Spring has sprung and great new things are on the horizon for YMCA Camp Lakewood in the summer of 2015. Here are a few of the new highlights to look forward to:

- **Paintball has come to Lakewood!** After opening with a huge success at Trout Lodge in spring 2014, the paintball course will be open for camper play in 2015. East Campers should sign up for the Paintball Elective and see what the new craze is all about!
- **We have a new Digital Arts Studio!!** – Thanks to the hard work of our maintenance crew and some dedicated alumni (Thanks Paul P.)

### Around the Campfire

I am a lucky man. I know when I get up and get out of bed each morning, there are challenges and opportunities waiting for me that allow me the chance to try and make a difference at camp, and thereby the world. I believe that statement is true for everyone every day, but there is something special about working at camp that makes it apparent and true. As we approach the summer of 2015, that has never been more true.

It’s never easy seeing your community on the news. We almost never make CNN because something wonderful has happened in our backyard. And as we all watched the coverage from Ferguson this winter spiral into a nonstop replay of violence and frustration writ large, those of us in this country who actually live in the St. Louis community knew it was more than a news cycle and a sound bite. We knew we were watching one of our own communities come unraveled, and when you work for and believe in the mission of the YMCA, that is something you just can’t sit still and watch.

YMCA Camp Lakewood is proud to announce the beginning of our Friends of Ferguson Program. With the help and leadership of local businesses, YMCA of the USA, and our dedicated Alumni, Camp Lakewood will be offering financial assistance to children living with and affected by the unrest in Ferguson. Any children from the area are welcome to participate, and we are especially reaching out to our Y families in the area. If you have or know a child from the Ferguson area who could benefit from this program, or would like information on supporting the program, please contact Holly at Camp Lakewood: 573-438-2154 ext. 572.

Helping your neighbor is one of the greatest feelings in the world. We couldn’t be more excited about expanding our family this summer by welcoming even more campers to come and join us around the campfire!

**Matt Garcia, Camp Lakewood Director**
ALUMNI REUNION & SERVICE WEEKEND IS COMING!

Come down to Camp Lakewood May 15 – 17, 2015 to join the annual Alumni Reunion & Service Weekend! This weekend is a great chance to catch up with old camp friends, make new ones, and lend a hand getting camp ready for the summer season. The last few years have been a huge success and we can’t thank all the alumni enough who have helped make it happen. A special thank you goes out to Paul Pfiefer for his continued dedication to this event!

Schedule: Arrive Friday for fellowship & refreshments. Saturday will be work during the day, and food, activities, and fellowship at night. Sunday, for those who stay, can include hiking, chapel, finish up work projects, and enjoy other “camp” activities.

Food: Friday dinner is on your own; all Saturday meals, Sunday breakfast and lunch is provided. Some snacks & drinks will be provided, please also bring your own.

Accommodations: We will be staying in East Camp cabins. Bring your own bedding and linens (an air-conditioned cabin for those with health concerns will be available).

Voluntary donation: We’re suggesting a voluntary donation of $20 per person or $30 per family, to offset expenses. Donations can be given at camp.

Registration: Please contact Kelly Adams at 573-438-2154 ext. 114 by May 1, 2015 to register. Please provide names of those attending, date/time of arrival & departure, t-shirt size(s) and emergency contact information.

2014 PICTURES

Join with other alums this May and add your face to this year’s group picture!

AN ALUM’S VISION

Marty’s Vision to Bring His Neighborhood to Camp Lakewood

The memories formed at camp stay deep in your heart. It doesn’t matter the activities, it’s the friendships and personal bonds that you treasure forever. Even 30 or 40 years later, the thought of camp warms your heart anew.

Marty Pliske (late 60’s & early 70’s alum) contacted us late in 2014 inquiring if he could initiate an appeal on the alumni Facebook page to help bring an underprivileged child from the Ferguson area to Camp Lakewood this summer. Marty explained that he grew up in Ferguson and still considered it his home. He wanted to provide a Camp Lakewood experience to a child from his own neighborhood. It was his way to help “give back” and provide a life-changing week of resident camp to another generation.

Let’s just say that Marty is an outstanding fundraiser for Camp Lakewood. Funds quickly poured in for the first camper, then the second camper, a third camper and finally a fourth camper! In all 18 Camp Lakewood alums supported Marty’s vision with contributions of $2,400. That’s four new youth that Camp Lakewood will impact this summer – that’s four new lives who will be transformed by the magic of camp this summer. Thank you Marty! Can’t wait to see what Marty accomplishes next year.

If you would still like to support Marty’s vision, you can send your charitable donation to: Renée Godinez, 13528 State Highway AA, Potosi MO 63664. Just note “Ferguson Campership” in the memo line.
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THEY'RE (ALMOST) BACK!

The camp season is around the corner and YMCA Camp Lakewood is excited to announce the return of some of our best staff members for the summer of 2015. Here are a few of the great return staff members who will be rejoining the team this summer, and we are adding more great names to the team every day!

BIRDPLACE  BRUMBY  CASTAWAY  DINO  DOPPLER  DO SE DO  DUCKY
FIESTA!  FITZ  FLOUNDER  FRANCO  HANKALA  HODGE-PODGE  KC
LAVA  MAMA BEAR  MAMA LONG LEGS  MCFLY  MEECHY  MEEKO  MUFASA
PEEPS  RAPUNZEL  RED  RUSTY  SHAM  SILVER  SINDERELLA
SUGAR RUSH  TAZ  TINY DANCER  TOSKEY  TWEETY  WALLY  ZENON

WELCOME HOME SUMMER STAFF!
Upcoming Events

April 12
April 26
May 3

Camp Lakewood Open Houses
You know camp is close when the Open Houses start for families who are interested in learning more about Camp Lakewood by touring the facility and lake, talking with staff and even trying out some of the activities. They run from 1 - 4 p.m. those three Sundays. If you know someone with a camp-age child who is interested in Camp Lakewood summer camp after hearing all of your famous camp stories (over and over) from years gone by, let them know about these Open House dates so they can make a day of it and bring the whole family to see what a truly amazing place Camp Lakewood really is.

May 15-17
Alumni Reunion & Service Weekend
This is a time, just before camp goes into another summer session, where Alumni from near and far gather and stay at East Camp to work on service projects and spend time catching up and just hanging out. See full article on page 2. All alumni are welcome and encouraged to attend to give back to the camp that will never forget you no matter how long you’ve been gone.

May 31
Start of Camp Lakewood Summer Camp
This is day one for session one and the start of another amazing year of summer camp fun and camaraderie. New this year are two mini-camps and ranch camp sessions, with 11 sessions total!

If you don’t already receive this newsletter via e-mail, contact us at bcampbell@ymcastlouis.org, and we will add your name to our e-mail list. You will then get the full experience of reading this publication in color. You may also visit our website at www.ymcaoftheozarks.org, click on the Alumni tab at the top of the home page, scroll down until you find the most recent newsletter, click and enjoy.