



YMCA CAMP CARSON

Fall 2016
Volume 10, Issue 2

MAYOR WINNECKE VISITS CAMP

This past summer, I had the good fortune to make a special visit to the YMCA's Camp Carson in Princeton, Indiana. Since the early 1940's, the Evansville Police Department's School Safety Unit has developed and overseen the School Crossing Guard program and provided the training for our students to safely help others cross the roads on the way to and from school. What many folks may not know is that since 1948, YMCA Camp Carson has served as the training ground for those boys and girls aspiring to the role of Safety Patrol student. Alongside the training activities given by the officers, the camp staff have provided exciting outdoor opportunities for more than 10,000 children.

Many moons ago I was one of those campers! I actually attended camp for one year as a patrol boy and two years as a traditional camper. I welcomed the chance to go back to see how things have changed. Driving down the long entrance with the picturesque lake in sight, my childhood camping memories came rushing back.



EPD Safety Patrol Office Kurt Chapman during classroom instruction time.

It was a thrill to see that so many friends of the YMCA have invested to not only sustain, but improve this regional gem. I can't imagine a more exciting place for a child to spend part of a summer. Camp Carson is an ideal place to strengthen friendships and make new ones. Camp Carson is the perfect setting for water zip lining, horseback riding, sailing, canoeing, climbing, cycling and so much more.

I had a blast sitting in the dining hall at lunch (the roast "beast" was just as I remembered from my childhood) watching a room full of young people learn some of the same life lessons I learned decades earlier. Values of respect, honesty, caring and responsibility were as foundational then as they need to be today. It was so good to see and hear

the fun and laughter of some 120 Safety Patrol campers as they enjoyed their own camp experience. I am sure they will be talking about this trip for years to come, and that it will have a positive impact on them as it did me all those years ago.

My first Camp Carson experience was probably the first time I was away from my parents and sisters. I remember it was scary, exhilarating, challenging and fun. I recall the excitement of mail call and thrill of spending money in the canteen. I remember feeling a little more independent and a little more grown up after each camp experience.

My 2016 visit to Camp Carson made me feel a special sense of pride in witnessing a new generation of young leaders. The young people I saw are assuming positions of responsibility in their schools, churches and neighborhoods. I have no doubt that I saw at least one future Mayor in this group, and maybe a future President of the United States. Camp Carson builds that quality of character in its campers.

I want to offer a special thank you to the current School Safety Patrol Officers-EPD Officers Kent Walker and Kurt Chapman, for their collective effort to keep our students safe. Evansville's school safety patrol program has a rich tradition, thanks to the Evansville Police Department and its strong financial partner AAA (Automobile Association of America) and former financial partner Independent Insurance Agencies. On behalf of a grateful Tri-State, I would like to offer a huge thank you to YMCA Camp Carson not only as a financial sponsor of this program but also for serving our young people since 1940. In addition, they are doing some incredible work in developing a facility our region can truly be proud of, knowing there will be safe, beautiful, exciting, life changing camp programs for generations to come.

Lloyd Winnecke, Mayor
City of Evansville



Mayor Lloyd Winnecke



EPD Safety Patrol Office Kent Walker gives the students crossing guard instructions.



Evansville Mayor, Lloyd Winnecke, made a visit to Safety Patrol Camp this summer. As a former Safety Patrol camper, Mayor Winnecke was delighted to see that Camp Carson was still going strong as well as the commitment to hosting the Safety Patrol program. During this 3 day camp, campers spend their mornings in training and then experience traditional camp activities in the afternoon and evenings.

BOLD GOLD – NEW PROGRAM FOR TEENS – Hayden Ponsar, Program Director

This summer, we were excited to send out our first **Boys and Girls Outdoor Leadership Development** trips (**BOLD/GOLD**) to the Red River Gorge area. These trips were a fantastic opportunity for teenagers to experience a backcountry overnight camping trip, disconnecting from cell phones and social media – and reconnecting with themselves, each other, and nature. The program included activities designed to start conversation about some of the pressing issues teens face, and find that they have more in common with each other than they initially thought. Campers with the trip also learned outdoor living skills, cooking over the campfire, setting up their campsite, Leave No Trace principles, and more! Camp Carson is excited to continue this program, as the impact that this one week will be felt in these teen's lives for years to come!



The girls went from hardly talking the first day to singing songs and playing games from the second day on. They didn't care about changing clothes and found that going to the bathroom in the bush was okay. I really enjoyed how they brought the camp spirit to the hike because it bonded everyone! We did a lot of leadership activities and talked about some serious stuff. They worked as a team setting up and taking down camp and cooking and cleaning. It was also nice to see them enjoy sitting and talking around the camp fire.

The biggest thing I stated at the very start is "you will get out of this what you put into it". It was so rewarding to see the girls who on the first day didn't even want to get mud on them, to the muddy girls who hopped on the bus. They started talking about how instead of going home and watching TV every afternoon they were going to go for a walk! It was amazing to see how much a little bit of nature and realizing that saying "I can do this" goes a long way!

Danelle Porrett – trip leader
Australian Camp Carson counselor



Being a member of the first GOLD trip of Camp Carson is a huge honor for me. This has been without a doubt, one of the hardest things I've ever done. Carrying 35 pound packs around is not easy but once you see hills surrounding you and breathe in the fresh air from the trees you start to forget that anything is wrong. Not only did I enjoy being in such a peaceful place but I also enjoyed the bonding I had with people I've never known before.

– BOLD GOLD Camper



BOLD GOLD Trip 2: Day 2 Journal Excerpts as Recorded by a Camper

Today, we woke up at 7:00 and had bagels for breakfast. We ran a LNT (Leave No Trace) sweep and started hiking... We played 20 million questions, Contact and sung camp songs for the last 2 miles of our 4-5 mile hike... After getting across the suspension bridge, we took a break in the water below. It felt so good!... We walked along the river to get to our campsite. After setting up camp, we circled up. Marc shared his autobiography... We had dinner, hung the bear hang and had Courage Circle.

BOLD GOLD – NEW PROGRAM FOR TEENS cont.

I felt challenged every day and gained a lot of new experience. From hiking around, singing songs to jumping off of cliffs. Each day brought something new, fun and challenging

– BOLD GOLD Camper



I feel like it's a new me because I pushed myself a lot on this trip. And I made so many new friends, I'm not just saying that. I made friend that I can trust. And has really built my courage. Backpacking was worth all the views that I got to see.

– BOLD GOLD Camper

**The BOLD GOLD Program is geared towards 13-15 year old teens.
For more information about this program, contact the camp office. 812-385-3597**

NEW ROBOTICS PROGRAM AT CAMP

This summer VEX Robotics was introduced at YMCA Camp Carson. VEX Robotics offered campers a rich and exciting platform to immerse themselves in the areas of Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) through the fun of building robots. Campers worked in a team environment, with assistance from counselors, to develop a robot to complete the VEX Robotics Cone Zone Challenge. Teams brainstormed, designed, developed, and modified their robots as needed to compete in a timed competition. Campers learned that testing, revising, persistence, and team work really does pay off when building success. Congratulations to all the campers who challenged themselves this summer through VEX Robotics!

Kevin Williams, Camp Carson Alum
Pre-Engineering & Project Lead the Way Instructor
Southern Indiana Career and Technical Center



Campers at Robotics Camp spend their mornings working with their counselors and team members on their projects. The remainder of their time is spent participating in the traditional camp program. This allows them to experience the best of both worlds!

COUNSELOR AWARDS FOR 2016 – Mark Scoular, Executive Director

We are so pleased to highlight 3 members of our summer staff who were recognized by their peers as camp super stars. We asked each of them to share their favorite things about working with campers in their role as cabin counselors and activity leaders as well as the impact camp has had on them personally. As their camp director, I am so proud of each of them and the work they did this summer. Incredible to read that there are 25 summers of camp wrapped up in these three young adults. They not only live camp out but they are so passionate about what they do, that they truly do inspire our campers and staff to live out their “best self”. I am sure as you read on, you won’t find it hard to see why they were recognized by their fellow camp staff members.

KENNY EDDMENSON – BOYS COUNSELOR OF THE YEAR



Kenny fishing with campers.

My favorite thing with working with children at camp is definitely the camp spirit that you can create. Having a strong energetic attitude about anything rubs off and it is great to see how passionate these campers get about Camp Carson. I worked with kids at fishing and it was so much fun to see the campers have a blast catching their first fish and to teach them how to find bait and the different types of fishing methods. It was more than just an activity but a way of learning. They took away an experience that they will remember for the rest of their lives. Especially for those who have never experienced it before.

On a personal level, camp has done so much for me in the past two years. I would agree that it has changed me as a person. I feel, at all times, I need to be a role model for others and show how to be the best person I can be. I also love to stay in a positive mindset and always have that camp spirit. Right now, I am a junior at Purdue University in Movement and Sport Science. I work at a local YMCA as a counselor for before and after school. My goal in the future is to go to graduate school for physical therapy and become a physical therapist. I hope to be associated with Camp Carson for a long time coming.



Kenny and Hannah, Counselors of the Year

HANNAH WITTING – GIRLS COUNSELOR OF THE YEAR



Hannah helping camper at the climbing tower.

My favorite thing was watching campers develop confidence as they began to acclimate to camp, make friends, and see all the fun opportunities that ultimately, though maybe they don’t realize it now, help them grow as a person. Watching the transformation of a shy camper who initially doesn’t even want to participate in name games into a confident, involved member of the cabin and the camp community is always special to me. It shows that somewhere in their time at camp, that camper, whether it was through an interaction with me, another staff member, or other campers, felt accepted enough to open up and give a piece of themselves to camp. At the Alpine Tower, I loved watching the kids challenge themselves and pull off things that impressed themselves and even me sometimes. To see them succeed, after a little bit of encouragement and direction on my part, makes everything else worthwhile. As someone who views camp as a home, I cherish the little pieces that individuals give, because they make the camp truly unique, something unlike anything you could find anywhere else.

I wish I could adequately put into words the love and appreciation I feel for camp. I’ve heard countless counselors and many alumni who have worked through a summer say that camp changed their lives. As someone who has been attending camp since the very first summer I was old enough (10 years ago), it doesn’t feel right to say camp changed my life: it shaped it. Camp has given me so much, and no matter how much I put into it, I always manage to get more back. Camp has given me the confidence to be a leader both at camp and in my personal life, the empathy to better understand and accept people, the bonds of friendship, love, and social support to lean on when times are tough, and the courage to know that I can do anything with them always behind me. Camp has taught many life lessons and skills, such as the importance of sacrifice and putting others first, the value of hard work and doing a job well, the power of acceptance and empathy, and to never, ever put your elbows on the table during dinner.

Currently, I’m a freshman at Indiana University in Bloomington. As a pre-med student, I am studying hard towards a Biology B.S. degree. I’m looking forward to another great summer at camp if everything goes well!

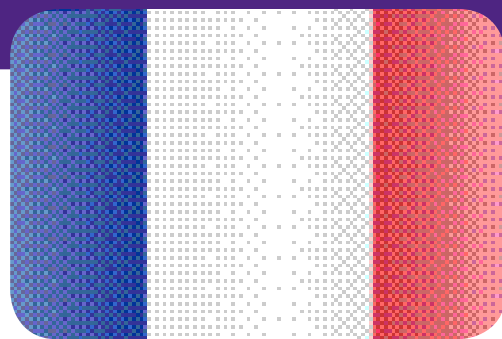
BOBBY RACEY – KNIESE SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT



L to R: Claire Neal, Mark Kniese's father and brother, Norm and Skip Kniese, Bobby Racey and August Neal

My favorite thing about working with children at camp is opening their eyes to the world around them. Giving them new experiences and seeing how happy they can really be. This year as the Land Director, I didn't have a specific activity with kids, but I was able to go to all the activities and see the children accomplish so much. My favorite was to see other more experienced campers help the new ones. I also enjoyed my role in supporting and coaching all the land activity leaders as they created these experiences for our campers.

I love seeing the connections the kids make with one another in their cabin groups. I began at Camp Carson as a 7 year old and now at age 20, I know those connections can last a life time. Camp is a magical place that lets the real you shine bright. Camp has helped me be more open and out there with people. It has also taught me to never give up and that team work makes the dream work. I know that my camper, counselor and Land Director experiences will help me right now as I study for my business degree and continue to have an impact on me as I move into my career in upcoming years.



Picture in frame above: Mark Kniese in his University of Evansville basketball attire.

The Mark Kniese Scholarship was established in 2002 by camp alum, August Neal, in memory of Mark Kniese and his incredible passion for kids and life.

2016 HONOR CAMPERS – In recognition of living out the YMCA's core values of honesty, caring, respect, responsibility and faith, in cabin life.

Luke Baumberger
Lydia Baumberger
Ben Beuerle
Gabe Beck
Landon Begle
Ambrose Bentley
Brady Billman
Grace Bott
Connor Boyle
Adam Brenneman
Rylee Brittingham
Nolan Buckenmeyer
Ryli Bulla
Dominic Burgett
Austin Burris
Aaron Bussell
Kenzie Butler
Riley Carney
Reece Carroll
Nate Cartier
Kiley Catlaw
Rafael Cerritos
Ella Chamberlain
Traieoz Chambers
Elizabeth Clarke
Jay Crum-Stephens
Diana Czerniak
Mackenzie Day
Chloe Denny
Jackson Dobslaw
Arjuna Durham
Ada Emerson
Jack Fiester
Sam Fitzgerald
Brayden Gregory
Lydia Grow
Mikey Guerrero
Chris Guinn
Ramus Haines
Kiley Hamby

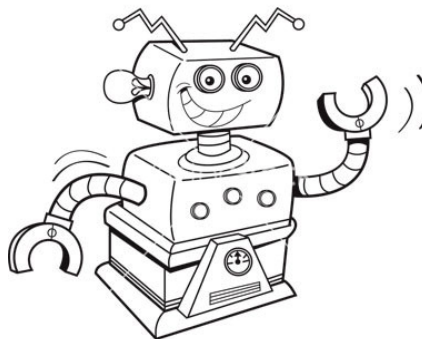
Hailey Harmon
Mara Higdon
Zane Hignite
Grant Hoagland
Zac Hutslar
Laney Johnson
Elliott Kendall
Trey Kent
Livy Kightlinger
Chestin Kincaid
Payton Kinsler
Brendan Kiprono
Louis Klenck
Brady Klohr
Joseph Knell
Audrey Knipstein
Katharine Lacy
Sam Lagunzad
Grace Lappin
Hunter Layton
Ava Lenfant
AJ Lothamer
Teagan Lowman
Gunnar Lund
Lilly Lund
Kyla Marshall
Aiden McAllister
Anthony McDuffie
Kaleb McElhaney

Philip Mick
Allison Miles
Emma Miller
Graham Miller
Evie Montgomery
Natalie Mosby
Kate Muehlbauer
Erin Nolan
Bryce Ossman
Hadley Osterman
Brooklynn Pace
Abby Price
Jonathan Proctor
Maggie Pruden
TJ Reagan
Logan Reed
Charlotte Reinhold
Emma Riecken
Caine Rowley
Claire Scalia
Rae Shelton
Evie Silva
Greyson Skeels
Gia Smith
Grant Smith
Hailey Soberalski
Audrey Spurling
Sadie Stoll
Kristen Thul
Kaya Tredway
Oliver Trotter
Zach Van Wormer
Blane Varble
Anne Werner
Julia Werner
Anneliese Wickson
Ella Widman
Braden Williams
Sabrina Williams
Trinity Wilson



HELP US GET EDGAR TO CAMP!

During any given week at camp in the summer, up to 200 people are housed at our facility! Should the power go out as a result of the storms we have at camp, or for any other reason, a generator would allow us to:



Meet Edgar—our Generator who is trying to get to camp! He needs some sponsors.

- Keep the kitchen/ dishwasher running
- Keep food coolers and freezers running
- Keep sewer system/ pump station going
- Keep the office computers/phone system going

Edgar is one of our Continuing the Legacy Campaign projects.

If you would like to help us get Edgar to camp, please contact the camp office or simply enclose your gift in the envelope included in this newsletter.



DEDICATION DAY

HEALTH CENTER

Please join us in expressing our thanks to **Courtney and Jo Carson** for their sponsorship of the new **Health Center** at camp. As you may remember from previous newsletters, Courtney is the great grandson of William A. Carson who donated the property to the YMCA in 1940. Bill Carson, grandson to William A. and Courtney's father, served on the camp board for several years until he retired and relocated. It is truly heartwarming to see the Carson family's passion and support for the Camp Carson legacy.

This facility gave our camp nurses a huge boost in support as we are now able to have 2 nurses on site to take on the care for almost 200 campers and staff each week. There are two sleeping areas – one for each volunteer nurse and their family as well as a common living area. The camper inpatient rooms as well as the nurse sleeping quarters are utilized as staff quarters during Family Camp and other camp programs held during the extended season.



L to R: Carmen Carson, Bob Becker, Jo and Courtney Carson, Betsy (Carson) Becker



Nurse families' common living area



Camper inpatient sleeping quarters area – one on each end of the building



Camper Treatment Area

Nurses station and camper waiting area

This space is converted to meeting space during the extended season

STAFF WELLNESS CENTER

Many thanks to **Alan and Sharon Braun** for this special place for our staff to recharge, therefore named the **Staff Wellness Center**.

This space provides a little "home away from home" for our counselors to do their laundry, prepare personal meals on weekends, check emails and just a quiet place to get refreshed during the very little time they are not on duty during the week and then on their day off on Saturday. There is also a small work out area in the building. The front room is repurposed for meeting space during the extended season.

These simple provisions are especially helpful for the 10-12 international counselors who join our staff each summer and cannot "go home" on their day off.

The space was also designed to function as a meeting space outside of the summer months.



The laundry room is not only utilized by staff but provides a service area to take care of weekend stayover camper laundry and the "tonnage" of lost and found that needs to be laundered before it's taken to Goodwill.



L to R: Board Member, Bob Fenneman, Sharon Braun and Board Member, Terry Yunker



Thanks to camper parents **Doug and Lora Petitt**, for sponsoring the **Technology Nook** giving access to the internet and technology recharging stations for counselors to Skype home, check email, etc.

JUNE 4, 2016

FENNEMAN VILLAGE and INSPIRATION PLACE

We are delighted to announce that the main cabin area has been named **Fenneman Village** in honor of **Craig and Mary Fennemmen**. They knew that in order for camp to thrive for generations to come, new cabins were in order. Through their kindness, they made it financially possible for us to build these 8 cabins while we sought out the donors who would eventually sponsor each cabin. To date, we are pleased to report that six of the eight "half moon" cabins have been sponsored!

Craig took on another campaign project – land acquisition – when he purchased and gifted 100 acres to camp allowing us to expand our program space and keep a natural buffer to our camp property. Always the visionary, Craig founded our Endowment Fund several years ago. This vital camp support is another one of our campaign projects as we seek to increase our endowment cash by \$1 million. There are so many, many things Craig has been a part of since he was a camper here in the 1950's and 60's and slept in those original cabins. We found it only fitting to create **Inspiration Place** as a special personal tribute to Craig and his passion to "Continue the Legacy" of camping at Camp Carson. He always says "It's our turn to give – just like those who gave before us."

INSPIRATION PLACE

In Honor Of
Craig Fennemmen
For his inspirational
encouragement to
dream big and
for his generosity in
making those dreams
come true.



L to R: Kent, Mary and Craig.

Kent Meyer, Camp Carson alum and retired YMCA of the Rockies CEO, came all the way from Colorado to celebrate with us and make the presentations to Craig and Mary Fennemmen.



WATERFRONT PAVILION

Thanks go out to **Toyota Indiana** for their sponsorship of our **Waterfront Pavilion**. **Norm Bafunno**, President, Toyota Indiana, performed the honors at the ribbon cutting ceremony. This space has helped us manage our swimming procedures more efficiently. By moving the canteen to this area, we are able to improve our camper management during free swim/canteen periods. The gathering areas create the perfect area for our campers to build relationships, one of the strongest benefits to our campers' camp experience. The much needed storage spaces have also been a huge improvement.



Thanks to **Deaconess Hospital** for sponsoring the **Canteen** area – a huge camp favorite and tradition.



Downstairs storage area for waterfront activity equipment and ample space to store the huge lake inflatables when they are cleaned and deflated at the end of the season.

Upper Deck includes storage area for off site camping and tripping gear for our LIT, CIT and BOLD GOLD teen programs.



Lower level also includes 5 restroom/changing rooms and outdoor life jacket storage when camp is in season.



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2034 Outer Lake Road • Princeton IN 47670

A Branch of the YMCA of Southwestern Indiana, Inc. • 222 NW 6th Street - Evansville IN 47708
812-385-3597 • campinfo@ymcacampcarson.org • www.campcarson.org

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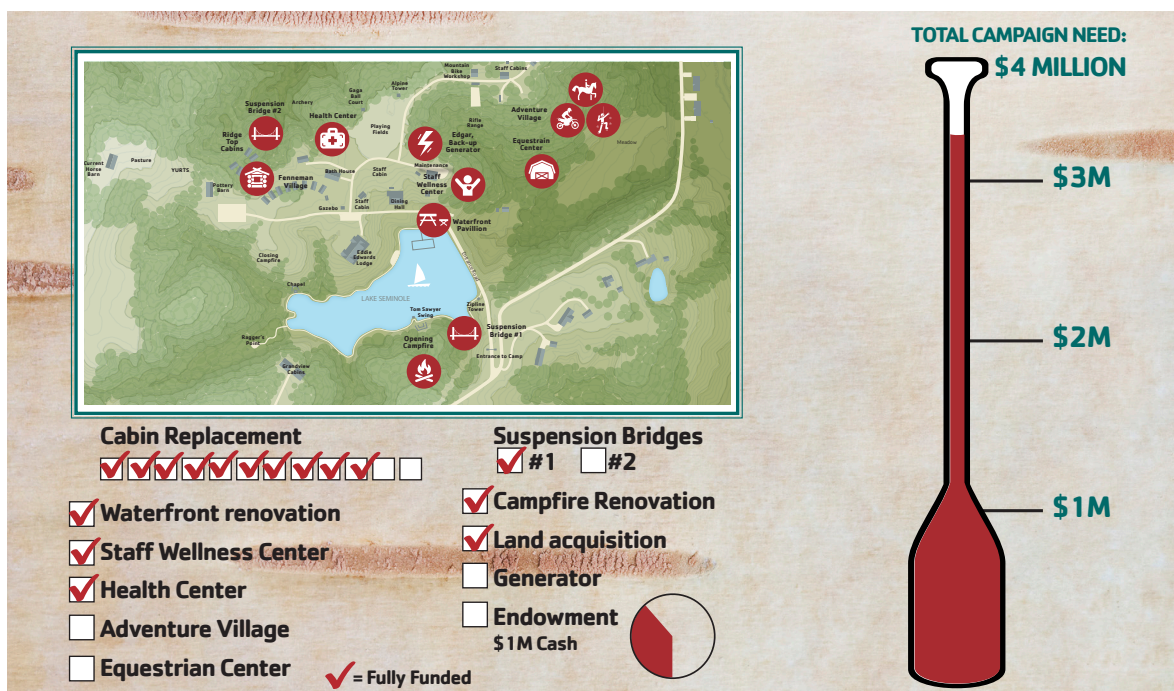
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Mr. Terry Yunker

Executive Director
Mr. Mark Scoular

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

CONTINUING THE LEGACY CAMPAIGN UPDATE!



**Just a few
projects left
to sponsor
– including
Endowment
investments.**

the YMCA 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.

