

Friends of Camp Newsletter



Summer 2005

*Serving the Youth of
Southwest Michigan
since 1950*

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Van Buren Youth Camp
12370 45th St
Bloomingdale, MI 49026

2005 Camp - Our 55th Summer

by Becky Pasman, Executive Director

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has helped bring camp back to life for the 2005 summer season. We have been blessed this spring with generous donors and workers. Because of each of you, I'm looking forward to a memorable 55th summer season.

We have an enthusiastic group of young people staff, alumni and counselors; they donated Saturdays to prepare the grounds and build the new low ropes course. In fact, one of our volunteers was amazed at the amount of elbow grease used to prepare camp for the upcoming season. After spending the day raking, shoveling, and cleaning the drain to the lake, his comment was . . . "When I was a young camper, I always thought this place was magical and that it just came like this. I never realized the amount of work needed to make it look so good."

The low ropes course isn't the only addition or upgrade campers and visitors will notice around camp. Our Rec Area has received a new paint job, the swim area has a larger swim raft, the fire bowl has new logs and is slightly larger, and the Archery range has received another face lift. The grounds look wonderful thanks to donations from Georgie Washburn, two greenhouses, staff and leadership campers.

Also, the outpouring of 2005 campership donors has been wonderful. I love reading the campership request letters from campers who write about the excitement of shooting an arrow, swimming or sleeping in cabins. Due to several generous donations, I've been able to honor every campership request to date. It is a blessing to watch the campers' smiling faces at Sunday registration.

If you have the opportunity, stop out to visit us this summer and see your generosity in action. We would love to have you join us for a meal or campfire.

In the Spirit of camp,

Becky Pasman





Horace (Hoss) Adams Remembered

We are all going to miss that giant of a man who had a special soft spot for VBYC in his heart. Hoss started his association with camp back in the 50s when he and his dad, Bert Adams, performed legal work for the camp. His relationship was cemented when his wife, Mary, served as camp nurse for several seasons in the 50s along with her sister-in-law and close friend Ruth Pugsley. Hoss sponsored a cabin for many years, served as a board member and was always finding goodies to donate. He attended most camp functions, handled all of the camps legal matters, and was responsible for securing many new supporters and bequests for camp. Horace was made a life member of the board a number of years back and as such was always current on what was taking place at VBYC. Horace's children and grandchildren attended camp and his grandson, John Cochran IV, has served as a cabin counselor and staff-in-training. Hoss, you will be missed.

Notes of Thanks . . .

Thank you so very much for selecting Blaine as one of your recipients of a "campership." The Board's act of kindness has made a difference in my child's life. VBYC is a great learning and life experience!

Much Gratitude!

Nikki Janssen (Blaine's Mom)

I would like to thank you for sponsoring me to the VBYC camp. I can not begin to tell you how much the camp has come to mean to me over the years. The friends that I have made, the experiences I have had, along with the staff has truly made my summers enjoyable and something I have very much come to look forward to.

Without your sponsorship I doubt that I would have been able to attend camp every year and this would have saddened me, because I have such a great time when I am there. I still keep in contact with the people I have met over the years at VBYC. It is an honor to be welcomed back.

Once again, thank you for sponsoring me.

Sincerely, Danielle O'Connell



I would like to thank Van Buren Youth Camp and their donors for giving me the opportunity to go to camp. I would not be able to go if it weren't for this scholarship. I think Van Buren Youth Camp is a great place for kids to spend time away from home and it is also a great place to meet new people. I would just like to thank you for allowing me to have this opportunity.

Thank You, Debbie Pickett

Thank you so much for giving me this opportunity and sending me to camp this year! I have never been to a "youth camp" before, and I'm extremely excited! Hopefully this is just the beginning for me, and I'll be returning yearly.

Thanks, Dakota Wimberley

Thank you Mama P and the staff at VBYC! I feel very lucky and special that you choose me for the scholarship. I love camp so much! Camp is like my 2nd home in the summer.



Our 2005 Staff

The 2005 staff at VBYC is a good mixture of old and new faces. Jen Peck (4th year staff), a camper since 3rd grade, is our waterfront director. Working with her on the waterfront are three returning staff members – Eric Paskan (4th year staff), Joe Schmidt (3rd year staff), Tom O'Rourke (3rd year staff), and Moriah Casey-Hathaway (1st year staff). The program staff are Jeffrey Walls – initiatives instructor (2nd year staff), Sean Saleske – Archery/Riflery (2nd year staff), Jason Groth – Archery/Riflery (1st year staff), Jo Mollhagen-Jaksa – Nature (2nd year staff), Phil Tolbert – Song and Dance (2nd year staff) and Neil Curiel – Arts and Crafts (2nd year staff).

Our kitchen crew is supervised by the head cook, Betsy Antisdale (3rd year staff), and part-time cook Emily Paskan (5th year staff). The kitchen crew members are all new staff at VBYC - Seth Field, Kate Petrovic, Terri Smock, and Anna Schmitt. Returning to make sure the camp runs smoothly and looks nice are Michelle Gailliez - program director (2nd year staff), Maragret Foster - office manager (5th year staff), Ryan Nelson - grounds manager (2nd year staff), and last, but certainly not least, Richard Haynor and Samuel Weis - maintenance. *(See next page for picture.)*

Wild Game Dinner

October 15th

Mark Your Calendar!!

And The Search Is On . . .

Are you looking for a meaningful way to contribute to camp that goes beyond money? Do you have ideas for camp and would like an opportunity to put them in action? Then you are in luck! Van Buren Youth Camp Board of Directors is looking to increase their number.

The VBYC Board of Directors is looking for individuals interested in participating in a unique experience. Once a month, the VBYC's Board of Directors meets to discuss the progress, needs and direction of camp. The VBYC Board of Directors regularly reviews the budget, advertising, public relations and maintenance projects through various committees. We work with the camp Director to evaluate summer programs and assist in planning yearly Leadership workshops. During the spring and fall, we gather for work-days to ready camp for the next exciting summer calendar.

Become a part of an organization that has been building memories for over 55 years. Ask about becoming part of the VBYC Board of Directors.

2005 Leadership



Cleo Notes

PayPal - Good news!! By popular demand, we now have PayPal set up for payment via our website.

Interested in working at Camp? Starting April 2 and ending October 15, you may join us every Saturday at 9:00 a.m. to work on projects. Bring a dish to pass for a potluck at 1:00 p.m.

We have rentals on and off the lake. If you are looking for that beautiful summer retreat this year, contact camp at 269-521-3855 for more information.

Send us your "Remember When" stories to be published in this newsletter. Call Becky Bechtold at 616-502-0881 or send an email at bekyb1111@comcast.net.

www.vbyc.org

Van Buren Youth Camp
12370 45th St
Bloomingtondale, MI 49026

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Kalamazoo, MI
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Check out our *new* website at:
www.vbyc.org

Serving the Youth of Southwest Michigan Since 1950

Friends of Camp Dinner

Remember to mark your calendar for the Friends of Camp dinner. It will be held on ***Saturday, August 13, 2005 at the VBYC lodge.***



2005 Staff

Back row: Jeffrey Walls, Sean Salefske, Eric Pasman, Seth Field, Tom O'Rourke.

Thrid row: Terri Smock, Kate Petrovic, Jason Groth, Sam Weis, Neil Curiel, Anna Schmitt.

Front row: Becky Pasman, Margaret Foster, Jen Peck, Michelle Gailliez, Emily Pasman, Moriah Casey-Hathaway, Joe Schmidt, Betsy Antisdale, Jo Mollhagen-Jaksa, Phil Tolbert.