



Kern Family News

SUMMER, 2021

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GETTING BACK ON TRACK

2020 was a year we will never forget, but I could not be more proud of the efforts of our staff, the faith from our camp families, the generosity of our donors, and the impact we made during the most difficult of circumstances. The Spring and Summer have been a whirlwind of preparing for summer camp, staff hiring, fundraising, keeping in touch with our families, booking groups in for the fall / spring serving school groups, rental groups, family camps and events.

We are currently in the middle of summer camp 2021 and our amazing counselors and staff will be serving more than 1500 campers this year, dozens of rental groups, and we are once again providing scholarship assistance to many campers who need help making a summer experience possible.

Despite all the recent upheaval, camp has stayed true to its mission and because of everyone's efforts and support we are incredibly optimistic about what the future holds and the impact we can make on all those that come through our gates.

SCHIEWETZ FOUNDATION CIRCLE K RANCH PROJECT

Camp Kern has been blessed to have many generous and committed supporters over the years, perhaps none more so than the Schiewetz Foundation. As we were heading into the pandemic in Spring of 2020, we spoke to the Schiewetz Foundation about some of the needs we had at Camp, and they understood that some significant investment was needed at Circle K Ranch to improve the care of our horses, provide a safer space for our staff, and to deliver more opportunities for lesson students. One half of the project was to replace the old 'walk-in' stalls in our Camp barn with brand



new box-stalls, which will elevate the care of our horses and the safety of our staff and guests. The second half of the project was to replace the outdoor riding arena with a new indoor riding arena, allowing us to expand our lesson program and serve more students and guests. We still have a little way to go to fully complete both projects, but we are 95% there and are very excited to continue our Circle K Ranch improvements. A huge thank you to the Schiewetz Family for their support.



HISTORY CORNER – CARL B. KERN FUND

YMCA Camp Kern Board Members:

- John Baker - Board Chair
- Erin Crosby
- Julie Hengle
- Tom Hughes
- Andrea Kaercher
- Michele King
- Steve Pasch
- Andy Storar
- Matt Suellentrop
- Megan Trowbridge
- Tom Young
- Mike Zeh

Thank you current Board Members for your support and guidance.

If you are interested in joining the YMCA Camp Kern Board or a Committee please get in touch with Chris Addison, Executive Director at 513-932-3756.

Since 1987 the Carl B. Kern Fund of the Dayton Foundation (www.kernfund.org) has been raising funds and making distributions to honor Carl. B Kern and advance 'organized camping' with YMCA Camp Kern being the sole beneficiary. A small but dedicated group of individuals have donated their time, talent and treasure over the years, soliciting donations and managing the fund with incredible results.

The fund has grown from an initial \$1,000 to more than \$530,000, with YMCA Camp Kern receiving annual distributions. The 2021 distribution of \$20,000 is helping complete the Circle K Ranch project, and providing scholarships for summer campers.

Below, is a copy a thank you letter from the Camp Executive Director to the CB Kern fund for the very first distribution, of \$201 in 1989. We are so lucky to be receiving 100 times that amount! Thank you to all involved for their support of Kern!



YMCA CAMP KERN

5291 State Route 350
Oregonia, OH 45054

Telephone Dayton 885-3807; Cincinnati 241-0012; Local 932-3756

September 8, 1989

Dr. Stuart Weinberg
Carl B. Kern Fund
1895 Kettering Tower
Dayton, Ohio 45423-1395

Dear Dr. Weinberg:

YMCA Camp Kern was most pleased with receiving a check for \$201.00 to support a youth participant in one of our camping experiences.

This years recipient of the funds was a sixteen year old young man by the name of Lloyd Alley. Lloyd matched the \$201.00 thus allowing him to take advantage of our first Voyager Trip. This trip was a "Boundary Water" canoe expedition of ten days in Northern Minnesota.

Once again, I want to thank the Carl B. Kern fund for their support.

Sincerely,

Larry Maxwell
Executive Director

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT - JUSTIN 'MAC' MCCLELLAND

Mac was a camper, CIT, and staff member at Kern in the 1970's. He grew up in an air force family with constant moves (nine countries and eighteen states), limited family time, and little sense of home. It was YMCA Camp Kern that gave Mac what he needed, a sense of place and purpose. Specifically it was Kent Barnheiser, Camp Kern's director at the time, who made this happen. Kent took the time get to know Mac and all through Mac's high school and college years it was Kern and the efforts of Kent that carried him through. During this formative time, Mac learned and developed into adulthood. The Barnheiser family treated him as one of their own, occasionally taking him into their home and always treating him as one of the family. After college Mac went into the navy and then into the foreign service. Throughout this time Kent stayed in touch.

"Kent always listened and had an open door," reflects Mac. "He had a straightforward, nonjudgmental way, he worked on supporting all staff and validated everyone. All were part of the family." Mac remembers fondly that Kent had him help run the trampolines when he was a CIT. Later as a staff member, Kent encouraged him to take the lifeguard training. Mac loved the experience, and points to his lifeguard experience as a starting point that led to him to becoming a navy seal and rescue/combat swimmer. Later, through law school and then in his government career, Kent continued to play a role as confidant, friend, and mentor to Mac. "Kern was home and Kent was always part of it. I was fortunate to have both, and that made all the difference in my life and career." "Kent was a model for how I raised my own son."

Kent and Mac continue to stay in touch. Another example of the power of Camp, and the relationships built at this magical place.



STAFF SPOTLIGHT- KAYLA STEPHENS, EQ. COORDINATOR

Meet Kayla Stephens, YMCA Camp Kern's Equestrian Coordinator. She loves horses and camp, "my family runs a church camp, so I grew up at camps." Once she discovered her passion for horses, the combination of the two set her career path. Kayla attended Tiffin University to study equestrian business, graduating with a human resources degree before being lured into a job in the equine business. Kayla joined the Camp Kern team from another Y Camp (YMCA Camp Willson) in the Spring of 2020. She describes her job at Kern as a "different adventure every day." "With horses you never know what you are going to get, they are even less predictable than their riders."

When asked if the Kern staff were to participate in a season of the Survivor television show, Kayla was disturbingly eager to answer, emphatically stating that Karley (our Teen and Family Director) would be the winner. "Karley knows how to make people their friend; people fall for it all the time." Kayla admits to being a big Survivor fan. CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE...

Fall Volunteer day—TBD

Pre-Thanksgiving Nov 21st 2021

Arctic Dash—Dec 4th



VOLUNTEER DAY

May 23rd was one of those days that signaled the start of a return to normal for Camp Kern. Around 30 volunteers braved a very warm Sunday to help get us ready for our busy season by donating their time and talent sprucing up camp. Weed whipping, trail clearing, planter-box renovation and untold amounts of painting and staining made a huge difference, especially after we have been so limited on resources to complete projects and general upkeep. A huge thank you to everyone involved and we look forward to having another one soon!

STAFF SPOTLIGHT CONTINUED...

Kayla's favorite things about Kern include the horses (of course), the people (campers and staff), and Elk Lake ("it is a quiet place for a picnic"). Changes she would like to see at Kern include getting more staff on (or at least near) horses, training them to lead trail rides, "Anyone can do it." She would also like to learn more about leading other camp activities. In her personal life, Kayla admits to being "a bit of a nerd and a rule follower." She enjoys video games, Harry Potter, and boy bands. She owns that last one, refusing to label it a guilty pleasure. Asked about her plans for the future, all Kayla would say is that it includes deciding what to have for dinner. Hopefully you will see Kayla at the barn very soon!



Kern Family Committee

- Kara Barton
- Erin Crosby
- Traci Hale Brown
- Andrea Kaercher
- Michele King
- Natalie Schiavone
- Curtis Wright
- Chris Addison (Kern Staff)
- Dave Moran (Kern Staff)

Volunteers Needed:

In an effort to build a strong committee, we are seeking additional volunteers to help us with our various positions. If you are interested in joining the committee, volunteering at events, assisting with the newsletter, donating, or anything else, please contact us at:

campkernalumni@gmail.com