From: Department of Communication & Public Affairs
Moose International
Mooseheart, Illinois 60539

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GARY L. URWILER

Gary L. Urwiler's life is a living example of resilience, hope, and the transformative power of opportunity. As Executive Director of Mooseheart Child City & School since January 2013, Gary brings unmatched enthusiasm and heartfelt dedication to his role, inspiring everyone around him to believe that no challenge is too great to overcome. His passion for helping children reach their full potential radiates through his leadership, his words, and his actions every single day.

A proud Mooseheart alumnus, Gary's connection to the "Child City" runs deep. Arriving on campus in 1981 at just twelve years old, he experienced firsthand the love, support, and structure that Mooseheart provides to children in need. Those formative years shaped not only his character but also his life's mission—to give back to the community that gave him everything. A 1987 graduate, Gary went on to quarterback the Red Ramblers to back-to-back undefeated regular seasons before continuing his athletic and academic journey at Eureka College, where he once again led his team to an undefeated season and national recognition. His drive, teamwork, and perseverance became the hallmarks of his leadership both on and off the field.

Before being appointed Executive Director, Gary served Mooseheart as Superintendent of Education and Principal of the K–12 school system beginning in 2003, and since 2004 has led the Red Ramblers as Head Football Coach. His earlier roles as Dean of Students, Athletic Director, and Coach reflected his unwavering belief that education, discipline, and encouragement can change lives. For Gary, every child's success story begins with someone who believes in them—and he's dedicated his life to being that person.

Gary holds a Bachelor of Science in Secondary Education from Eureka College and a Master of Science in Educational Administration from Aurora University. His achievements in leadership and athletics have earned him recognition as *Aurora Beacon-News Football Coach of the Year* (1996) and *Chicago Bears Coach of the Week* (2011). Beyond his professional accomplishments, Gary's energy and optimism have touched the hearts of countless students, staff, and families throughout the Moose fraternity.

A devoted Moose member for more than three decades, Gary joined Aurora Lodge No. 400 in 1994 and later transferred to Mooseheart Lodge No. 2655. He has served in multiple leadership roles, including Governor of the Lodge, and was conferred the prestigious Fellowship Degree of Honor in 2009. His service and dedication continue to reflect the true spirit of the Moose—faith, family, and service to others.

Gary and his wife, Donna, met at Mooseheart and were married at the Mooseheart House of God in 1997. Together they have built a beautiful life rooted in love, purpose, and community. They are the proud parents of three sons—Zachery, Quinton, and Trey. In October 2025 they celebrated the joy of becoming first-time grandparents to Colton Lee Urwiler, and then again with baby brother Lane Henry Urwiler being born in November 2026.

Every step of Gary's journey—from a young boy finding hope at Mooseheart to leading the very community that raised him—embodies his unshakable belief that with compassion, determination, and faith, anything is possible. His story continues to inspire all who are privileged to know him and to be part of Mooseheart's enduring mission of changing lives.