Merry Christmas, Friend of the St. Iakovos Retreat Center!

As we enter into the most special, holy time of the year celebrating the birth of Christ, we wish you and your family a very blessed time together.

You have been a very important part of our mission here at the St. Iakovos Retreat Center and we have much to be grateful for. It has been a busy year full of activities, faith filled retreats, and guest visits. **We could not do it without your support!**

We need your help for our annual giving fund, as we serve every youth and adult that steps onto our stunning property. We have included a special gift in appreciation of your support and all that you make possible. **Enclosed is a map of our HOME; showing our places to stay overnight, our recreational fields and sports offerings, our lake activities, our inspirational hiking trails, the barn housing our animal friends, and our peaceful chapel adorned with stunning icons.**

As you open our map illustrating our unique mission in the woods, we ask you to think of our needs this year. **Each red pinpoint on our map indicates not only an amenity we feature for you to learn about and enjoy, but it also represents an area of expense for us.**

We hope you will choose your favorite areas from our tags on our Giving Tree, and give back to the Retreat Center. **Each tag has a symbol that matches up to our map for an area of need.**

**The Tomaras Lodge, Log Lodge and Cottages** – are places where people stay overnight with us. These lodges also host many people to dine together in a beautiful setting, enjoying fellowship with one another. This facility also accommodates the meeting needs of many of our groups.

**Our Friendship Lake and Marina** provide many hours of boating fun and fishing for all. It is a peaceful spot to sit on the dock and watch the sunset. Fishing with catch and release give special memories to our guests. We have various types of watercraft and fishing gear for our visitors.

**Our Life-Giving Spring Chapel is the heart of our Retreat Center** and was the first building to be built. It was dedicated to honor God with our service to youth and adults. Many services are held here, and it is a place of teaching, learning, and growing closer to God and our faith.

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Hiking Trails – Our 2.1 miles of hiking trails in a wooded pine forest provides a refreshing experience, as beauty surrounds you. Along the way, there are 16 contemplation stops (Proskynitaria) to pray and learn about the work and dedication of our saints. It is a place of peaceful stillness in a busy world.

Sports Fields and Recreation – Our sports fields and recreation equipment includes; soccer, baseball, octoball, sand volleyball, basketball, and a playground. The open fields are used for many other games during camps. It is the spot where large tents and picnic grilling takes place.

Barn and Animals – We have a barn and pasture areas for our animals. Our sweet animals include; Gem and Scouts (goats) Bo, Fritz, and Flash (alpacas), two horses, Kirby and Danny, various cats (Momo, Kittay, Slate) some ducks and even a peacock! We are kicking off a “Friends of the Animals” campaign to help maintain these areas and pay for feed and care for the animals. Everyone loves to visit them, and we offer tractor hayrides for group enjoyment.

All of these areas make up our Home at the Retreat Center. A unique experience in a place for you and your groups to visit, relax, play and refresh. Fellowship and Faith is an important key of our service to others. We hope you make yourself comfortable in our Home and help to support our mission this season.

May God bless you this holiday season!

Jayne McGrath
Development Director
St. Iakovos Retreat Center

PS. Please fill out the enclosed form to select your area of interest for giving!

*The board of SIRC reserves the right to use all gift funds where needed most.