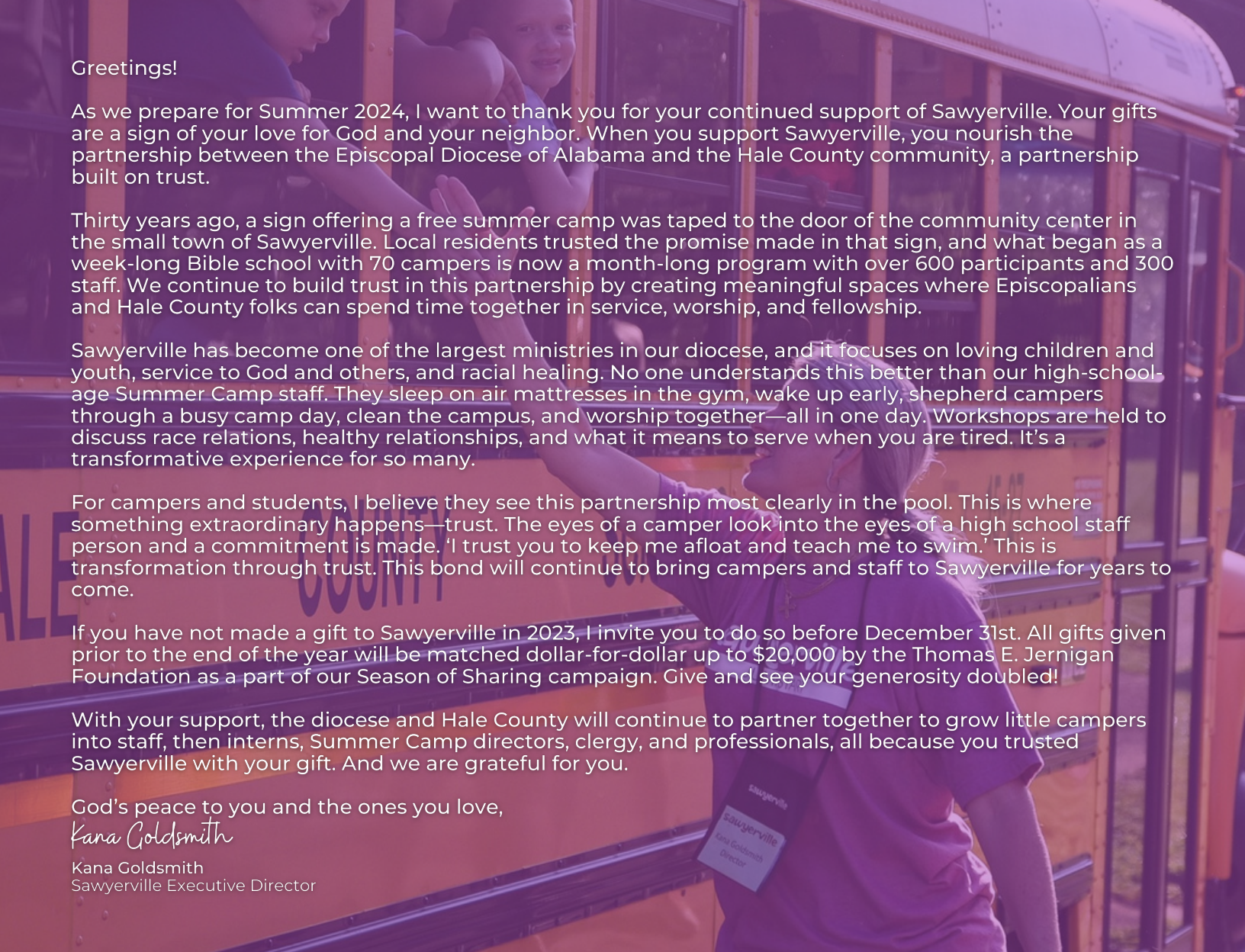


# sawyerville

## 2023 PROGRAM REPORT

30TH  
BIRTHDAY  
EDITION!

Sawyerville, a ministry of the Episcopal Diocese of Alabama, creates opportunities for children and youth in Hale County through free summer programs, mentoring, and scholarships.



Greetings!

As we prepare for Summer 2024, I want to thank you for your continued support of Sawyerille. Your gifts are a sign of your love for God and your neighbor. When you support Sawyerille, you nourish the partnership between the Episcopal Diocese of Alabama and the Hale County community, a partnership built on trust.

Thirty years ago, a sign offering a free summer camp was taped to the door of the community center in the small town of Sawyerille. Local residents trusted the promise made in that sign, and what began as a week-long Bible school with 70 campers is now a month-long program with over 600 participants and 300 staff. We continue to build trust in this partnership by creating meaningful spaces where Episcopalians and Hale County folks can spend time together in service, worship, and fellowship.

Sawyerille has become one of the largest ministries in our diocese, and it focuses on loving children and youth, service to God and others, and racial healing. No one understands this better than our high-school-age Summer Camp staff. They sleep on air mattresses in the gym, wake up early, shepherd campers through a busy camp day, clean the campus, and worship together—all in one day. Workshops are held to discuss race relations, healthy relationships, and what it means to serve when you are tired. It's a transformative experience for so many.

For campers and students, I believe they see this partnership most clearly in the pool. This is where something extraordinary happens—trust. The eyes of a camper look into the eyes of a high school staff person and a commitment is made. 'I trust you to keep me afloat and teach me to swim.' This is transformation through trust. This bond will continue to bring campers and staff to Sawyerille for years to come.

If you have not made a gift to Sawyerille in 2023, I invite you to do so before December 31st. All gifts given prior to the end of the year will be matched dollar-for-dollar up to \$20,000 by the Thomas E. Jernigan Foundation as a part of our Season of Sharing campaign. Give and see your generosity doubled!

With your support, the diocese and Hale County will continue to partner together to grow little campers into staff, then interns, Summer Camp directors, clergy, and professionals, all because you trusted Sawyerille with your gift. And we are grateful for you.

God's peace to you and the ones you love,

*Kana Goldsmith*

Kana Goldsmith  
Sawyerille Executive Director





Along with Kana Goldsmith, **Carrie Dennis** also joined **Sawyerville's year-round staff** as the new **Assistant Director**. Carrie is from Selma, Alabama and has served at Sawyer for many years, beginning as a high school staff member in 2018. She is a recent graduate of Auburn University, and she is excited for another great summer in Summer Learning 2024!





Our **30th Birthday Celebration** on June 29th, 2023 made for a great day full of reunions, fellowship, storytelling, and remembrance. We honored those who made this milestone possible, and celebrated the campers, students, and staff that are our future.

**Here's to 30 years, all for the kids!**



# sawyerville

## SUMMER CAMP



Celebrating its 30th year, Summer Camp welcomed **675 campers** and **251 staff members** over three sessions. Of the staff, **98** were **previous campers**—indicative of the success of the program and its goal to create lifelong connections in the lives of campers.



Other successes from the summer include the **\$44,383** raised in our Summer Challenge fundraiser, and the continued support from **local and Diocesan parishes** that makes Summer Camp possible.



# sawyerville

## SUMMER LEARNING

Adding rising fifth and sixth-grade students to the program this year, Summer Learning nearly **tripled** in size with **104 students** completing the program and **29 certified teachers** serving over **three weeks**. According to the STAR test, on average, students gained **2 months** of learning in reading and **2 ½ months** of learning in math.

Students were able to receive core academic intervention in reading and math, in accordance with the Alabama Literacy Act and Alabama Numeracy Act, and still have daily rotations of enrichment on the playground and Fridays at the pool!





# sawyerville

## JUMP START

In partnership with United Way of West Alabama, Sawyerville JumpStart helps prepare students for Kindergarten. This summer, JumpStart also saw growth, welcoming **22 students** over **four weeks of half-day programming**—the largest number of students to date!



This year, students practiced writing their names and worked with numbers, shapes, and colors. For enrichment and fun, JumpStart made ice cream, played on the playground, and had their very first Water Day, which was a big hit!





# sawyerville

## PERSON2PERSON



Person2Person welcomed **12 participants** and staff from all over the state. High school students, college students, and adults spent Martin Luther King, Jr. weekend learning about the history of race in Alabama and discerning how Christians are called to improve race relations now.

The group stayed at St. John's Episcopal Church and visited the National Memorial for Peace and Justice, the Legacy Museum, Freedom Rides Museum, Civil Rights Memorial, and the Harris House. They also had meaningful worship at St. Paul AME Church.





# sawyerville

## MENTORING

During the 2022-2023 school year, **5 juniors and seniors** from Greensboro High School were paired with **5 young adult mentors** who helped prepare them for life after high school graduation. Mentoring events included a Meet & Greet, College Readiness Workshop, and a Life Skills Workshop. At the end of the year, our mentors attended Greensboro High School's graduation in support of graduating mentees and presented them with their graduation gift from Sawyerville, a new laptop!





# sawyerville

## SCHOLARSHIPS



Sawyerville scholarships, including the Leslie Manning Scholarship Fund, awarded **15 scholarships** of **\$850** each for a total of **\$12,750** given in 2023. This year's recipients are listed below.

Hannah Whaley  
Denesha Anderson  
JaMya McCreary  
Mariyum Lowther  
KaLynn Patterson  
Hakeem Bennett  
Victoria Glover  
Ryesha Fields  
Terriah Robinson  
Maleka Cox  
Jacoby Gater  
Aaron Wiggins  
Carmen Benjamin  
Shacondra Green  
Michael Wiggins







**STAFF**

**FOLLOW  
& LIKE**

**JOIN CIRCLE  
OF FRIENDS**

**SERVE  
A MEAL**

**COLLECT  
SUPPLIES**

**REQUEST  
A TOUR**

**E-NEWS**

**DONATE**

**PRAY**

**How to Get Involved**  
**[www.sawyerville.org](http://www.sawyerville.org)**

