

CYMCA CAMP CARSON

Spring 2016
Volume 10, Issue 1

CAMP, SO MUCH MORE by Camp Mom – Stephanie Hulett Knipstein

For the past six summers my husband Keith and I have loaded up the minivan with one or more campers and made the journey to Camp Carson. As soon as we pass through the gate and spy the lake glimmering in the afternoon sun, the kids start to cheer, and my son usually says, "So good to be home again!" As a mother I might take offense to that statement if I hadn't felt the same way about 30 years ago when I was a middle-school camper myself.

Mitchell (age 14) and Leah (age 12) have attended Camp Carson each summer for the past six years. Leah found a love of horses her first summer when she was eight years old and now takes riding lessons. She will attend Wrangler Camp for the second time this summer. Mitchell experienced sailing his first year as a camper when he was nine years old. Last summer, in addition to sailing at Camp Carson, he attended a sailing camp at Lake Monroe near Bloomington, Indiana, where we live. Our youngest daughter, Audrey, who is eight years old, is still working up to spending a full week away from home. She loves getting the popsicles at drop-off every year and looks forward to being an only child at least one week each summer. So Camp Carson has something to offer even those siblings who stay at home!



Above: Hulett Knipstein Family
Mitchell, Keith, Stephanie, Leah and Audrey

Camp Carson is so much more than horseback riding and sailing, though. When Mitchell and Leah were younger, camp provided them with an opportunity to try new things and to make friends on their own. When we moved from Evansville, Indiana to Bloomington, their experience at camp helped them to have the confidence and resiliency to adapt to a new city and a new school. Camp also provided a way to maintain friendships as Leah attended camp with an Evansville friend for several years.



Mitchell sailing at camp last summer.

Now that they are older, one of the most important things my kids experience at camp is FREEDOM. In a world where kids are constantly plugged in, scheduled, and monitored, and where they're only a phone call or text away from their parents and the drama of middle school friendships, this freedom is rare and priceless. Mitchell echoed this sentiment when asked recently about camp. "I am free there. . . . No one judges you. I can be myself." Kids have a chance to experience this freedom in a safe environment under the care of their counselors and camp staff. It provides an incredible opportunity to build independence, discover life for themselves, and make their own decisions.

Every summer I'm surprised when I pick up the kids from camp—surprised that they have grown in just a week . . . surprised at how much dirty laundry they have accumulated . . . surprised at the hugs and warmth shared between a group of kids who were strangers five short days ago . . . surprised how their young counselors have become so important to them. Sometimes the surprises are bigger. My daughter (who says she will only run if something is chasing her) woke up early every morning to jog around the lake?! My son was awarded honor camper?! Give your kids a week at camp and they may really surprise you. More important, they will surprise themselves.

PARENT SURVEY GIVES CAMP A BIG THUMBS UP!

At Camp Carson, kids are **Accepted, Challenged and Empowered**. Making **ACE** a reality for our campers helps us fulfill our mission. **Parents agree** to these positive outcomes as a result of their child's Camp Carson experience.

Do better in school	76%	Feel a sense of belonging at camp	97%
Gain new knowledge , skills and abilities	99%	Increase his/her appreciation of natural environment	96%
Become more physically active	95%	Be motivated to learn	90%
Build Confidence	97%	Value the difference in others	94%
Be open to new experiences	97%	Build independence	96%
Make new friends	94%	Make better decisions	90%
Pursue an interest they are passionate about	94%	Stand up to peer pressure	82%
Discover what he/she can achieve	96%	Source: 2015 Seer Analytics Survey	

FAREWELL, DEAR FRIEND Leonard Schlamp 1926-2015 LEGACY MAKER



Left: Leonard's Popeye the Sailor Man impression.

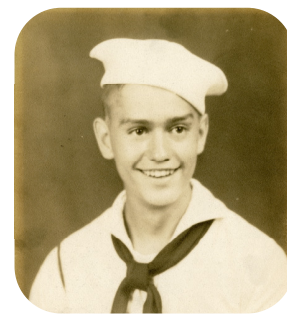
Below: No surprise to see him here at camp's canoe dock.



Left: As a teenager, Leonard built a canoe to use at camp. Over the years as a staff member, he served as canoe trip leader, honor cabin

leader, canteen manager and probably a lot of things we don't know about.

Above: Leonard in middle with other camp staff



At 17, he joined the Navy and served as a radio man on the USS Essex during WWII. He also served during the Korean War. On leave during his radio training in Chicago, he wrote home to tell his mom he was going to get off the train in Princeton to visit camp first before he came home.



Sailed through the ranks on the big rivers moving from Deckhand on up to First Class Pilot steering barges up and down the Ohio, Mississippi, Green, Cumberland, Tennessee and Illinois rivers.

As many of you will recall, our dear camp alum, Captain Leonard Schlamp, was the very first camper to sign up to attend the new YMCA Camp Carson in 1940. His enthusiasm for camp continued for the next 5 decades! He was one of those few individuals who knew from a very early age "what I want to do when I grow up" and that was be a sailor. His family says that his passion for the sea, God's world, the ocean, rivers and western states lasted his life time. We loved his visits to camp and in these last few years, visiting with him at his home. With his keen sense of humor and special wit - he could keep you smiling. His eyes lit up when we talked about camp and he always had a joke for us. Leonard invested a tremendous amount of time in camp over those 75 years because it was so close to his heart. Leonard believed in giving and faithfully supported causes he cared about. Camp Carson was one of those places. In keeping with his kind heartedness and concern for others, Leonard consistently contributed to our Annual Fund to insure there was funding for camper scholarships and to help keep the camp facility and programs strong for all kids.



Inducted to the Camp Carson Hall of Fame in 2008. In 2004, awarded Camp Volunteer of the year by the YMCA of Southwestern Indiana.

Leonard served as a camp board member for many years. Game for anything, he volunteered as a zip line tester (and Giant Swing). To date, he is our oldest Family Camper. He was also excited to send his three great grandchildren to camp the past three summers!



Leonard later donated \$85,000 to sponsor the construction of the new Shawnee Cabin.

We hope you enjoy these photos which share a very brief summary of an exceptional life. We miss you Leonard but know that while you are out of our sight on this shore, you have merely sailed on the shores of heaven and are now with the Creator you loved and served here on earth.

LEONARD'S LEGACY

In 2008, our then board chair, Craig Fenneman, felt strongly that camp needed an endowment fund in order to ensure that the place he and others loved so much would remain strong for the future. Leonard whole heartedly agreed. Following Craig's lead gift of \$100,000 to establish the endowment fund, Leonard made a matching gift. **Leonard continued to make additional contributions to this fund annually and left a bequest of \$240,000 to Camp Carson in his estate plan.**

The Leonard Schlamp Endowment Fund has been established in his memory. This memorial fund will be with camp perpetually, giving family members and friends the opportunity to make further contributions in remembrance of him for years to come.



PLANTING A TREE — A GREAT SYMBOL OF WHAT IT MEANS TO LEAVE A LEGACY

The trees Leonard helped plant across the lake were just four feet tall in the 1940s. They didn't offer much shade or wildlife shelter then. But now, having stood strong for over 70 years, they have continued to grow and add to the beauty and function of camp.

At our 75th reunion and new cabin dedication, Leonard and Craig Fenneman helped plant the first tree in front of Leonard's Shawnee Cabin as a symbol of a new beginning and careful planning for the future. Craig and Leonard fully embraced the "leave a legacy" philosophy. Please join us in thanking them for their commitment to securing the future of Camp Carson.

THANK YOU

for your commitments to the Continuing the Legacy Campaign

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Bierhaus Foundation, Inc.
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YMCA of the USA



When asked when is the best time to plant a tree, the nurseryman replied "Five years ago".

When would be the best time to establish a YMCA Camp Carson endowment fund? Along about the mid 1900's. Obviously that can't be done but hopefully in about fifty years someone may say "I'm sure glad they finally got around to establishing this fund when they did. Leonard's response when asked about the importance of an endowment fund.

THANK YOU for your 2015 gifts

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(D) /Independence Diabetes Camp
(PR) In Memory of Phyllis Ruthenbup
(LS) In Memory of Leonard Schlamp
(M) Designated for Military Kids

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2015 In-Kind Donors

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Kwik Kopy Business Solutions
Menards
Scales Electric Supply, Inc.
Sgt. Pepper's Fireworks
Straeffer Pump & Supply, Inc.
Westside Honda



NEW PROGRAM DIRECTORS are wild about getting ready for summer!

We are excited to introduce our 2 new program directors. Sarah Hooper has been with Camp Carson for several years and is great fit to move into this new role. Hayden Ponsar joined our team in January and brings with him seven years of YMCA camping experience. They are both pushing full speed ahead interviewing summer staff and planning for the summer programs.

Hayden: "I am beyond excited to be joining the YMCA Camp Carson family; one that has been extremely welcoming and brimming with passion and excitement for the coming summer since I have arrived a few weeks ago. The field of residential Camping is one that is close to my heart, and Camp Carson holds true to all that makes it so important to youth around the country. In my camp experiences, two things have stood out to me. First is the importance of getting kids out into nature, something our millennial children are not experiencing as much as they should. Second, and just as important, is the ability that Camp grants to children to build amazing friendships. One can speak to any number of people from Camp, and the number one thing you hear about are bonds made during one week of the summer. With those lessons learned, I am extremely excited to be working on new programs to enhance outdoor experiences for kids as well as learning about the amazing programs that are already in place at Carson. Sarah and I are investigating how we can make Camp Carson's programs even more relational ensuring that Camp continues to be a place where strong friendships are made. I have found that Camp's goal of helping children feel accepted, challenged and empowered are all driving forces in what I believe will be one of the best summers ever!"



Sarah: "Camp Carson holds a special place in my heart and I am so excited to be on board as Program Director. Growing up in camp as a camper, LIT, CIT, and staff member, I have seen many changes to the face of camp, but the connections I've made and the feeling of 'home' is truly what has kept me and keeps me coming back for more. The people and the relationships made are what makes camp so unique and gives us a platform to make such a positive impact on kids. I am looking forward to working with Hayden as we continue the legacy of Camp Carson by making this summer the best one yet for our campers!"

NEW at Camp this Summer!

ROBOTICS CAMP

Shoshone 3 ONLY

Go to campcarson.org for more details!



5th

Year to hold /Ndependence Diabetes Camp

CAMP FOR KIDS WITH TYPE 1 DIABETES
Thanks to the Jay Cutler Foundation, /Ndependence Diabetes Camp is back for its 5th summer! Camp is underwritten by 50% or more for these kids. Please make sure your local JDRF and community are aware of this great opportunity.

WATCH FACEBOOK

These projects are ready to begin!

SAVE THE DATE

June 4, 2016
Dedication Day

Join us as we celebrate the completion of 4 new spaces at Camp!

Waterfront Pavilion
Health Center
Staff Wellness Center
Inspiration Point in honor of Craig and Mary Fenneman

10:30 Tours
11:15 Dedication Ceremony



CAMPAIGNS 101

As you have seen in the last several newsletters, there are a few campaigns going on at camp. We wanted to give our camp family and friends a little information to sort it all out!

We have 3 fundraising efforts going on right now.

#1 ANNUAL FUND CAMPAIGN

How Often: Every year

What does it do?

Benefits EVERY family who enters our gates.



The Annual Fund Campaign helps make camp accessible to ALL families and kids who desire a week at Camp Carson. The Annual Fund does this by providing a broad range of scholarships and by helping offset operational costs which keeps camper fee increases under control.

Our 2016 goal is \$143,650. How do we raise these funds? We can't without you. **Your faithful giving and fundraising makes a life changing camp experience possible kids from all families.**

Hundreds of families receive help through our many scholarship opportunities. We offer financial assistance to families who qualify. Fee reductions are available to all families through our 3 rate pricing. We help provide 3 camp programs for kids from military families and conduct outreach programs like NYPUM for kids who need help year round.



#2 CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

How Often: Our current Continuing the Legacy Campaign is a one-time **\$4 million** campaign ending in 2016

What does it do?

Focuses on part of camp's site master plan through a special one-time effort to raise **\$3 million** to fund 10 specific capital projects as well as add **\$1 million cash** to our Endowment Fund. As of this publication, we have raised just under \$3 million which has allowed us to move forward on several projects such as the new cabins and the projects mentioned on page 5. To learn more about the CTL Campaign go to campcarson.org.



#3 ENDOWMENT PROGRAM

How Often: Continuous

What does it do?

Helps Camp endure and thrive in all financial climates. Helps provide scholarships and ensures camp remains affordable for all families. We firmly believe camp is vital for kids every year and cannot be left at the mercy of the economy. Earnings from the Endowment protect camp and allow us to help kids have a great camp experience in good times and bad.

Helps offset program, operational and facility upkeep costs. Helps offset or endow certain staff positions to help reduce the overall operational costs of camp. The costs of running quality programs and facilities as well as training great staff continue to rise. We cannot pass these costs on to our camper parents and we do not find it is acceptable to reduce our quality to keep costs down.

Helps offset program, operational and facility upkeep costs. Helps offset or endow certain staff positions to help reduce the overall operational costs of camp.

The costs of running quality programs and facilities as well as training great staff continue to rise. We cannot pass these costs on to our camper parents and we do not find it is acceptable to reduce our quality to keep costs down.

Donations to this fund are always protected as only a designated portion of the earnings is withdrawn each year.

While many endowment gifts are given through vehicles such as estate plans and life insurance policies, **through the Continuing the Legacy Campaign, we are seeking to infuse a large amount of cash to help increase the current value of the Endowment Fund.**

ARE YOU IN LOVE WITH CAMP CARSON?

Share your
love for camp
and give to the
Annual Fund
today!



**2016 ANNUAL
CAMPAIGN GOAL
\$143,650**

Online giving available at campcarson.org

A Single Mom shares what your gift and one week of camp can do

"I am writing today to tell you how awesome your camp is and how **much one week has done for my son**. He was lucky enough to get to experience it **thanks to your financial aid program**. I was able to come up with my part of the camper fees and I'm so glad I did. He grew up while at camp. He's never met his father and his counselor has now turned into his **role model**. He became more **responsible** and even was awarded Honor Camper in his cabin. He came home with more **confidence** than he has ever had before and he was happy. It's awesome to see a kid so happy and proud of themselves. It's also nice to know that the **values** I try to teach at home followed him to camp. Thank you to everyone at camp. Everyone seemed to touch my child in some way over the course of the week. He dreams of becoming a counselor there someday and I'm sure he will succeed. Camp Carson has been a **great positive influence** and I can't thank you enough." *From a Single Mom whose son received a camp scholarship*

SPRING VOLUNTEER WORK DAY Saturday, April 30 9am-1pm

PROJECTS

- Great Stick Toss:** Enjoy walking the forest trails and clearing limbs
- Tom Sawyer Project:** Staining, staining, staining decks, and rails etc.
- Gardening Club:** Attention to the landscaping around the main lodge and other buildings
- Spit Shine Crew:** Window washing, bunk dusting, lodge porch furniture washing
- Hobart Hustle:** Getting everything sanitized through the dishwasher
- Fence Fussin':** Replacing split rail fence along waterfront
- Goin' to the Chapel:** Clearing leaves and limbs and power washing the chapel area
- Challenge Club:** Sprucing up our activity areas like spreading mulch at the Alpine Tower



the Y **YMCA CAMP CARSON**

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

NOW TIME

Online giving
available at
campcarson.org

**March 10 —Share the
Love Kickoff**

Are you in love with Camp?

You can **share your love**
for camp through the
Annual Campaign.

Details inside.

SUMMER TIME

May 17-20 Program Staff Training and "Let's get ready for camp" Work Week

May 22-27 Staff certification week (Lifeguard and Activity)

May 28-June 3 All staff training: Program, Counselors, SLIPs

June 4 Dedication Day - Details Inside

CAMP BEGINS!

June 5-10 Session 1 Operation Purple Camp for military family kids
Operation Military Support for military family kids

June 12-17 Session 2 Shoshone, Wrangler, LIT 2/3 and CIT 2/3

June 19-24 Session 3 Shoshone, Wrangler, LIT 2/3 and CIT 2/3

June 26-July 1 Session 4 Shoshone, Wrangler, CIT 4/5

July 3-8 Session 5 Camp Corral for military family kids , CIT 4/5

July 10-15 Session 6 Shoshone, Wrangler, LIT 6/7, CIT 6/7

July 17-22 Session 7 Shoshone, Wrangler, LIT 6/7, CIT 6/7

July 24-29 Session 8 Shoshone, Wrangler, Fox A&B, Diabetes Camp

July 31-Aug 3 Session 9 School Safety Patrol Camp

SPRING TIME

April 30

Volunteer Work Day

Saturday, 9 am - 1 pm • Lunch Provided
To help us plan well RSVP 812-385-3597

May 13-15

Christian Leadership Conference

for tri-state YMCA summer staff!

May 1

Open House

Sunday 1 - 4 pm Tours for new camp families.
Returning families - Bring a Friend!

FALL TIME

September 3-5

Family Camp Ages 0-Infinity

Labor Day Weekend

Sept. 30 - Oct. 2

Fall Camp Ages 7-16

October 29

Fall Volunteer Work Day

(2 Events)
RSVP 812-385-3597

Saturday, 1-5 pm, Lunch Provided

Fall Bonfire and Director's Chili Cookoff

Saturday, 5:30-7:30 pm

Chili, hotdogs, s'mores and campfire songs provided

November 6

6th Annual Bridge Builders Dinner



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.

