



Fall 2013

Volume 7, Issue 2



YMCA Camp Carson

An Experience That Lasts A Lifetime!

CHANGES AT HOME? NOT REALLY. *From the Director, Mark Scoular*

Dear Camp Family!

Several Years ago Yahoo posed the question, **"What's your definition of home?"** Here's a snippet of the best answer. **"My definition of home is a place were you belong, where you go to and come from in an ever going circle. The place you return to from travels. It can also be with a person no matter where you physically are. It can take time to make a place feel like home I guess. . ."** This caught my attention because it truly helped encompass the scope of why people use the word "home" to describe camp.



Scoular Family (2013) L to R: Ross (LIT), Debra (Alumni & Dev. Coord. & Ofc. Mgr.), Iain (Counselor), Mark (Exec. Director)



Scoular Family (2001) in front of our summer home, Shasta Cabin

I don't use the word "home" lightly. Home and family have been the recurring themes today's campers and alumni have used to describe camp. This has especially been the case in these most recent twelve months, as we have asked deep questions about the camp experience and possible changes to the original cabins which decades of campers have called home. For my own family and me, camp and home become even more synonymous.

Beginning in the summer of 1987, a YMCA camp has been my home every summer for the past 27 years. It has been home to my wife for the entire 20 years of our marriage and home for my 16 and 18 year old boys every summer of their lives. So obviously, camp has been a lifestyle for us as a family; it's part of who we are and our passion runs deep for all the things camp does for kids. The past 13 summers have been spent at this amazing Y camp called YMCA Camp Carson. However, while Camp Carson has been **our summer home as a family, it has also been a second home to our boys as campers. They have literally grown up here and I can tell you, like all campers, they are very protective of "their" camp.** As a camp director and a Dad, I hear and experience up close and personal the perspective of our current campers and staff with regard to the changes at camp now in process. It would seem that kids today would race towards the "new and improved". However, it has been heartwarming to see today's campers join our campers from years ago in reflecting both positively and with some sense of apprehension on all the changes to their second home.

So what has really changed at our camp home? As you visit today and look at the photos inside Eddie Edwards Lodge, you will see that change has been in place since the beginning. Camp has moved from 40 acres to 165

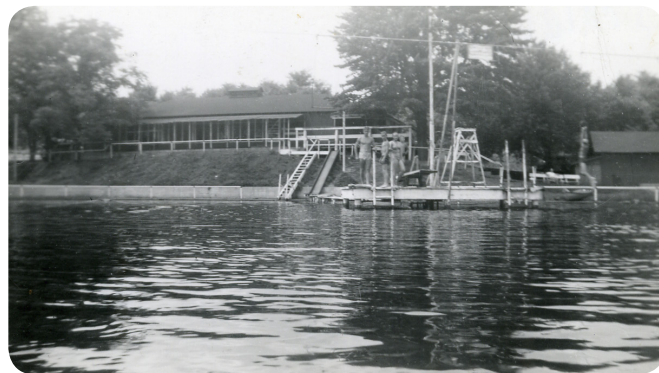
acres. From a simple chapel on the very end of the lake below Ragger's Point, to the more permanent amphitheater that has been the chapel since the 50's. From a dining hall right next to the lake, to the hillside across the entry road. From an old high dive tower and oak trees on the end of the lake, to the blob and zipline towers. From Miller Lodge, to Eddie Edwards Lodge. Some of us know each and every one of these originals and for others, we only know camp as we see it today. **But for ALL of us, this place, this camp, regardless of the changes to the structures, is still "home."** We all continue to be a part of that "ever going circle," that place we return to from our "travels," that "person" we connect to.

Where am I going with all this nostalgia? It's simply this. What we subconsciously knew, but had not until recently really ever articulated well, was **the fact that it was what happened in and around those little rustic boxes that made camp "home", not really the cabins themselves.** That hasn't changed. The cabin is the facilitator of all the friendships, traditions, values, experiences, fun, and laughter. **So whether your first summer at Camp Carson occurred in 1940 or 2013, camp will always feel like home.** While we have taken the opportunity to respond to the needs of our current campers, we have also worked to protect those key elements that make camp home. You can be sure that the things that comprise the spirit of camp are all **still here.**

So, has our camp home changed, really? We don't think so. And I would bet you agree.

Mark Scoular

P. S. We hope you will come "home" and join us this summer as we launch these new cabins into serving the children of the tri-state and beyond for the next 75 summers. Maybe even consider a longer visit and join us Labor Day Weekend for Family Camp and bring the whole family. Start a new tradition!



Original Dining Hall on the Waterfront



Above: Derrick Stewart, CEO of the YMCA of Southwestern Indiana, and Craig Fenneman, Camp Board Member, prepare to push for tips while serving up "dirt pudding" and Thai Sum Tum (Papaya Salad)!

On August 24, 2013, Old National Bank held their annual **100 Men That Cook** fundraising event. Each year, a local non-profit organization is chosen to become the recipient of the funds brought in through this event. The YMCA of Southwestern Indiana, and specifically the **YMCA Camp Carson branch**, was selected to be the beneficiary for 2013.

In preparation, ONB invites 100 Evansville community members to become "chefs" and prepare a special dish for the evening. Guests purchase tickets and during the event mingle and sample the 100 food offerings. There is plenty of healthy competition among the chefs to have the most creative dish and booth and to earn the most tips. The evening also included an auction of several high ticket items which were donated as well. **All the proceeds from the ticket sales, chef tips and auction were presented to the Y and Camp that evening.**

We are pleased to share that the **\$114,000 raised** through this event will be utilized to fund a **long range site master plan for camp** (already underway) as well as **one of the 8 new cabins** under construction for next summer!



Please join us in thanking Old National Bank for their generosity in holding this fundraiser for our community's charities and for the honor of being chosen as this year's recipient. The Albion Fellows Bacon Center has been chosen as the recipient in 2014. We would like to encourage you to participate next year as we all work together to make our community stronger.

COUNSELORS OF THE YEAR!



Boys Counselor of the Year – Alexis Herrera

All the way from Switzerland, this was Alexis's first summer on staff. We asked him to share his thoughts on his camp experience. "I really thought that would be a good idea (to work at camp) because I like to work with children and you have to talk with them and they have to talk with me. So

for me and my English, it's perfect. I like every kind of sport, so being a camp counselor, for me at a summer camp, is like my 'dream job'. In Switzerland, we don't have this kind of camp, so for me it was a completely new experience. My favorite thing about camp is that we were all always busy. It's more like you have the responsibility of 8 or 9 campers so you have to do your job. You cannot just say, "I'm gonna do that later." And to have the youngest campers is soooo much fun. Working with other counselors in a team is very important too, for me, because when I arrived I was alone and when I left, I left more than 30 friends." Alexis was an inspiration to all of our staff and kept things

lively for his campers and his co-workers. We also appreciated all his yodeling lessons. Currently, Alexis is in Thoun, Switzerland serving his obligatory military service.

Girls Counselor of the Year – Nicole Mullekom

From the Netherlands, Nicole spent her first year on staff this summer. Nicole worked with the Wrangler and horseback program and was always very enthusiastic, bubbly, positive and ready for anything. You'll enjoy reading her thoughts. "My first impression of camp? It's beautiful. Children must like it here.

They can't be bored. Exploring faith again was a big thing for me. I didn't talk about it much, but back in the Netherlands, I realized that God brought me with you guys for a reason. For example, my home situation isn't as pretty as you assume, but for a lot of children, co-workers, life isn't easy either. So with that in mind, being there for each other, not judging on looks and appearance, the way you behave or what you believe was an eye opener for me. If I can teach my kids in daycare the same values, I'm a lucky girl. I really believe that we taught the campers the things Camp Carson stands for! Love each other, try your best, and share. Every week, maybe every day, there were small moments, that I saw a kid enjoy, maybe realize that sharing and loving really makes the world a better place. Back to nature and no cell phones but real conversations - that's the power of Camp Carson. Working with the kids and co-workers, for me being an international, was unbelievable. Every person I met, was really nice, really open. So I became in love with Camp Carson, as much as the kids. I realized in the first week, the kids who are already doing this every summer are 'coming home'. And you can only experience that when you see it with your own eyes. They are proud, feeling restless because they wanna do every part twice. And we, as counselors, are there to make every summer even better than the last one ☺." Nicole is now back home in Someren, Netherlands working with children and studying child psychology.



CAMP – THE INCREDIBLE TIME MACHINE *By August Neal*



August Neal

Camper, 1968-1973

Staff, 1974-1976

Waterfront Director, 1977-1978

Assist. Camp Director, 1979

August's career has been spent in the banking, finance and infrastructure industries. She worked 10 years in Europe followed by many years covering Latin America from Miami where she currently lives, bikes and plays the cello.

"The Incredible Shrinking Machine" is a camp skit in which quite a few unsuspecting campers get doused with water. This finale brings a great roar of laughter, lots of jumping around, and relief from the Indiana swelter. This summer, Heather Cullen, Camp Nurse and former camper and staff member, organized the skit and assigned me the important job of camper dousing. I was crouched behind the bed sheet which represented "The Incredible Shrinking Machine" in eager anticipation of doing my job. It's great to love your job!

Although that July evening Camp Carson had "The Incredible Shrinking Machine," for me, it was more like Camp Carson had "The Incredible Time Machine." Please let me explain.

My name is August Neal. I was a camper and staff member at Camp Carson in the 70s. I loved the whole experience. Camp Carson had a strong and good influence in my life.

If you ever went to Camp Carson, perhaps you have wondered if the camp experience has changed much. Those questions crossed my mind over the years. This summer I decided to volunteer for a week at camp. Little did I know that "The Incredible Time Machine" was about to crank up.

Simple, Spontaneous Fun Abounded

How about the pure fun of camp? During Friday's "mile swim" challenge, only one camper was on her way to finishing the distance. I swam with her, doing breaststroke and chatting, because she had her contact lenses in and couldn't put her face in the water. She was a swim team member and a strong swimmer. The staff, guarding from kayaks, bantered, "It's too bad we're not really lifeguards." "I can't even swim." "We are actually totally afraid of the water." "We wouldn't go in after you anyway because it would mess up our hair." and lots of other nonsense. At the half mile mark, Waterfront Director Nathan Graves did a dockside dance for her. This dance featured his unique and uninhibited style. I found myself laughing and swimming in beautiful Lake Seminole on a sunny summer day, transported back to being a kid doing my favorite class, mile swim, in the 70s.

Good Values

There was a just right emphasis on good values at camp. Bullying is not tolerated. Teamwork, looking out for others, being fair, and taking responsibility are values that are woven into the daily fabric of camp life. Morning chapel, the Ragers Program, and "Sprit, Mind and Body" night, which culminates in the closing campfire, all encourage reflection, gratitude, and personal development. If a camper wanted a Bible, one was available as a gift to take home. I believe that anyone there of any faith background or of no faith background would feel completely comfortable with the values being promoted.

Fountain of Youth and of Gratification

Much of that week, it could have been the 70s, although it was mid July, 2013. "The Incredible Time Machine" knocked decades off my age, at least for that week. I went there to help and believe that I did. I left happy, and completely thrilled to have inadvertently dropped into the vortex of "The Incredible Time Machine."

Helping Each Other Yielded Little Victories

There were so many fun things for campers to try. Mountain biking, climbing the Alpine Tower and making pottery on a wheel were among the choices. However, the waterfront, my old stomping grounds, called me.

The waterfront is a microcosm of the challenges and accomplishments that happen all over camp. The "Swim Games" class is for those who didn't pass the Sunday afternoon swim test. This idea is to build their water skills and confidence. One girl wouldn't even go near the lake on the first two days. By Thursday she was in the lake, putting her head underwater and splashing and laughing. The staff and the other campers in Swim Games get credit for encouraging her. She was thrilled and her new camp friends shared in this accomplishment.

Another camper tried to pass the deep water swim test several times. Each attempt ended in disappointment. But, she was more determined each day. Her whole cabin knew about her efforts. During Wednesday afternoon's free swim, they all went down to the waterfront and cheered her on. Finally during that attempt that she succeeded. That same attitude and effort earned this girl the "Honor Camper" award for her cabin that week. These are moments of accomplishment and shared joy.

Participating in and witnessing these episodes are examples of what made volunteering at camp so deeply satisfying. These moments were part of "The Incredible Time Machine" that whisked me back to the days when I participated in this every day at camp in the 70s. The decades from the past to the present collapsed.



Be Your Own Boss

My volunteer job there was totally self-directed. Cheer on the early morning joggers and polar bear club swimmers at 6:30 a.m.? You wouldn't want to miss that. Spray down 100+ plates, cups, associated silver ware and serving dishes from breakfast every morning? Yes, it was a great chance to get to know various staff members. Help out a bit in the office after lunch before the waterfront opened? Here's an insider tip, they have air conditioning. Walk a geographically challenged camper to his riflery class? On it. Spend the afternoon manning the canoeing, zip line, or the buddy board check in station? Engage with lots of campers? Dry a tear? Goof around? Douse campers in the finale of "The Incredible Shrinking Machine" skit? Check. Check. Check. Check. Check. Walk to my cabin each night under a canopy of stars, happy? Yes.



BRANDI WILSON – KNIESE SCHOLARSHIP WINNER



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 2013 recipient of a \$4,120.00 scholarship, **Brandi Wilson**.

Brandi shares, “I wanted to be a camp counselor at Camp Carson this summer because I enjoy working with kids. I love to see how much they can grow in just a week and watching them get excited over the smallest things or overcoming a fear. I think it’s an incredible feeling when I can see that I really did make a difference. You meet so many people from everywhere, and no matter how different you are everyone fits in. It’s a break from the outside world. It’s almost like it’s unrealistic. You don’t get to use much technology and so you realize what’s around you is so much greater than what you would normally give it credit for. The staff really is like a family. No matter where you are, you know you can still reach out to each other. Whether you are in a different state or a different country, they’re always there for you. I am a shy person, but camp helped me grow to be more outgoing. I wanted to help camp change someone’s life, because it changed mine.”

Brandi Wilson is now attending Purdue University where she is studying Apparel Design and Technology, in hopes of becoming a fashion designer.



L to R: Rich Wertin, Assist. Camp Director, Brandi and Mark Scoular, Executive Director.

NEW BRIDGE BUILDERS CLUB MEMBERS

Congratulations to **Steve & Suzette Fritz and Jerry & Linda Dennis** (also Levi Stahl & Stacy Shintani who were not able to attend) who were **inducted into the Bridge Builder’s Club** at the Bridge Builder’s Annual Dinner on November 3, 2013. **Bridge Builder Club members have contributed \$1000 or more to the camp endowment fund and/or have included Camp Carson in their estate plans.**

Earnings from the Camp Carson Endowment Fund help 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 Mark or Debra at 812-385-3597.



WISH LIST & WAYS YOU CAN HELP

- Volunteer to help organize two annual **workdays at camp** (Spring/Fall).
- Volunteer to be a **Host Family** for a 2014 Camp Informational Night to introduce other families to the magic of camp.
- Join or create a team of **campaigners** for our 2014 Annual Fund Campaign and Military Support in support of traditional and military camper scholarships and programs.
- Provide 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)**.
- Volunteer to help maintain **plants & shrubs** around camp.
- **Write to your local newspaper** about the benefits of a summer camp experience.
- **Ask your PTA** to have us come and speak to students/parents about camp.
- **Invite us to speak** to your local civic organization about camp’s work in the community.
- Share your **IT Skills to develop campwide internet access**.

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 (Camp Out) Village.
- **New Cabin at Camp**.
- A **Suspension Bridge** at camp.
- **2 Tee-Pees** by Nomadic TeePee Makers.
- **Mini Glass/Jewelry Kiln** for Creative Arts.
- **Precision Air Pellet Rifles**.
- **Slingshot Program**.

SAVE THE DATE!

We're calling you HOME for the biggest family reunion ever!

Join us as we CELEBRATE 75 years of camping and share the VISION for the next 75 years!



MISSING ALUMNI ALERT! Help needed.

Please contact all of your camp friends to touch base about the 75th Summer Celebration, June 7, 2014. If they have not received this newsletter, that means we do not have a current mailing address for them. Your help in gathering addresses for these "missing persons" is greatly appreciated. We really don't want anyone to miss it because they didn't know about it!



Dear Camp Family,

Welcome to your new home away from home!

We are so excited to let you know that the **remaining 8 new cabins will be in place next summer**. Our original cabins have been retired. All the new cabins will have the same interior as the photo above. As you can see, they are beautiful and bright. Thought you'd also like to know that restroom facilities are now in each cabin.

ARTICLES WORTH READING & SHARING!



What's Needed to Prepare Your Child for the Future? The Answer May Surprise You...

By: Todd Westin, LCSW Life Skills Coach

Also find this link on Camp's Facebook site



Why Camp Counselors Can Out-Parent Parents. By MICHAEL THOMPSON

"When children need a summer filled with growth and change (not to mention fun and glory), I tell their parents to give camp a chance." Also find this link on Camp's Facebook site

Michael Thompson, Ph.D. is a psychologist, school and camp consultant. He is the author of *Homesick and Happy: How Time Away from Parents Can Help a Child Grow*.



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!**

YMCA Camp Carson Board of Managers

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Ms. Jayne Bierhaus-Young

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Mr. Denny Quinn

Mr. Leonard Schlamp

Mr. Steve Witting

Dr. William Wooten

Mr. Terry Yunker

Executive Director

Mr. Mark Scoular

YEAR END GIVING AND 2013 ANNUAL CAMPAIGN STATUS!

First of all, we'd like to say **THANK YOU** to all who have invested in the lives of young people through our 2013 Annual Campaign this year. We are **so close** to reaching our **\$70,000 goal**. **Only \$3,300 to go**. If you are in a position to partner with us in our youth work, we invite you to consider a **year end tax deductible gift**.

**2013
Annual Fund
Campaign
Goal
\$70,000**



GIVE THE GIFT THAT LASTS!

Many gifts wear out
or lose their charm.

A week of camp offers

An Experience That Lasts a Lifetime!

We're not kidding. Where else can a kid gain the confidence to jump off a blob tower, add on some independence and decision making skills away from Mom and Dad in a safe, nurturing, FUN environment and make tons of new friends in just a week? Our campers of 70, 60, 50 years ago, on down to last summer, are **still** talking about it! Seriously.



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.

