

SMOKE SIGNALS



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
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YMCA CAMP PENDALOUAN

1243 E Fruitvale Rd, Montague MI 49437

Winter 2014

pendalouan.org 231-894-4538

YMCA Camp Pandalouan's Alumni, Camper Family & Friends Newsletter



Camp Directors - Lori Willson, Bruce Spoelman and Mark Olson

GREETINGS FROM FROZEN AND BEAUTIFUL BIG BLUE LAKE!

Greetings from Frozen and Beautiful Big Blue Lake! With 170 friends here for Pandalouan Day, another successful semester of Outdoor Education programming and an impressive year-end campaign, our year has ended well.

2014 has had a good start. Thanks to a strong finish, we are already subsidizing summer camp for families that need assistance and are working on facility improvements that wouldn't be possible without your help. Groups have enjoyed x-country skiing and we're exploring how we can offer snowshoeing, another great aerobic winter activity. If you've ever visited Camp in the winter, you know how fun it can be to slide across the deck of the lodge or play broomball on the lake.

And then there is Summer! We've been hiring, planning, talking about, dreaming and registering for Summer 2014! We can't wait, because it really is the heart of all things Pandalouan!

Pandalouan is thriving because of your dedication and support. Help us keep this newsletter relevant by staying in touch and telling us what you care about. Thanks again for helping such a great place and program.

Hail Pandalouan!

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Spring Volunteer Work Day
March 23

Camp Preview Days
March 30, April 27 & May 11

Muskegon Y's Club White Elephant Sale
May 9-10



WE CAN'T THANK YOU ENOUGH!

Through the generous support of alumni, parents and friends like you, Pentalouan's Year-End Campaign raised over \$29,000 this past December!

Because of these gifts, more campers will be able to experience a week at Pentalouan. These funds are also allowing us to make much needed facility upgrades and provide more program options.

Thank you again to those who contributed! We continue to accept donations all year round for our Campership Fund, as well as capital projects and facility/program needs. For more information, head to Pentalouan.org/donate.

"IT FEELS SO GOOD TO COME HOME..." RECORDS SET AT PENDALOUAN DAY 2013!

A record 170 alumni and friends of YMCA Camp Pentalouan made their way back to Big Blue Lake this past October for Pentalouan Day 2013. Alumni reconnected with fellow campers and staff and also shared stories, pictures and laughs with current campers and their families.

For alumni and families who had the energy, boating, archery, and a hike to Sleepy Hollow kept the day exciting. Many alumni also enjoyed relaxing with other Pentalouan friends and sharing stories while going through old camp photo albums or enjoying our memory displays. An interactive, multi-generational camp tour also allowed alumni to see improvements and hear the story behind many buildings and program areas.

A highlight of the day was a meal in Nikana Lodge, where Executive Director Bruce Spoelman updated alumni on exciting camp developments. After the meal, we dedicated our new Wood-Burning Furnace, Trail Lights and Welcome Pavilion.

Alumni of every type returned for the event. Former campers, summer camp counselors, outdoor education instructors, program directors, family campers, board members and current camper families. Every decade since the 1930s was represented, including Chief Horsley's daughter and granddaughter! "Even though many of us never attended Penty at the same time, we all have common experiences shared through this amazing place," shared one alum.



Attendees also raised enough money to fund this year's Penty Day Project, a deck for Wildwood Chapel!

Save the date for Pentalouan Day 2014: October 4. For more pictures and a full list of who attended, head to www.pentalouan.org/alumni/

Our Mission: to put Judeo-Christian principles into practice through programs that build healthy spirit, mind and body for all. **Our Motto:** God First, Others Second, I'm Third *established* 1930. **Our Values:** Honesty, Caring, Respect, Responsibility.

REGISTRATION FOR SUMMER 2014 HAS BEGUN

Summer is less than 4 months away! Can you believe it? Registrations are building and we are gearing up for another amazing Summer! Last year over half of our sessions had waiting lists. Are your children, grandchildren, nieces and nephews registered yet?

And what about YOU? Our Family Camp, Mom & Kids Camp, Father-Son Camp and Women's Adventure Weekend attract campers from every generation! Don't get stuck on a waiting list; sign up today at pentalouan.org!



LEADING BY EXAMPLE

Former Pentalouan Director **Daryl Sieplinga** was so inspired by #GivingTuesday, that he decided to match any first-time or upgraded donation to our Year-End Campaign during the week of Giving Tuesday... up to \$1,000! Many camper parents and previous donors immediately took advantage of this matching opportunity. Thanks Daryl for getting the momentum going!

Giving Tuesday is a movement that started in 2012 to help promote the giving season. There's Black Friday, Cyber Monday and now... Giving Tuesday! For more information, head to givingtuesday.org.

PENDALOUAN ONLINE



WWW.PENDALOUAN.ORG

WILDWOOD'S NEW LOOK



2013 Pandalouan Day Project

Wildwood Chapel was a real jewel of Camp Pandalouan's facility. Over the years, however, it became overgrown and Boyden Chapel became the more appropriate gathering space for Pandalouan's growing size.

However, thanks to several generous contributions from Pandalouan Day 2013 attendees, Wildwood will once again become a primary meeting space for singing, celebrating, worshiping, weddings, education sessions and more.

The upgraded Wildwood has a beautiful deck (providing new views of Big Blue Lake), new stairs, a new trail to the chapel and the beginning of a boardwalk along the lake.



CAMP ISN'T JUST FOR KIDS

That's right! No matter your age, there is still a place for YOU at Pandalouan this summer. We have Family Camp, and we have Mom & Kids Camp, and we have Father-Son Camp as well as Women's Adventure Weekend. These camps are terrific family bonding experiences and are even more fun to share with extended family! We even let uncles, aunts and grandparents register to join in the fun.

"Great time! It's our first time and we loved it!" -R Wambaugh

"Great weekend! We love the paddle boards!" -K Kayes

"Counselors were awesome. The people make this place!" -D Yelamanchi

"We loved it- - everyone was so accommodating!" -Family camper

PLANNED GIVING

Have you made Pandalouan part of your will? Join this growing group and let us know or contact Bruce Spoelman, Executive Director with any questions.

Don Potter

Harry & Lori Arthur

Krys Sweeney



ALUMNI NOTES

BRIAN INGLAT (Former Camper) donated a fax module to help upgrade camp's office to a new printer. Thanks Brian for helping us print more efficiently.

BOB JAKUBOWSKI (Friend and Y Employee) has been helping out a lot by felling trees for firewood. Bob, you're keeping us warm this winter. Thanks!

Thank you to **DEBBIE [Shivlie] MENON (Camper 90s, Staff 00s)**, **MARK DRAKE (Staff 2010s)**, **LAUREN BIKSACKY (Camper 90-00s, Staff 00s)**, **RUTH LEIBFRITZ (Staff 10s)**, **BAYLEE TUGGLE (Camper 00s, Staff 10s)**, **KATE GRESOCK (Staff 00-10s)**, and **NICK SWANSON (Camper, Staff 10s)**, who volunteered to help spread the word about our Year-End Campaign. Volunteers are critical to helping us meet our mission, send more children to camp and upgrade our facility!



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Muskegon Family YMCA
1243 E Fruitvale Rd
Montague MI 49437

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ENJOY THIS ISSUE?

This newsletter is going out to over 1,500 alumni and friends of Pendalouan. We are constantly finding and adding alumni to our database, so for those of you who are receiving this newsletter for the first time... Welcome!!

If you would like to catch up on previous issues of Smoke Signals, head to pendalouan.org/alumni.

If you know of Camp Pendalouan alums who did not receive this newsletter and would like to, please send their name and contact info to Mark Olson, Camp Pendalouan's Alumni and Development Director at molson@pendalouan.org. If you would like to stop receiving Smoke Signals, let us know!

Did someone in your family attend Camp Pendalouan? We want to reconnect! Have them contact Mark Olson, Alumni & Development Director at molson@pendalouan.org to get on our Smoke Signals mailing list.

Ninety Years of Camping on Beautiful Big Blue Lake!

As campers start arriving this coming summer, they will be joining a Pendalouan tradition that started in 1925. Look for more information about how to celebrate this great milestone with us in upcoming issues.

DID YOU HEAR?

- We were recently awarded \$5,000 grants from both the **Gerber Foundation** (Fremont) and the **Hitachi Automotive Systems Corporation** (Detroit) for our Campership Program. These awards will help offset over \$111,000 of services we provide in our Campership Program. Thanks for helping us spread the Spirit of Pendalouan to those who need extra help getting their kids to camp!
- Continuing a well established partnership, we are excited to welcome back **Special Days Camps** for another year of Camp fun! Special Days Camps is a unique overnight camp program for kids with cancer and their siblings. We value this mission-supporting partnership and are excited for the upcoming year.
- Many **2013 Father-Son Campers** noticed the area around our new

