficult family decision, but I met people through Team Heart and Sole who are also served by Echoing Hills, and it's proved to be a special place," she says. "The staff at the ministry recognize having a child with special needs is a gift."

Hopeful and optimistic, Marianne continues, "The joy on my daughter's face is amazing. Through the two programs, she's met all sorts of new people, which is wonderful because she's always loved hanging out with a group. Team Heart and Sole and Echoing Hills have a lot in common; there are multiple chances for excitement and community."

Sharing in the excitement, Gage supports individuals who have a passion for running in addition to the support he provides for the choir.

"Hyping up the individuals we serve is awesome! There are so many good people involved. If you love being outdoors or like staying active – Team Heart and Sole would be a great fit."



MINISTRY PROGRAMS

RECREATION

Camp Echoing Hills offers a fully accessible summer program, short respite weekends, and travel opportunities.

EDUCATION

EchoingU helps young adults continue their personal, social, and professional growth beyond high school.

ADULT SERVICES

Echoing Connections connects individuals to the neighborhood around them through volunteerism, exploration, and building upon interests.

RESIDENTIAL

Echoing Hills Community Living provides homes that encourage and foster independence and integration.

