



Camp News



Volume 2, Issue 1

February 2012

Letters

About Our Campers

I was so happy that I broke down in tears... It's amazing what a week at camp did for my son...

Parent of Camper

"Our family is so thankful for your camp. It is a wonderful place for our child to be with kids just "liker her". We feel she is very safe and taken care of in every way, in the best possible way.

-Parent of Camper

Mullins Family Experience At Camp

Charlie and Tricia never imagined that in the summer of 2009, their separate lives would become one. Magnificent things happen at Lions Bear Lake Camp, not only to the children that attend, but the families of these children as well. After receiving a very touching letter from one of these families, we thought it was something to be shared. Everyone that is involved with supporting Lions Bear Lake Camp; Lions, Lioness, Leos and all of the other gracious individuals, need to hear about the wonderful programs they are helping to provide. In the spring of 2009, Hunter a hearing impaired 9 year old had an exciting visit at the school that he attended in Bay City from an interpreter. While she was at Hunters school, she told him and his family about Lions Bear Lake Camp, a unique place where Hunter could be around kids like him, and how we could provide a very positive experience for him. Charlie, Hunters Father, explains in his letter that before his sons experience with us, he was a much different child. With living in a town that does not provide any programs for the Hearing Impaired, it was very difficult for a Hunter to be around other children like him. Hunter felt very isolated, shy and different from other kids. "Look Dad, they have hearing

aids just like me!" Hunter would often tell his Father. Charlie knew that camp was something to look into for Hunter. With the camp being a week long, Hunter was a little reluctant. Fortunately for him and many other families with the same issue, Lions Bear Lake Camp offers a Family Camp weekend. This is where the kids along with their families can come and get a fun filled weekend of "camp life." While offering a look into what the kids will experience, along with meetings where parents can discuss ways to help their children learn how to be successful in their futures. It eases the parents anxiety about sending their child away for a week, with also getting the children pumped up for their own adventure.

While at Family Camp, Hunter and his Dad met another fami-

ly with a son that had attended the week long session. The two families became friends, which made Hunter feel much more comfortable about attending camp with his new friend who he shared something in common with. Hunter was so excited to go to camp, "he could hardly wait."

As Hunter and Charlie arrived at camp, Charlie thought for sure that he would be driving back during the middle of the week to pick up his son for a frustration issue, or home sickness. But that call never came. Charlie waited out his week, wondering how Hunter was coping, but he never imagined what the outcome of a week at camp would be.

"I was shocked when I finally was able to see my son after being at camp for a week. He

Cont. on page 3





One of the Many Challenges Campers will find on our Teambuilding/Challenge Course at Bear Lake Camp.

"...outdoor play and exposure to nature has long-lasting effects on children and adults..."

A Purpose Behind the Climb

The Challenge Course is looking to the future. The challenge course staff has a vision for our campers. They are hoping to add a 40 foot climbing tower to our course activities. This outdoor climbing tower will be built for all levels of climbers. The current design is a three sided V shaped tower. One wall will be built on an incline and will be wheelchair accessible. This side will also be available for beginner climbers and will act as a catalyst to challenge our campers to further push themselves on and try side two. The second side will have a variety of vertical climbs including a section with an overhand for those who wish a higher level of difficulty. The third side will be open, without a wall. This area will include a ladder that will enable facilitators to reach the top quickly when needed. The top of the climbing tower will be a platform our vision which includes adding a zip line off from the top of the tower. Being able to zip is an added incentive for our campers to see the payoff of the challenge of climbing to the top of a 40 foot wall, and then being able

to descend down to the ground by zip line. Some may ask, what benefit can there possibly be to climbing up a wall? The answer is many. Human beings desire challenge. This desire is what motivates us to try harder and push ourselves. Our campers come to camp to have fun and also feel empowered when they leave. Climbing is fun and can be exhausting but oh how it does teach us to persevere and not give up. Climbers will see themselves grow, and strengthen their abilities to be pushed and to push themselves. A climbing tower will not only benefit the climber but it also keeps within one of Lions Bear Lake Camp's main goals of our Challenge Course, which is teambuilding. When a camper is not climbing they will be encouraging other that are climbing. Encouragement of others and pointing out the strengths of others in their group strengthens the goal of working together as a team. When not climbing, campers will also have the responsibility of aiding the facilitator with the climbing ropes. These are lessons that our campers can

take home from camp and apply to their everyday lives. For the visually impaired campers, climbing is a very tactile experience. The holds on the tower will be different sizes and shapes. Enabling the climber to choose and feel for their next hold. The goal of the challenge course facilitator is for campers to leave the climbing tower with a feeling of accomplishment, improved self-esteem and of having fun. The Association for Challenge Course Technology points out that, "outdoor play and exposure to nature has long-lasting effects on children and adults including stress reduction, decrease in mental health symptoms, and improvement of cognitive functioning." Many of our campers have requested a climbing wall and a zip line. Our vision is to be able to deliver on that request in the near future. If anyone is interested in more information on this project they can contact Jean Jones, Challenge Course Director, at camp.

*Contributed by Jean Jones,
Challenge Course Director*

Outdoor Adventures



Campers Experience the Great Outdoors

At Lions Bear Lake Camp children are provided with opportunities to do outdoor activities such as archery, fishing, outdoor cooking, goal ball, beeper ball, and recently added, survivor skills. These activities are divided into camp experiences such as fishing and archery and activities that can be continued at home, such as goal ball and beeper ball for the visually impaired. These camping activities provide an opportunity for campers to do things that they may never have done before. During their overnight camping adventure, campers will pitch

their own tents with the help of their counselors, and cook their own food over a campfire. In archery, campers learn the five parts of the bow and five parts of the arrow. After learning a set of commands from their instructor they will get to shoot. The instructor and counselor will help the campers, three on the shooting line at a time, with whatever they need, by offering verbal directions, or a helping hand, depending on each campers abilities. For the smaller camper the instructor may help them hold the bow or pull the

string back, or in the case of playing beeper ball (a ball, true to it's name, emits a loud beeping noise) behind the target, so campers can independently aim by using the sounds of the beeper ball. Overall, Lions Bear Lake Camp outdoor activities are meant to be educational, promote campers growth, and also be a satisfying and equally fun experience.

*Contributed by Adam Luthé,
Outdoor Activities Director*

Our Contributors

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The Jury Foundation
The Philip and Elizabeth Filmer Memorial Charitable Trust
Veit Youth Charitable Trust
Whiting Foundation

Mullins Family

Cont. from pg.1

was up on a stage performing a skit with his cabin mates for the parents. I was so happy that I broke down in tears, as I am now thinking back to that moment. It's amazing what a week at camp did for my son, the friendships he made are for life, and the self-confidence he gained is priceless." Those are very strong words from a proud parent. Hunter has not only become a changed child from his experience at Lions Bear Lake Camp, he is now on the wrestling team and in his third season. He has become an honor roll student, and for the first time since 1st grade; now in fifth grade, Hunter is in a mainstream public school environment without an interpreter. He now has many friends at his school and he sees himself as finally being "normal."

Charlie and Hunters life changed for the best while at summer camp, but they were not the only family who in 2009 had a life changing experience. While at the first year of Family Camp, Charlie and Tricia met each other and are now married. "We are now one big happy family," Charlie told us. Their newly formed family has continued the tradition of coming back year after year to enjoy Family Camp.

"Once again, I say thank you to all the staff at Lions Bear Lake Camp. For everything you all have done for me and my family and for allowing us to share our experiences, strengths and hope your camp has given us."

Charlie & Tricia

*Contributed by Christina Wills,
Office Manager*



Memorials

Mathias Drake Beckett
Bretton Woods Lions

Jack & Mary Bower
Al Lindsey
John & Jean Becher

Jacob Dubaere
Al & Desiree Lindsey

Francis Love
Bretton Woods Lions

Katherine Martin
Peggy Farnsworth
Susan Dziczek

Freda Pennington
Barbara Treichel
Esther LaMothe
District 11-B1

Gary Riggs
Emmett Lions

James Rose
Manfred & Irmgard Simon

Lawrence Rose
Armada Lioness

Joe Szyska
Emmett Lions

Chuck Weir
Williamston Lions
Shirley Marshall
Dimondale Lions

Ivonna Wylm
Owensdale Lions
Armada Seniors
Joe Wilson
Connie Shelton
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Gordon & Joanne Logan
Sharon Kmust & family
Linda Russ & family
Tom & Peggy Vuylsteke
Dave & Karin Kaspersli
Lyle & Diane Ballard
Dennis & Peggy Klein
Anthony Capozzo
Linda & Joe Salas
Joyce Karatz
Krause Veterinary Clinic
Roxann Wood
Mark Ahalt
Sandy & Sherry Gavin

Honorariums

Dick Belloli
Rick Belloli

Nancy Lampman
Bellevue Lions

Larry Oldenburg
Margaret Oldenburg &
Family

Marion Ramer
Linden & Wendy Mater

Dan Shepherd
Marshall Lions

IPDG Barbara Treichel
North Adams Lions
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Transcribing Fund

Maureen Treppa
Chuck Weir
Bretton Woods Lions

Dorothy Zehnder
Frankenmuth Lions



Campers make pizza from scratch, by starting with grinding the wheat.

Camper Sponsors

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Lions
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Martin
Midland Lioness
North Branch Lions
Northport Lions
Port Huron Quota Club
Royal Oak Lions
Sandusky Lions
Sarah Shoemaker



Annual Spring Work Bee Makes a Difference...

Last year we had a very successful work bee with over 100 persons in attendance! Lions, Lioness, Leos, families and friends were in attendance. The one day in May allows us to clean up after winter and prepare for summer by cleaning, maintaining and repairing the Camp buildings and grounds. The day starts around 9 and ends around 4 with a lunch provided. The camp has limited maintenance staff and relies on the work bee to prepare the camp for summer programs. This is community service at its best and offers great camaraderie for all. Dennis Tomkins, Director stated "I do not know how we would get ready for the summer

without the great work of the volunteers at the Work Bee, they are great!" There are some great plans for next year. The Association of Past District Governors has agreed to volunteer at the Work Bee by acting as Task Leaders. They will welcome volunteers with the tasks, how to do it and the tools as soon as they arrive at camp. As the event has grown, it has become difficult to prepare and keep up with the many different task taking place at camp. With the help of the PDG's, we will accomplish more work and **do** it better!! Over the past year, the Districts have raised money for the Cabin Fan Project. It can get very hot



Lions and Leos working side by side at work bee.

in the cabins during the summer and they lack good ventilation. The "whole house fan," will improve air circulation and lower temperatures in the cabins. We hope to install the fans at this

year's work bee scheduled for Saturday, May 12, 2012. To participate, it is necessary to sign up in advance. Sign up forms are available from Lions Bear Lake Camp by calling (810) 245-0726.

Leadership Development

Every summer a few outstanding 15-17 year old teens, come to camp to learn to become leaders. Camp provides a safe and exciting environment for teens to learn, practice and refine leadership skills. These special teens participate in two consecutive summer programs that provide opportunities to experience and practice collaborative leadership with emphasis on communication skills; develop critical thinking and problem solving skills; identify personal strengths and use as leaders. The first summer is very intensive experience within the group of participants. Through various activities they learn about themselves, what role lead-

ership plays at camp, what are the roles of staff members and get an opportunity to plan activities. The second year they act as an "assistant to the counselor" and get hands on opportunities to lead and guide campers. After successful completion of the leadership program participants can apply to work at camp. Alyssa Mandilk, is a good example of how a camper can grow as a participant in the Leadership program. Alyssa was a camper in the visually impaired session for 3 summers, spent two summers in Leadership Development, worked one summer as a Junior Counselor and this past summer was a first year counselor.

Alyssa was an outstanding first-year counselor. She understands the children and believes in the value of the program. She led the campers with great skill and competence. Some of

our best staff comes from the ranks of our leadership program. The great thing is, what they learn at camp can be applied to their unique life situations and plans "in the real world".



2011 Alyssa Mandilk was a super first-year counselor from the ranks of the Leadership Program.

**LIONS
BEAR
LAKE
CAMP**



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We're on the web
www.lionsbearlakecamp.org

Camp provides a safe and exciting environment for teens to learn, practice and refine leadership skills.

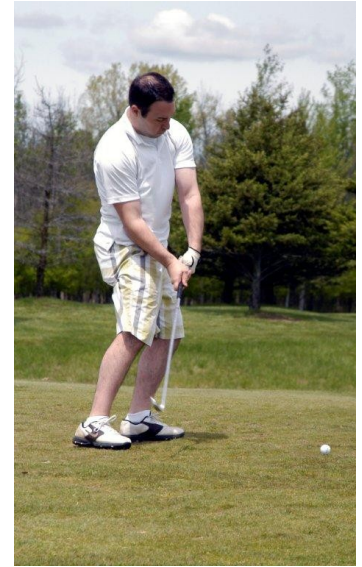


A Great Place to Grow

Camp Wish List

10 ft. Portable Shade	\$3,000
Universally Accessible Paddle Boat	\$2,800
Tents (3)	\$350
Archery Bows and Arrows	\$200
Basic Medical Supplies	\$500
Visual Impaired Games	\$500
Hearing Impaired Books	\$350
Camper Shirts	\$500
8 ft. Tables	\$300
Fireplace Furniture:	
Loveseat	\$550
Chair (2)	\$400
Coffee Table	\$275
For Play area:	
Accessible Benches (3)	\$350
Accessible Picnic Table (1)	\$700

2012 Golf Outing



**Lions Bear Lake Camp
Annual Golf Outing**

Sunday, May 20, 2012

Metamora Golf & Country Club Golf Course

Watch for the new sign-up sheet online at:
www.lionsbearlakecamp.org



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