

The Harvester

September 2022

Dan & Heather Litchfield, Thrive Maine

Let Praises Ring!

In our last *Harvester* we mentioned our concerns about the “Pay it Forward” policy we use for events. We praise God that two donors recently gave large contributions, allowing us to continue to offer retreats and events for free, and encouraging us to trust that God will provide.

Prayers for Home

Please join us in prayer for our upcoming events:

- Oct 1 women’s retreat in Portland
- Oct 1 men’s retreat in Fayette
- Oct 14-16 Marriage retreat at the Litchfield Pond House
- Nov 4-6 Women’s retreat at the Litchfield Pond House

Prayers for Abroad

We are excited to begin a partnership with Filter of Hope through a mission trip this April. Our goal is to unite parents and teens and challenge them to live for Christ through hands-on service. Pray as we plan for this Gospel-sharing clean water project: for participants, for growth, and for Kingdom fruit in those we’ll serve.



Back to School

We have come full circle in ministry. Beginning with the ministry of Cru at the University of Maine in 1998, we are now connecting with students again at UMaine. Keith, our newest Thrive staff member, is spearheading relationships on the college campus through discipleship and leadership development alongside current campus ministries. Rather than starting another Christian group, our hope is to serve the ministries already on campus, building into their leaders and helping them reach the lost. Recently Dan and Keith were on campus teaching students about how Jesus offers grace and truth. Every Wednesday Thrive will be doing experiential programs on campus to train students in godly leadership principles. Next Wednesday the guys will be leading a night hike up Chick Hill to talk about walking in the light and how they could create a community on campus where people can be real and known, humbly recognizing their need for Jesus. Please pray for these men and women to have open hearts and to be a light on campus where so much darkness prevails.

1 John 1:7 “But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin, ...”

High Point

Last year we sold some land in southern Maine and built a camp on Lower Springy Pond in Clifton. The camp has a full basement for additional sleeping and three bathrooms for lots of guests. Our hope was to provide a place from which we could host Thrive groups through the winter and a place that our family could also enjoy. By God's grace we have been able to serve all kinds of groups, from men's groups to women's retreats and youth retreats here at the Pond House. And, also by God's grace, it has enabled us to rent our house in Mount Desert for the summer to help pay for college for the kids and to begin paying off the cost of construction. Despite the lack of cell service and internet, we have enjoyed spending the summer on the pond and have been delighted to host Thrive events here over these months.

In a few weeks we will host a marriage retreat here, displacing our kids who will have to travel to southern Maine to be with grandparents for the weekend. Though this is not ideal, we are all used to vacating our rooms, sleeping on floors, or camping in the yard to make way for guests. Hospitality has become one of our biggest ministries since starting Thrive five years ago. We designed both our home and the pond house with this in mind and it is our joy to invite groups in and treat them as family. We believe that is one of the gifts that we can use for the glory of God, and conversations naturally lead to Jesus around a home-made pizza or a game of darts. We can envision serving this way into old age when our bodies can no longer white water raft and rock climb (closer all the time!) ☺

This month we have been surprised again by the awesome work of the Lord. Our older neighbors here at the Pond House are selling their camp and offered it to us fully furnished. After much prayer and consultation we offered what we could, and though it was \$40,000 less than their asking price, they took it. We close in October on their camp, aptly named "High Point."



The Vision

Our vision is not to have a retreat center per se, but multiple guest houses (using our little boat house down by the water, and the High Point camp and bunk house) where groups or families can come and be treated as family, and be served, loved, and challenged to grow in their knowledge of God and devotion to Him. We are excited to have more space to offer bigger groups, enough space that our family can stay on location during retreats, and a space that is an extension of our home from which to serve. We praise God for this amazing opportunity!

We will be raising more support to help cover the costs of a ten-year loan. Please pray for God's financial provision as we increase our salary accordingly. If you would like to give toward High Point, or could refer us to others who might give, please contact Dan: 207-266-6628 or Dan@ThriveNational.org.

We are so thankful for your support and we pray for you every week. Thank you for being part of this adventure of building God's Kingdom.