



YMCA Camp Carson

An Experience That Lasts A Lifetime!

Fall 2012

Volume 6, Issue 2

SO MUCH MORE THAN A TRADITION - A Camp experience that spans 3 generations



Since the 1940's a member of my family has attended YMCA Camp Carson. This had its beginning with my mother, then my 3 older sisters, me, and now my daughter, Anna Leigh, who just attended her 11th year of camp working as a counselor. **It is an obvious fact that the Camp Carson tradition runs through our veins, but you must also realize that something else keeps us attached to this wonderful place.**

By Susan Jenkins McVicar

I could write pages of camp memories. Memories of chapel events, campfires, canoe trips down the White River and so many songs. However, after the many years of taking and picking Anna Leigh up from camp (with my mom along) I've realized the **lasting effects of Camp Carson** do not end when you have told all your stories or sung all the songs. **Instead they travel with you through life's obstacles, and the values you learn at camp help you face each and every one of them.**



As a child I can remember the anticipation of going away to camp as if it were yesterday. Going shopping for the list of items was the best. One could not forget: bug spray, a new flashlight, and stationary (writing a letter home was a must). The 40 minute car ride seemed like hours. I remember mom telling me to be sure and make my bunk to help win cabin inspection, make new friends, and learn new songs. **Little did I realize then that these instructions would become such an integral part of how I lived my life and later become some of the many values that I wanted to instill in my own children.**



Sending your child off to camp is sometimes his or her first opportunity to be away from home. It was difficult for me; Anna Leigh was only 7 years old. But, it was not long before reassurance washed over me when I realized that **she would be gaining independence and self-confidence in only one a week.** Pulling into camp after a 30 year long absence was unbelievable. Most everything was the same as I remember, even the cabins still stood. I remember my mother telling stories of how the pine trees were just saplings in the years that she was a camper. We walked around camp that first year, admiring the new additions such as the lodge, the Blob, and the climbing wall but were most excited to see the same chapel area, the sailboats/canoes, and of course the same bath houses. A sense of calmness swept thru us both knowing that Anna Leigh was going to begin making her own memories at this wonderful place. As we were leaving I even caught myself telling her to work hard at winning cabin inspection, make lots of new friends, and to learn new songs!

After her first camp experience, it seemed that my daughter could not get enough. Slowly, I began to notice changes in her that once altered my life, too. Confidence that was once hidden by a shy personality was now shining through. **My daughter always states that she "found herself" at camp,** and gives all the credit to the wonderful staff and friends she met along the way. Camp Carson impacted my daughter's life enough to impact mine as well. You cannot help but feel the joy and warmth that she does when reliving a camp story or lesson. She always says the same thing that will always stick with me, "Camp Carson ignites a flame in you that shines so bright, no one could possibly avoid it. The warmth it gives off, the hope it shows through its light... **it makes you want to acquire it, too."** And people do, they see this change in children, this growing independence and confidence, and want that for their children as well.

In today's hectic world of year round sports, extra curricular activities, and shortened summer breaks, it becomes increasingly more difficult to "find the time for camp". The cost of camp has risen over the years making it more difficult for families to include it in their budget without committed planning. I would encourage parents with this - it's worth the commitment! **I have learned that more character building happens in one week of camp than most any other activity. Camp Carson is more than a tradition. Camp Carson gives your child the opportunities to make lifelong friends, learn respect, honesty, gain independence, and to grow spiritually.** As each summer passed, I witnessed these attributes grow within my daughter. As a senior in High School, I can honestly say that her years spent at camp have been a great influence in her readiness for her next journey in life. These values learned are priceless.

R-L: Beverly Jenkins (1946-1950)
Anna Leigh McVicar (2003-2012)
Susan Jenkins McVicar (1965-1973)





In 1940, when YMCA Camp Carson was to open for the first time, Leonard Schlamp was the first camper to sign up. This past Labor Day at Family Camp, Leonard returned once more *as a camper* along with his grandchildren and *great grandchildren*. It was so much fun to see Leonard enjoy camp with the younger generations of his family. I have had the distinct privilege over these past 12 summers at Camp Carson to visit with many alumni who have also returned to explore this “magical place.” We have been blessed with the opportunity to ensure that today’s young people (and young at heart) continue to experience that same magic that draws our camp family “home.” As the years pass by, it is inevitable for all of us to look back with fond memories at particular places and times of our lives. As you will have read in some of the stories and experiences shared in this newsletter, camp has that pull on all ages.

In an era where we can spend as much on a cup of coffee as we do on a gallon of gas, or \$60 on a video game that will be played out and forgotten in six months and resold for \$20, or \$120 on a pair of shoes because they’re the new “thing”, or \$400 on a phone that will be redundant in three years - **what value do we put on the camp experience?** What is the result of that investment?

This past summer I asked our CIT’s (Counselor in Training) to write down a few paragraphs about why they come back to camp. What is the draw? The attraction? The experience? If there were space, I’d publish all their responses but for now here are a few highlights on “Why I Come Back”.

Destiny H. – Camp Carson is a **place completely different from any other.** I’ve been coming back for 9 years and it has been the highlight of my summer every time. Throughout the school year I am a pretty shy person, but when I come to camp I **know I’m at a place where I can truly be myself** and come out of my shell... Camp has a **way of teaching things you never knew about yourself** and really helping you find out who you are. No matter what has happened outside, **you are accepted and loved** when you enter the gate.

Chris L. – Camp is the only place you can sing Princess Pat without holding back and not be ridiculed. The only place you can participate in Arts and Crafts as a 16 year old boy and have others join you without question. **I have come to a conclusion Camp Carson is its own separate world with a different social order and different rules than the rest of the world.** It’s a world that I enjoy and want to continue to enjoy for a long time. That is why I come to camp. This is why I chose Camp Carson.

Shania K. – Camp Carson is like a home to me... **the staff along with campers make me feel special and welcome.** It seems that I am drawn back here as well as inspired by multiple reasons... an opportunity to try new things; an honor to meet new friends from all over the world; there is no negative; the feeling you get when you do something or see something good happen... the fact that there’s no drama, trouble or things to put you down. Where I come from, we have none of the activities that are here. **When you make friends here, it’s a huge support system that carries on when you leave.** If a person is sad, there is always one person here that can change that. But one of the best things is when you see or do A.R.K. It stands for Act of Random Kindness, but I like to say AoK mainly because it shouldn’t have to be random but it should be done when ever and where ever. I think Camp Carson is “AoK” for me.



Reygan R. – I have no idea how to write this without sounding cheesy, **because I think the answer to why Camp? is that it changes lives. I mean I know it changed mine...** I honestly believe that LIT was a turning point in my life. In LIT I met some of the best people... I felt the conviction of God through some of them. We were able to share things we’d never shared

before. In turn we all learned how to care for others and let others care for us. If not **unbelievable fun, kids should come to camp on the chance that they connect and learn what it’s like to really be there for someone. It’s seriously life changing.**

Bobby R. - I believe that Camp Carson is one of the greatest places in the world and it is somewhere everyone needs to come too. **Camp is a special place because you get to be yourself and you are not judged.** You also get to forget or escape from your problems for a little while. It is almost a “real life happy place.” They bring you and your camper members closer together and **you get a second family that cares and loves you.**

Zachary C. – As I got older, I started to realize that camp **wasn’t just a place I went to have fun. It is a place where you can just be yourself without being judged...** For me, **camp is my favorite place to be.** It has taught me so much, and I honestly believe that I would not be the same person without the experiences I have had at camp.



From these comments, I think you’ll agree with me that even in an age that is so technologically driven, there is obviously something that continues to happen in this “bubble”, this “simple world” where kids literally unplug for a week or two. As parents, it’s something we all desire for our kids to experience, as alumni, something we are glad to know still happens at camp and even more so today, it’s something our young people yearn to experience – truly an accepting place where kids can grow and learn and love. Truly *“An Experience that Lasts a Lifetime”* and worth every investment we make.

Mark Scoular

YMCA CAMP CARSON ENDOWMENT FUND

– Building A Bridge for Tomorrow

Named Family or Alumni Group Funds

Did you know that within the camp Endowment Fund you can set up a **Named Fund in your family or group's name**? Named funds require a minimum of \$5000.00 but can also be started with a “seedling fund” of any amount. Several family or group members may contribute to the seedling fund over time until the \$5000.00 level can be reached. Families can then continue to contribute to the named fund year after year allowing the fund to grow. If you wish, you can also designate the purpose of your named fund. **What a great way to**

share in the legacy of camp as a family or as an alumni group!

***Why an Endowment Fund?** Earnings from the Endowment Fund helps underwrite things like camper scholarships, camp's programs and the operating costs of our facility rather than passing these costs on to families through camper fees. If you have any questions about the Endowment Fund, please do not hesitate to contact the Mark or Debra at 812-385-3597.*



Women's Wellness Weekend

Women's Wellness Guests give Pottery a Try These ladies at the Women's Wellness Weekend are getting ready to have an “interesting” time as they learn to use a potter's wheel at camp. The women who attended were so enthusiastic throughout the weekend as they participated in all the activities planned by the Y and camp staff. After the closing campfire, one guest commented on the growth she experienced in just one weekend and said **“If you can do this with us in just 36 hours, imagine what can happen with a child in a week!”** See Important Dates in this newsletter for details on this **great getaway just for women** to be held **April 19-21, 2013.**



Connect to us on Facebook - just type in www.facebook.com/campcarson OR scan this QR code with your smart phone!

Parents and Grandparents – Give CAMP for CHRISTMAS (or birthday)!

Gift Certificates available.

Camp makes a great Christmas gift for your children and grandchildren. Just register by December 15 and we'll send you a gift certificate to place under the tree.



CONGRATULATIONS TO DELANEY HOBBS – Girls Counselor of the Year

Delaney was such a strong counselor this summer and won the respect of her peers as she was elected Girls Counselor of the Year. We asked Delaney to share her thoughts about why camp is important to her and the children we serve. “I was a camper at Camp Carson for three years, and after idolizing my counselors for the summers I was at camp, I never even considered not coming back to be a counselor. Just watching **the campers bond so quickly and the countless friendships that form over things that could only happen at camp**, such as conquering their fear of heights, dressing up their counselors, competing for cleanest cabin and so much more probably top my list of favorite things about camp. **The impact of camp truly knows no age limit. When I was eleven, I left camp for the first time feeling more confident and optimistic. I'm nineteen now, and camp still brought out qualities in me I had not even realized I had.** I love working with kids because of their contagious carefree attitude and optimism. Their imagination knows no bounds and their curiosity for life is so inspiring. I was lucky and got to spend the majority of my time on the waterfront teaching swim games. **I loved working with both the kids that would attempt new tricks off of the diving board and the kids whose smiles extended from ear to ear when they went in the deep end for the first time.** Because of this activity, I got to meet a lot of campers outside of my cabin, and that came to be one of my favorite parts of the day.” Delaney is currently a sophomore at Wake Forest University in NC studying Health and Exercise Science and Communications.



2nd ANNUAL FAMILY CAMP A HUGE SUCCESS

AS REGISTRATION TRIPLES!

What a blast we had! Our family camp registrations increased to 93 this year – up from 25 in 2011. For some, it was a chance to meet at camp for a “family reunion” with extended family members arriving from all over. For others, it was a chance to do all the unique activities their kids got to do this summer like archery and the zip line. For still others, it was a chance to “check it out” in anticipation of sending their kids to camp for a week next summer. For everyone it was just a great weekend of camp fun and fellowship with family and friends. Thanks for all the compliments on the weekend program, friendly staff and great meals. **SAVE THE DATE – Labor Day Weekend.**



Hats Off and Thanks to Volunteerism at the YMCA!

As always, we want to recognize the many volunteers who participated for a day of volunteerism on behalf of our community and YMCA Camp Carson through the **United Way of Gibson County Day of Caring**. We are so grateful for all the tasks we are able to “cross off the list” each year thanks to the hard work and commitment of these folks. As with many non-profit organizations, the YMCA relies on the generosity of volunteers who donate their time, talent and treasure. **To ALL our volunteers throughout the year, our YMCA and YMCA Camp Carson say THANK YOU! We truly could not fulfill our mission without you.**

WISH LIST and WAYS YOU CAN HELP

- Volunteer to help organize two annual **workdays at camp** (Spring/Fall)
- Volunteer to be a **Host Family** for a 2013 Camp Informational Night to introduce other families to the magic of camp
- Join or create a team of **campaigners** for our 2013 Annual Fund Campaign in support of traditional and military camper scholarships and programs
- Donate a used **Station Wagon** or **Mini Van**
- Sponsor a **Student Life Application Bible(s)**. It is our desire to make a Bible available to any camper upon request.
- Sponsor **NYPUM program (National Youth Project Using Minibikes)**

You can **Sponsor...**

- **GPS Cross Country** orienteering program
- **Digital Photography and Video Program**
- Purchase of new **Western Saddles**
- **Tree House or Tree House Village**
- **Adirondack Shelter** as part of our Eagles Ridge Village
- Purchase or partial purchase of new **Cabin at Camp**
- A **Suspension Bridge** at camp
- **2 Tee-Pees** by Nomadic TeePee Makers
- Flat Roller & **Mini Glass/Jewelry Kiln** for Creative Arts
- **Archery** - Range Shelter & Take-down Recurve Bows
- **6 Flat Panel Monitors, Keyboards and Mouses** (to go with some computers that have already been donated)

of the Year & JOE TRAFANKOWSKI – Boys Counselor of the Year

All the way from Norwich, England, Joe joined us as a member of our international staff this summer. When asked about his summer experience, Joe had this to say. “I chose to work at camp this summer because I wanted to experience something that we don’t have in England – the camp experience, as well as seeing some of America. My favorite thing about camp is the whole friendly atmosphere, everyone is made welcome and everyone can be who they want to be and of course, all the fun activities that are always going on! **You can see that the impact camp has on kids is not like anything else they might experience in life, being away from their families gives them freedom and choice to do the activities they want,** as well as interact with kids of different ages and backgrounds, all of which make no difference at camp (everyone is ‘equal’ at camp). **What I like about working with kids at camp is feeling that sense of achievement and being that positive role model for them.** I worked at the alpine tower which for me was daunting as I am myself afraid of heights, but there’s nothing better than knowing you helped that kid who was scared to climb the tower make it all the way to the top and then come back and do it *again!* **Not only did I get that great feeling when I helped those scared kids make it to the top but also when I made it to the top too!** I was also a lifeguard, loved being by the water and making sure the kids were safe.” In reading Joe’s comments on his first summer at camp, it’s easy to see why the staff elected Joe as Boys Counselor of the Year. As far as the future goes, Joe is looking to work in the fitness industry or become a teacher.





CAMP LAYAWAY!

About \$100 a month December - May

Did you know you can put a week of camp on layaway? Just register with the \$75 registration fee and split your balance over 6 months from December to May. You can set up automatic payments or call or mail in payments of any amount any time.



2012 YEAR END TAX DEDUCTIBLE CHARITABLE GIVING

Good for You, Good for Kids, Good for Camp

This summer 682 children received assistance to camp through direct scholarships, our tier pricing program, Operation Purple Camp and through camp's ability to underwrite a portion of Safety Patrol week and Camp Kesem. As 2012 comes to a close, we would like to invite you to help us wrap up our 2012 campaign by making a **year end tax deductible gift**. Your investment will benefit **all kids** who attend camp as these funds not only provide scholarships but also lend support to program supplies and stewardship of our facility and the activity areas enjoyed by all campers. We truly could not fulfill our mission without the generosity and caring gifts from friends of camp like you. We are committed to providing these camp experiences for children and **we need your help to make sure we don't fall short in our fundraising efforts so that we can continue to offer this level of assistance**. Thank you for considering a year end gift!



| | |
|--|---------------------|
| Annual Fund Goal for 2012: | \$ 70,000.00 |
| Raised to date: | <u>56,207.08</u> |
| Needed To fulfill our commitment: | \$ 13,792.92 |
| | |
| Operation Purple Camp 2012 | |
| For Military Families: | \$ 45,000.00 |
| Raised to date: | <u>15,179.93</u> |
| Needed To fulfill our commitment: | \$ 29,820.07 |

2012 KNIESE SCHOLARSHIP

Established by camp alum, August Neal, in memory of Mark Kniese and his incredible passion for kids and life, the **Mark Kniese Memorial Scholarship** is an academic scholarship awarded to one Camp Carson staff member each summer. Our summer counselors are asked to nominate a peer who most exemplifies the core values of the YMCA – Caring, Honesty, Respect, Responsibility and Faith. We are pleased to announce the summer of 2012 recipient of a \$4060.00 scholarship, **Ben Baker**.



August Neal & Ben Baker



Not from this area, Ben first heard about Camp Carson through the downtown Evansville Y while looking into working in their after school outreach program. Ben worked with campers at kayaking this summer. He says, **"I loved it because it was an activity (like most at camp) that kids don't get to do outside of camp. Plus it is was neat to see their reaction when they were given the freedom to go wherever they wanted on the lake."** His most rewarding moment came during Operation Purple Camp as a result of successfully helping one of his campers overcome his struggles with handling confrontation appropriately. At the end of the week the camper thanked Ben for helping him learn to have better self control. Ben said, "It was really special and gave me tons of perspective on not only camp, but life outside of camp." Ben also relayed that from that week on, **he realized he really could have a positive, life changing impact on campers and that camp is so much more than entertainment**. Ben was also one of the counselors for the LIT (Leader in Training) program and demonstrated strong leadership for these teens. Ben studied music for a semester at Olivet Nazarene and is currently earning a degree in History at

USI. Please join us in congratulating Ben as the Kniese Scholarship winner. We look forward to having him back on our staff next summer.

Don't miss
EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION
Next year's dates at this year's rates.
Expires December 20, 2012!



YMCA Camp Carson

An Experience That Lasts A Lifetime!

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Mom & Dad,
Have campers moved on? Please email
camp with their new address!

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Executive Director

Mr. Mark Scoular

DATES TO REMEMBER

Register now for 2013 SUMMER CAMP!

Register over the phone or go to www.campcarson.org to register online or to download a paper application. **Summer Camp Begins June 9, 2013!**

2013 ANNUAL FUND CAMPAIGN Begins February 13

Our opportunity to ensure a camp experience for ALL kids through our investments in scholarships, program and facility support.

WOMEN'S WELLNESS WEEKEND April 19 – 21, 2013

Escape to a weekend of renewal at camp! For the **adventurous** - take on camp activities like the climbing tower, canoeing, mountain biking or archery, for **fitness** - participate in a class like ZUMBA, for **inspiration** - take part in a seminar on healthy mind, body and spirit, for **relaxation** - take a stroll around the lake or through the woods or kick back on the porch with a good book! No cooking for you - just **great meals** and **warm fellowship** with other ladies enjoying a weekend of wellness!

FAMILY CAMP – Labor Day Weekend 2013

Put 2013 Camp Fees on LAYAWAY! \$100 a month December – May!



In partnership with St. Mary's Medical Center, our first **INdependence Diabetes Camp** for children with **Type 1 diabetes** kicked off with flying colors! Our thanks, again, to the **Jay Cutler Foundation** for underwriting this new program. **Dr. Rebecca Winsett**, the nurse in charge and with over 20 years of diabetes camp experience, managed the health care and self management education for these campers. **Dr. Michael Verive** was also on site as the resident physician and as with all the medical staff, very actively engaged with the campers. Most of all, the **campers learned some independence and had fun doing everything camp had to offer!** Get the word out – enrollment ages have expanded for summer 2013 so that Diabetes Camp is **now available for campers age 9-15.**

OTHER SPECIALTY CAMPS – Watch for updates on these weeks of camp for families who qualify – some at no charge.

Military Families – Operation Purple Camp for children of currently, recently or soon to be deployed parents. Ages 7-16.

Families Battling Cancer in partnership with **Camp Kesem-IU**. Camp for children who have a parent who has or had cancer. Ages 6-16.



The YMCA of Southwestern Indiana, Inc., following the example of Jesus Christ, responds to community needs by serving all people, especially youth, through relationships and activities that promote healthy spirit, mind, and body.

CONNECT OR RECONNECT WITH CAMP

Links available via our website gateway page.

