

Sabbath Rest

ECFA

As of December 22, 2013, Shepherd's Refuge is an Accredited Member of the Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability. For those not familiar with the ECFA, here are two paragraphs from its president's editorial found in the "Enhancing Trust 2013" publication:

"Thirty-four years ago, the ECFA founders determined that a set of high governance, financial, and fundraising/stewardship standards would serve the Christ-centered community well. The fundamental concept was pass/fail—ECFA's members must pass all of the standards, all of the time. Noncompliance with even one of the standards disqualified an organization from ECFA membership. Time has confirmed the wisdom of those early decisions.

.....
This is the day for Christ-centered organizations to step up in terms of accountability, transparency, and integrity. Accreditation by ECFA communicates credibility to givers. This increased giver confidence leads to greater generosity of time, treasure and talents, which, in turn, provides enhanced funding to fulfill the Great Commission!"

The founding history came out of the late 1970s, when there was growing public and political concern over an increase of questionable fundraising practices in the non-profit sector. Additionally, donors and governmental agencies expressed concern over the management of their donations to achieve publicly state objectives as presented in fundraising appeals. Donors had no source for an objective assessment of the financial integrity of Christian organizations desiring their support.

Senator Mark Hatfield challenged key Christian leaders to police their own charities or face the potential of governmental intervention. This led to the formation of ECFA. Standards were established and a chartering process was initiated for applicant ministries.



For more information about ECFA's Seven Standards of Responsible Stewardship, please visit their website at www.ECFA.org or call them at 800-323-9473.

The Selah Cabin and Dr. and Mrs. Gambrell

The Selah Cabin was finished in March 2013 and already 178 guest/nights have been logged.

The cabin would still be under construction had it not been for the very generous support from Dr. and Mrs. Gambrell of Augusta, GA.

After a long illness, Mrs. Gambrell joined her husband to be with the Lord in February of this year.

The guests and our board will be forever grateful for their invaluable partnership.

Recap 2013

As mentioned above, the Selah Cabin came online in early 2013, doubling the available space to serve our guests.

A new record was set with 49 couples and 8 individuals being served resulting in a total of 429 guest / nights. (2 guests staying 1 night equals 2 guest/nights)

Not to be outdone, donations matched the increase in operating expenditures. We praise the Lord for all who became new partners, and for all those who faithfully continued their support throughout the year.

Outlook 2014

One of our goals for this year is to establish working relations with at least 5 foundations that are willing to come alongside of the donor base we already have.

The next cabin is on the drawing board, and already good seed money has been set aside. Just like with the Selah Cabin, construction will start once sufficient funds are available for the first stage.



As of the beginning of March, we already have reservations for 34 couples and 6 individuals resulting in 401 guest/nights!



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A non-profit ministry
recognized as a 501 (c) 3
organization.

The purpose of Shepherd's Refuge is:
To strengthen His church in fulfilling its Great Commission
by caring for its leadership!

Php 1:6 ... being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work
in you will perform *it* until the day of Jesus Christ, ...

Continuity

A note from the hosts.

Just recently, we had a good discussion with one of our Advisory Council members. His question was very simple: "...*what happens when Ruedi and Sandy can no longer manage the affairs of Shepherd's Refuge?*" Here is what our reply to him was:

This is not our ministry, but the Lord's. He will have someone to step up to the plate and take over.

Based on our contacts with likeminded people, we are confident that the Lord is already grooming the next couple.

We are proactively searching out couples (and already have found one), who can come serve at Shepherd's Refuge on a temporary basis at short notice.

"For decades, ECFA standards have provided a road map for charities to follow to demonstrate unmistakable integrity in handling gifts involving donor intent." (Dan Busby, President, ECFA)

Comments

In our monthly newsletter to partners we shared the following comment a pastor recently left with us: *"We needed this time of rest, renewal and reflection, and God met us at our point of need. Thank you for providing the place so wonderfully used by God to meet our needs."*

And another one of 231 lines of comments we have received:

"Our experience was a God sent. The love and compassion we felt was amazing."

Keep this in mind:

Check out our [web-site](#) and our [Face Book page](#) for the latest news and updates. Progress reports are available online, or by sending us an email, or even better, by giving us a call!



- ⇒ Encourage and support your pastor to decide to take time off.
- ⇒ Help him/her remove the feeling of guilt when they do decide to get away.
- ⇒ Think about the health of their own family relationship.
- ⇒ Consider the benefits to the congregation from a well rested pastor.
- ⇒ Understand the consequences of a burnt-out pastor!
- ⇒ [You can decide to make a difference, become a Ministry Partner](#)

Become an Encourager!

As a monthly donor you partner with us as we serve those tired and weary pastors and missionaries the Lord sends our way!

Consider using the [Razoo](#) or [PayPal](#) button on our website:

www.shepherdsrefuge.org

or

Use your bank's automatic online bill payment system

or

Send your checks to:

**Shepherd's Refuge—Selah Ministries
P.O. Box 1221, Dahlonega, GA 30533**



A pastor's time of reflecting.