

Carl B. Kern Fund

## Camping Offers a Certain Magic

**A**s a pediatrician, I see kids everyday from broken homes and crumbling support systems. I see children who have nothing to hang on to anymore or to help them to feel good about themselves," said Stuart T. Weinberg, M.D. For Weinberg, one answer to the problem is summer camp.

Weinberg is a summer camp convert. In fact, he founded the Carl B. Kern Fund in 1987 to perpetuate the memory of the Dayton YMCA's Boys' Work

Secretary Carl B. Kern (after whom YMCA's Camp Kern is named) and to further the awareness of what summer camp can do for children.

His establishment of the Kern endowment fund in The Dayton Foundation came after 14 years of his summer experiences at Camp Kern, first as a camper, then as a counselor and support staff person. Weinberg enrolled at Camp Kern at the age of eight. He went, like most children, to have fun. He

came away, however, with much more – with lessons about himself, and about life.

"One of the most important things camp can offer a child is self-esteem," Weinberg said. "What I remember about camp is that you, as the kid, were the focus. Most of the time, away from camp, I was Mr. and Mrs. Weinberg's son. When I went to Camp Kern, the counselors knew *me*. This is Stuart, they

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Discretionary Grants  
Awarded

## Donors Assist Miami Valley

**S**ince November, The Dayton Foundation awarded 18 grants totaling \$311,600 to nonprofit organizations in the Miami Valley. These discretionary grants are made possible by donors who contribute unrestricted charitable dollars to strengthen and improve the community.

Following is a list of nonprofit organizations whose projects will further promote arts and culture, education, health, human services, philanthropy and other community-building efforts.

### African-American Community Fund (\$50,000)

To provide a challenge grant to encourage philanthropy among Dayton's African-American population, an initiative of The Dayton Foundation.

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# Camping Offers a Certain Kind of Magic

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would say, and Stuart's parents. It felt like you belonged somewhere. It was a second home for a lot of kids – a place of consistency summer after summer, a place you could feel comfortable and safe.”

Also important, he said, are the lessons of tolerance learned when you live so closely with children from all sectors of the community. They are lessons of how to

The importance of role models is a key aspect of summer camp for Weinberg. It is the reason he named the endowment fund after Carl B. Kern, with permission from Kern's relatives living in Germantown.

“Carl B. Kern was like a big brother to the boys in the city,” Weinberg said. “As a YMCA director, he demonstrated the difference that a role model can make in the lives of people. When he died in 1917 at the age of 37, there was such an

outpouring of emotion in the city.” Through the Carl B. Kern fund, Weinberg wants people to understand that “we need more role models out there” and that they can change people's lives.

Since 1989, the income from the Carl B. Kern endowment has primarily funded scholarships for children who otherwise would not have been able to attend Camp Kern or receive leadership training. “Now that we know all the benefits camping can offer,” Weinberg said, “we on the Fund Advisory Board feel strongly that camp is available to more than just part of the population and that attendance is not determined just by ability to pay.”

As chair of the Advisory Board, Weinberg talks whenever and wherever he can about what Carl B. Kern stood for and the “magical nature of summer camp.” To assure that the philosophy that these



Carl B. Kern

represent is perpetuated, he and the Advisory Board are working to build their endowment fund.

Weinberg knows that not all camps accomplish such positive things for children and that not all children can be reached through this medium. The Carl B. Kern Fund, however, looks to foster the conditions that make for the best of what camping has to offer. “It made my life better,” Weinberg said. The hope is that the Carl B. Kern Fund will do the same for others. 🍷



work together and solve differences. “We were like a family,” he said, and the camp counselors, their role models.

*“As a pediatrician... I see children who have nothing to hang on to anymore or to help them feel good about themselves.” 🍷*

– Stuart T. Weinberg, M.D., wants people to know that summer camp can improve children's lives.

Stuart Weinberg met his wife, Anne (below), at Camp Kern, where she worked as the assistant director until 1992. Stuart proposed to his wife and married her, amid the green trees and happy memories of Camp Kern. He first attended the camp at the age of eight (right, center front). He's shown with three campers above.

