

Remembering Jane



My first summer working at Camp Echoing Hills was 10 years ago. I met our founder, Cordell, during my week of staff training. I heard his testimony along with his love for the ministry of camp and his love for his wife Jane. He shared how Jane supported him every step of the way. When I finally met Jane for the first time, she was in the back kitchen at camp dishing out a dessert she had made for everyone. She was serving in a simple way, and when I realized who she was, I thought, how many wives in her position would be serving in a behind the scenes way, with lack of spotlight? As I continued to get to know her, I realized that was exactly who she was — the example of a humble servant. All she wanted was to serve God and help others wherever she was needed. She was quite simply — the best.

— Emily Smith, Program Director, Camp Echoing Hills

I knew Jane Brown for almost 40 years. She was such a great example of kindness and servanthood, always content to work in the background without wanting to draw attention to herself. She just wanted to help and serve in any way she could.

While many may not have known Jane because she wasn't always in the spotlight, she was in many ways the backbone of Camp. Jane was there to support Cordell in any way possible. She will be greatly missed.

— Doreen Peterson, Registrar, Camp Echoing Hills

Before I was born, Jane was a part of my life. My dad, Shaker, joined the ministry at Echoing Hills in the mid '70s and became part of the family. He would share stories of how Jane made a point to take care of him, and though the age gap wasn't great, she was like a second mother to him. That's who Jane was, she was the camp mom. The way she served was always in the background, but she made a point to know everyone was cared for properly. She never asked for praise or for recognition. The impact she had on me was that of humility and grace. She was always kind and willing to give encouragement. Jane volunteered her time for many years in the kitchen so she could serve the way God had called her to do. She was a woman after God's heart.

— Lauren Unger, Director Camp Echoing Hills



Echoing Hills Connection

The Heart and Soul of a Servant A legacy of Hope and Love



In Loving Memory
Jane Brown, Co-founder of Camp Echoing Hills,
went home to be with her Lord and Savior May 15th, 2019.



Over the past six months as CEO of Echoing Hills, I have traveled around Ohio and witnessed firsthand how the staff and volunteers at Echoing Hills impact the lives of those we serve. It was truly amazing seeing the staff and volunteers around the state come together to do whatever they could to assist Dayton during the aftermath of the tornado. Observing the laughter and fun by campers of all ages as they form lasting relationships with volunteers and staff is one experience that won't escape my mind anytime soon.

And, I will never forget the team member who made sure that a cookie was pureed for an individual served at a picnic so he could have his dessert too.

There are many social service organizations around the state of Ohio that have a similar mission of revolutionizing lives where people live, learn, connect, play, and worship. However, I believe it is our purpose of creating opportunities for individuals with disabilities to know and experience Jesus Christ that distinguishes Echoing Hills. We have an eternal reason for a relationship with Jesus Christ that impacts the values and framework from which we operate. In I Corinthians 15:58, the Apostle Paul wrote: "My dear brothers and sisters, remain strong in the faith. Don't let anything move you. Always give yourselves completely to the work of the Lord. Because you belong to the Lord, you know that your work is not worthless." (NIRV)

I believe we can all agree that serving one another is the best way we can give back and make a difference in this world. Our Founders, Cordell and Jane Brown, are the epitome of self-less giving, and I'm thankful to be a part of the ministry that they have dedicated their lives to building and serving!

Tim Neville, President and CEO



Many of you have often heard me tell the story of how on that spring morning of 1965, as I was mowing hay on the family farm the Lord spoke to me. I knew in my heart that the Lord was calling me to serve people like myself, but I wondered how I could ever accomplish that. Not only did we not have the financial resources, but also the help we would personally need. Several years ago, I wrote a book titled, "I am what I am by the grace of God". I made several hardbound copies to send to my dearest friends. I also gave one to my wife Jane. In that book, I wrote her a letter. There is no better way to express what she meant to me, and that of her deep commitment to serve our Lord and Savior than to share the letter with all of you as my tribute and lasting love for Jane.

Dear Jane,

Please accept this leather-bound copy, 35th Anniversary edition of my life story "I am what I am by the grace of God" knowing that throughout these pages are chronicled the years that we have spent together from our courtship to our retirement as leaders of Echoing Hills.

There is absolutely no way this side of heaven that anyone will ever know how much a vital part you played in the life and legacy of Echoing Hills. Without you it would not be what it is today. It's not what's written here in these pages, but it's the stories that are so dear and sacred to you and me and only the Lord knows that are so important.

Thank you for saying yes when I asked you to become my wife, for standing beside me, for your constant support, your enduring love and your ability to see things in a way I could not. Cherish the fond memories, forgive me where I failed and never take your eyes off our Savior; for if you do, we will surely flounder.

*God Bless you!
All my love,
Cordell*

In the fall of 2018, it became evident that the Lord chose to begin Jane's final journey home. Together, we agreed we wanted to do something very special for Camp Echoing Hills. We would launch a fundraising program, and name it A Legacy of Hope and Love.

On May 15, 2019, God gave her the joy and peace that she so much deserved. He took her by the hand and said, "as we walk along together one day...at dusk...you shall come to a bend in the road, we will stop and far off in the distance you will see a mansion. It is magnificent in its glory. It is a house not made by hands but eternal in the heavens!" I can be at peace knowing Jane is home now, and she can rest easy knowing our dream of reaching and serving people with disabilities will continue through A Legacy of Hope and Love.

