



Camp Henry
Administrative Offices
47 Jefferson SE
Grand Rapids, MI 49503
(616) 459-CAMP
campheny.org

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the kimball call

news to know

www.campheny.org

Spring/Summer 2008

counting down the days

Jeff "Jake" Jacobs, Summer Camp Director

As I write this article, there are only 85 more days until all of the Camp Henry summer staff will be arriving at camp! We will spend a week together, preparing to welcome well over 1,200 kids to Camp Henry. It is a huge honor and a tremendous responsibility to be entrusted with these campers throughout the summer. I firmly believe that Camp Henry will seize the opportunity to positively and significantly change lives this summer.

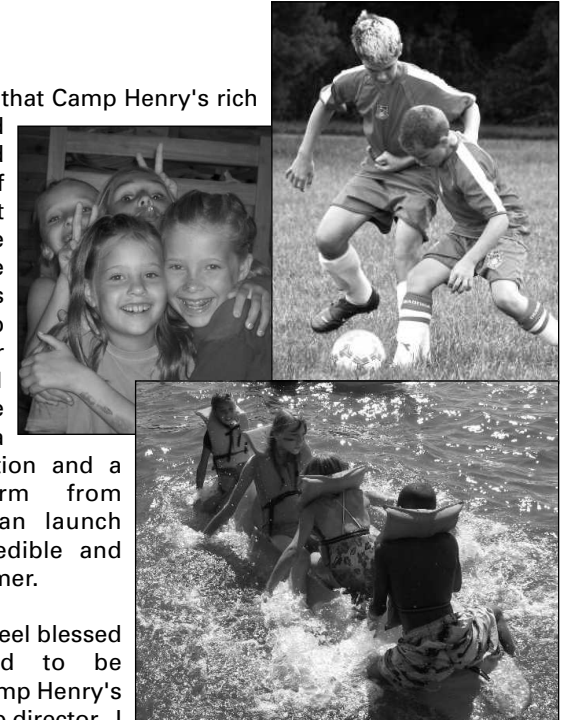
I have often told staff members - and parents - that we would rather send a camper home with a broken arm than a broken heart. Of course, we will be working hard to not break anything this summer - except maybe the world record for how many campers can sit in a kayak at one time. Yet, we take our job of providing a positive, nurturing, Christian, supportive, and challenging environment at Camp Henry very seriously. We want EVERY camper that comes to Camp Henry this summer to go home with a face that hurts from laughing and smiling so much and a heart and head full of the knowledge that they are unique, special, and valuable.

As we look ahead to this summer, we are really excited about some of the new things that will be happening at Camp Henry:

- New Cabins in Boys Village
- New Docks at the Waterfront
- New Programs - British Soccer Camp & Music Camp
- New Staff Members - from throughout the country

Yet, we know that Camp Henry's rich traditions and history - and the support of so many that have made incredible contributions to Camp Henry over the past 71 years - have provided a solid foundation and a firm platform from which we can launch into an incredible and magical summer.

I continue to feel blessed and honored to be serving as Camp Henry's summer camp director. I can still remember being a camper in the early 1980s and looking at my counselor - Clark Clodfelder - and dreaming of some day being a Camp Henry counselor. Well, my life has exceeded my dreams - and I am thrilled to be heading back to the Shores of Old Lake Kimball soon to be a part of an amazing summer.



wish list

Just DO-nate IT!

Check out the Camp Henry wish list and see if your gently used item could be donated to use for a child or program at camp! Thank you!

- Kids costumes or clothes, wigs, hats, etc... for skit nights
- A telescope whiz to help us set up our scope here at camp!
- Two new vacuum cleaners
- New platform tent canvasses
- Deck furniture for Millar Lodge
- 15 passenger van or small bus
- Compact fluorescent light bulbs to help us conserve energy
- LCD Projector and screen
- Area rugs for Kimball and Pickerel Lodges
homedecorators.com/outdoorrugs
- Professional grade electric can opener
- Hot chocolate machine
- Professional grade food processor
- New climbing tower
- Life vests for waterfront
- Large metal or plastic storage cabinets
- Large plastic storage bins
- Large fans for kitchen in the summer
- New food warmer for kitchen
- 8-10 new Troxel riding helmets for horse camps (small & medium)
- Musical Instruments (drum sets, guitars, bass, amplifiers, microphones)

- Sofas, easy chairs for staff housing
- Wakeboard
- 150 gallon stock tank
- Animals for a summer petting zoo - sheep, goats, chickens, pigs, calf, rabbits, miniature horse - **to be returned at the end of the summer**

Remember every little bit helps, and all of your donations are tax deductible. Thank you for your generosity and support of our programs.

Please call the camp office to donate (616) 459-2267 ext. 3

Remember to support Camp Henry through your United Way Pledge! Simply write in our name on your pledge form as the recipient of your gift.

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camp happenings

2008

- Michigan Presbyterian Pilgrimage**
April 30 - May 4
- Summer Camp Open House**
April 27, 1pm-4pm
- Westminster-by-the-Lake Worship**
Sundays Memorial Day through Labor Day, 9:30 am
- Summer Camp Begins!**
June 22
- Alumni Potluck Day**
July 26
- Alumni Family Camp**
Labor Day Weekend
- Fourth Annual Bid Bash**
September 27
- Schedule your retreat NOW! for Fall 2008**
Space is limited!



summer camp

announcement, announcement, announcement!

a terrible death to die, a terrible death to die...

I know you lost your cow but I think you will forgive me for talking you to death. What's better than a high school reunion? How about a Camp Henry Reunion! But wait! We're not just having one Camp Henry Reunion this year - we're having TWO!

That's right! Break out your warrior paint and bandannas and get ready for a ton of fun! Bombo, waterpolo, capture the flag, horseback riding, archery, the big banana, campfires and camp songs. What could be better?

On **Saturday, July 26** we are holding a FREE Alumni Day at Camp. Yep, free. We only ask that you bring a dish to pass for a potluck - camp will supply the burgers and hotdogs.

One day not enough? Try three days and two nights. Over **Labor Day Weekend** we will begin what hopefully will become a new Camp Henry tradition. Alumni Family Camp. Bring your family and

show them what Camp Henry is all about! You don't have to have a family to attend, though. Because, really, camp is your family anyway, right? Room with other singles in your own cabin.

Mark your calendars now and stay tuned for more details coming soon!

We can't wait to see you!

Please e-mail jenniferh@camphenry.org if you have any questions or want to make sure you get invited.



- Camp Henry now has a Facebook account! (www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=1189806371)
- Listen for Camp Henry commercials on 95.7 and JQ99 from April 21 through May 4! The Morning Show on 95.7 will be giving away a FREE week of camp!
- Camp Henry is working with the Grand Rapids Public Schools after school LOOP Program this spring!
- Check out our Parent Resources page on our website!

open house

Sunday April 27, 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Come visit Camp Henry for the afternoon. Meet some of our staff and tour the camp. The brand new Boys' Village Lodges will be open and ready for viewing.

Enjoy some great camp activities and learn more about Camp Henry's summer programs. Bring a friend who has never been to camp!

For more information please contact the camp offices at 616.459.2267 or e-mail info@camphenry.org.

benefits of camp

adapted from the American Camp Association Media Center

For generations of Americans, going to summer camp as a child was a rite of passage. It was often the place where many learned to swim, sleep in a tent and cope with homesickness.

These days, summer camp is no longer seen as a given among many families. Some communities have year-round schooling, and more and more children enroll in summer school as well as summer enrichment and sports programs. Many children even say they would rather play video games than play outside.

According to a survey conducted in 2005 by the Kaiser Family Foundation today's kids are plugged into electronic media an average of five-and-a-half hours a day, which is practically a full-time job!

Richard Louv, chair of the Children and Nature Network and author of the groundbreaking book "Last Child in the Woods: Saving Our Children from Nature-

Deficit Disorder", coined the provocative term "nature-deficit disorder" because he observed that kids are spending less and less time outdoors. Camp, however, can be a great place for children of all walks of life to learn important life skills, while getting up close and personal with nature.

Camp helps children grow by providing a supervised, positive environment that has safety as a primary commitment. Children are at less risk at camp where they have a sense of community, develop intergenerational relationships, and learn through first-hand experiences. Trained, caring adult role models help children feel loved, capable, and included. Camp provides children with a community of caring adults, who nurture an appreciation for human value. All of the outcomes - self-identity, self-esteem, leadership, and self-respect - build personal competencies. Because the camp environment is one of connectedness to others, self and nature, children who attend camp develop

connections with the world that can last a lifetime. The camp experience enriches lives and changes the world one camper at a time.

Below are some of the anticipated outcomes and benefits of the camp experience:

Social Skills Development -

- Leadership
- Communication
- Participation

Self-Respect and Character Building -

- Responsibility
- Resourcefulness
- Resilience

Community Living/Service Skills -

- Caring
- Fairness
- Citizenship
- Trustworthiness

letter from the executive director



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2008 Board Executive Committee

- Christopher Kuiper, President
- Tim Maclam, Treasurer
- Marilynne McCready, Secretary
- Michael Lunt, Past President

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- Kris Ellis
- Marcus Harris
- Carl Kelly
- Judy Larson
- Paul Mitchell
- Erin Molhoek
- Christopher Palmer
- Kathleen Snapper
- Katie Tiggelman
- Bill VanSkiver

Honorary Members

- Donald Taylor

Organizational Members

- Anne Gurecki, Westminster Presbyterian Church Staff
- Betty Kuiper, Westminster Presbyterian Church
- Trustee
- Wayne Spillane, Westminster Presbyterian Church Trustee

Dear Camp Henry friends and family,

My name is Dennis Van Kampen and I have recently become the new Executive Director of Camp Henry. I have over 12 years of experience in camping with various camps in Michigan and Ohio. I am very excited to join the Camp Henry family!

It is an honor to join a camp with such rich history. I want to recognize and thank Judy Astle for her 14 years of tremendous service to Camp Henry. She has laid a solid foundation for the future. One of the things I was most excited about in terms of coming to Camp Henry was the great staff. I am so thankful for their talent, dedication and love for the kids and mission of Camp Henry. I am looking forward to working with each of them!

I have been married to my wife Kelly for almost 13 years and we have four children. Noah is 9, Nate is 5, Malea is 2 and Haley is 1. Kelly and I met while I was at Camp Manitou-Lin and we have served together in camping for many years.

I believe that summer camp is one of the most important experiences any child can have. I have always believed that camp is a glimpse of the way God intended the world to be. I also believe that camp changes the world in a positive way, one camper at a time. It is a life changing and life forming experience! What could be better than having the best week of your life, trying new things, making new friends, and experiencing God's love for us? What a great mission!

I also believe camp has a lot to offer beyond summer camp for adults, kids and families! The same great mission and experiences happen through environmental education with school groups, weekend retreats, professional development experiences and much, much more! I look forward to this part of our program growing and impacting our community even more!

In closing, I want to thank you for being a part of the Camp Henry family. You are important to us and I look forward to meeting you and hearing your stories about how this special place has made a difference in your life. I am excited about the future and feel very blessed that I have been asked to be a part of it. Together we will continue to build bridges for life!

God bless,



Dennis Van Kampen
Executive Director
dennisv@camphenry.org
616.459.2267 ext. 5

VOLUNTEER NURSES NEEDED

Two free weeks of Camp are earned for each week you volunteer as a nurse during the summer at Camp Henry. The weeks of July 6, July 13 and August 3 are still available. Please call Chris McClain at (616) 459-2267 ext. 2 for more information.



construction update!

Camp Henry is usually a pretty quiet place in the winter. Retreat and school groups come and go, but usually the deer, birds and small critters feel pretty free to call camp their own.

However, the winter of 2008 has been different. Construction on two new Boys' Village lodges has been in full swing since November and we are on schedule to complete them for our spring season by May 1. Despite January and February's extreme temperatures and buckets of snow, hardy work crews have framed, roofed, sided and even done all the rough in plumbing and electric work.

Each new lodge has two cabins with an attached bathroom and they have been designed with both summer campers and year round campers in mind. They are built tough to withstand the intense uses that comes with hundreds of boys during the summer but are insulated, include an efficient heating system and have, of course, those attached bathrooms for groups that use camp during the fall, winter and spring.

Other construction at camp includes a new tacking area for our horse program. Work began on this project in October and we plan to finish it up in 2008. We will also be removing the old docks at the waterfront (as soon as there is more water than ice) and replacing them with brand new docks.

There will be many new things at Camp Henry this summer but we look forward to the campers arriving and making the new part of their old traditions.



Top: One of two new Boys' Village Lodges, March 2008



Left: New Tack House, November 2007

bleeding greener



Considered by many the "ultimate" green space camp is, no doubt, a slice of heaven. Unplugged from electronic communications and games, you are truly one on one with nature at camp. At Camp Henry we understand that the core of camp is relationships; people with themselves, one another, the environment and God.

As stewards of our camp and our planet, we are increasing our efforts to be greener. This spring, we will increase our use of energy efficient light bulbs and engage in a more aggressive recycling program.

To support our local agriculture we will be purchasing much more

of our food from locally owned organic farms and planting our own garden for fresh organic produce. To help degrade our food waste, we are using composting red worms and looking into having our very own pigs.

Our outdoor education curriculum will have two new programs focused on environmental awareness. "The Story of Stuff" and "What Will We Eat?" will be offered to schools.

Additionally, by volunteering to lend a hand with projects and planting trees and shrubs to offset your carbon footprint, you can become a more "eco-friendly" camper and help us be greener!

If you'd like to learn more about off-setting your carbon footprint while you're at camp, or donating to any of the new environmental efforts we're undertaking, please contact Betsy. Bougie, Year Round Program Director, 231.652.6472, ext. 14.

treasure chest

Next time you're at Camp Henry, you might see a band of apes, a giant, a troll or even extra terrestrials making their way across the A-Field! Has camp been taken over by creatures crazier than our staff? No...it's one of our newest programs, Treasure C.H.E.S.T. in action!

Treasure C.H.E.S.T. (Camp Henry Experiential Story-based Teambuilding) is an exciting new program created by Mat Emerick, Assistant Program Director. Mat has an extensive background in circus arts, theatre and storytelling and has worked for years as a youth leader with his church in Fremont. His unique program uses costumes, characters, scenes and a central story along with the Camp Henry challenge course elements to actively engage participants.

The Treasure C.H.E.S.T. adventure program builds teamwork, problem-solving skills and most importantly

confidence and self-esteem, as participants go in search of the elusive treasure in the treasure chest.



Originally used with youth groups, Treasure C.H.E.S.T. is gaining popularity with elementary, middle school and other groups as a fun and creative way to spend time at Camp Henry while working on skills such as leadership, teamwork, communication, respect, trust, problem solving skills and decision making...of course, while having FUN!

To learn more about Treasure C.H.E.S.T., please visit our website or call Mat Emerick, Assistant Program Director, at 231.652.6472.ext. 21.

your impact on kids

Our "thank you" file is filled with notes, emails and cards from folks who have had a chance to spend time at Camp Henry. Some mentioned a helpful staff person, others focus on our programs while still others point out how they enjoyed the lake, the woods or various hiking trails. Many people mention just how great it was to get out of the rat race for a few days so they could reflect and focus on their spiritual life.



Perhaps the most moving letters are from children who have received a summer camp scholarship grant award.

Trasia made lots of new friends. Spencer says that Camp Henry is his favorite place in the world. Lexi first came to camp with her school class and our scholarship program allowed her to return as a summer camper. Dani thanked us for helping her mom out. Erica loved finding a place where even a teenager can be a kid again, while Angelica and Alejandra tried many new things and discovered that they love to ride horses! Larry supplemented his scholarship each year by earning money himself to come to camp and when he graduated from high school, he sent us a graduation announcement.

Asking for a scholarship can be very difficult for hard-working folks but in recent years more and more have had to do so in order to help provide their kids with this valuable and unique experience. We hope to raise at least \$130,000 in 2008 to answer this growing need for scholarship assistance.

This message was sent by the parents of two of our campers.

"Thank you so much for your generosity, kindness, compassion and love for our children. May God continue to bless you all in this beautiful ministry that teaches the love of Christ to our future generations."

in memoriam, William Wren Idema

During Old Testament times a person's name was much more than a label of identification. It represented the very essence of the person's nature.

Camp Henry would like to propose Bill Idema's name in Old Testament terms. His name would be generosity, vitality and humility.

Generosity - Bill always looked outside of himself to consider the needs of others. Bill had a special relationship with Camp Henry but his generosity stretched far beyond to

include the support of many organizations. Bill was a blessing to so many groups within our community.

Vitality - Bill had an incredible life force which was manifested in many ways. One of his greatest loves was flying. He flew his own private plane and once flew as far as Cuba. He and his wife Bea also loved cruising and travelling to far away places.

Humility - Bill gave so much during his lifetime and took so little credit. He served as an inspiration to those of us looking for a role

model in living a Christian life. Bill was a very good man who did great things with very little fanfare.

In Micah 6 we are asked, "What does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to live kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?"

The Lord must have been very pleased with Bill's life.

We, at Camp Henry, will miss his presence in our lives.

we are thankful for our friends

support from October 1, 2007 to March 15, 2008

Memorials

Micaela Egedy
Michael and Karen Bader
Gerrit and Arlene Egedy
William Wren Idema
Winifred Bowerman
Eleanor Cameron
David Frey
George and Vera Hendricks
Mark Hendricks
Henry Idema II
Mark and Marcie Lewis
Lee Moore
Jack Nash
Donald and Nancy Taylor
Andrew and Donna Van Ysseldyke
Marilyn Vander Veen
Melvin Vanfarow
Kate Pew Wolters
Grand Rapids Community Foundation
Scholarships
Elizabeth Gillis
James Graeber
Patricia Haist
David and Marjory Kempers
Harry Lane
John and Audrey Losey
Rusty Pummil
Sunny Sjaarda
Jack Stewart

Linda Vander Lugt
Barbara Vander Jagt
Michael VanHaren
Clifford and Frances Voice
Fred and Sallie Warner
Frederick S. Upton Foundation
Fremont Rotary Club
Grand Horizons Foundation
Grand Rapids Community Foundation
Newaygo Lions Club
Steelcase Foundation
White Cloud Rotary Club
WPC Community Ministries
Scholarship Endowment Fund
Charles and Helen Newcomer Memorial
William and Inetta Martindill
James B Weenink Endowment
Fredrick and Carolyn Olert
Virginia Weenink
Capital Campaign
George and Peg Cope
Robert Eleveld
Ralph and Sue Garlick
Henry B. and Anne Heyl
Christopher and Keri Kuiper
William and Inetta Martindill
James and Christine McClain
Michael and Kathleen Snapper
Donald and Nancy Taylor

MOJO Foundation
Operating
Kelli Austin
Stephen and Cynthia Baron
Ron and Mary Bouwense
Jack Bowie
Dan and Sue Brondyk
Rick and Mary Cunningham
Linda Damon
Melissa Flynn
Michael and Debra Flynn
Ralph and Sue Garlick
Elizabeth Gillis
Douglas and Julie Gortsema
James and Patricia Gunn
Edward Hughes
William Wren and Beatrice Idema
Robert Johns
Michael and Judith Koster
Nicholas J. Koster
Lester and Nancy Kragt
Norbert and Rebecca Kugele
Edward and Kathleen Lunt
Michael and Heather Lunt
Timothy and Deborah Maclam
Christopher McCleary
Frank McNamara
Donald and Eileen Naab
Robert and Carol Nowak
Mark and Suzann Ogland-Hand
Mark Penning
Jerry and Sharon Pollard

Mary Robinson
Carolyn Shultz
Jim and Mindy Seufert
Donald and Nancy Taylor
Marilyn Vander Veen
Macatawa Bank
Westminster Presbyterian Adults
Designated Program
Grand Rapids Community Foundation
Grounds and Facilities Endowment Fund
William Wren and Beatrice Idema
United Way Donors
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Carole Cotts
Marla Holzapfel
Richard Johnson
Gary and Deborah Kammer
Christopher and Keri Kuiper
Michael and Heather Lunt
Douglas Oostdyk
Carolyn Schultz
Charles Vonk
Inkind
Lee Moore
Marilynne McCready
Donald and Nancy Taylor
Perrigo Pharmaceuticals

what people are saying about Camp Henry!



Dear Camp Henry,

Thank you for having us come! Both Kent City Baptist and Sparta groups had a wonderful, productive time there. A special thanks to you, Betsy, for working with us on the nitty-gritty details of our camp weekend.

As well, thank you for your spirit of hospitality and flexibility as it made our weekend a

SUCCESS for us!

We are looking forward to our Senior High Snow camp in February and are sure that it will be just as great as the Junior High experience was. Thanks again and God bless you!

Sincerely,
Pastor Derek Max
Kent City Baptist Church