



# Press Release

For Immediate Release

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## ***Because I said I would* to acquire 92-acre property, create camp focused on mental health, social-emotional learning and character development.**

**COLUMBUS, OH – JULY 18, 2022:** *Because I said I would* announced its most ambitious fundraising campaign in its history. The nonprofit has entered an agreement to purchase a 92-acre winery and cabin lodging business in Walhonding, Ohio. The property will be converted into a summer camp for 12-17 year-olds from all backgrounds. Camper scholarships will focus on students who have been affected by suicidal ideation, bereavement or child abuse. The *Where Promises Begin* Campaign aims to raise \$5.8 million by the end of 2022.

*"Emergency room visits for suicide attempts have increased over 50% for teenage girls in a 24-month period. But this camp isn't just about the extreme cases; The mental health of our youth is at a crisis level across the board. There is no more time for waiting. Camp because I said I would will help 6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> graders build resiliency skills that will serve them for a lifetime." - Founder & CEO Alex Sheen.*

Outside of summer months, the property will be used for up to 150 family retreats for those in bereavement after losing loved ones to cancer, domestic violence, car crashes and other tragedies. A range of mental health and social-emotional learning professionals will help design and deliver a variety of programming independently and in partnership with other nonprofits. Additionally, community events, corporate retreats, weddings and other events will help fund the organization's charitable mission.

Reaching the campaign goal will coincide with another historic milestone—*because I said I would's* 10-year anniversary. Donor support is pouring in from around the country, including a \$250,000 gift commitment by CEO of Mighty Equities, Manish Patel.

*"I just want to live in a society that is decent to one another. I have been a supporter of because I said I would for 9 years because I believe their programming provides a foundation for that to happen. Focusing on concepts like self-control, honesty and accountability improves our country's physical health and mental health, reduces violence and can even help the natural environment."*

The charity will be holding a 10-year anniversary celebration event at the property from September 9<sup>th</sup> through September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2022. The Celebration Host Committee includes distinguished members such as Lee Schwebel, an owner-shareholder of Schwebel Baking Company. The weekend will include property tours, leadership development workshops, on-site volunteer projects and inspirational speeches from five-time TEDxTalk presenter Alex Sheen.

To make a contribution to the capital campaign visit [www.camp.becauseisaidiwould.org](http://www.camp.becauseisaidiwould.org) or contact Dan Gravo, VP of Fundraising & Development, at 330.649.1889 or [dan@becauseisaidiwould.org](mailto:dan@becauseisaidiwould.org).