



YES!

I want to help provide a smile today for a better tomorrow!

Please help the Y build Strong Kids by affixing First Class postage stamp here.

2012 Strong Kids Goal: \$73,000

Sends over 150 Dayton-area kids to camp!

YMCA Camp Kern
5291 State Rt. 350
Oregonia, OH 45054



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

SMILE TODAY FOR A BETTER TOMORROW



Camp Kern,

I have two daughters who want to attend a full week of main camp this summer. They have attended before, and were provided many wonderful memories. Unfortunately this year has been difficult. My wife has been laid off from her job, and was recently diagnosed with breast cancer. She has undergone a double mastectomy, chemotherapy and other various treatments, surgeries, etc.

As you can imagine, this has been difficult as a family, and has caused financial hardship.

The girls deserve to be able to go to camp and get away from the emotional stress that they are undergoing. I attended camp when I was their age, and still have many happy memories of that time. Please help us make this experience possible for them through some financial assistance.

Financial assistance keeps the Y available for kids and families who need us most. We count on the generosity of our members and community to help people of all ages and from all walks of life be more healthy, confident, connected and secure. When you give to the Y, your gift will have a meaningful, enduring impact **right in your own neighborhood.**





To our Camp Kern Family,

Our family is very large, and very unique. We have had the privilege and blessing for our children to attend Camp Kern for many years. Our oldest daughter attended seven years of Summer Camp in the past.

We are currently caring for ten children, along with my parents who are staying with us. Many of our children have medical needs that are chronic

and on-going. This causes our medical expenses to be very high on a yearly basis. My father is waiting for a heart transplant and lives with us also, and we incur their daily living expenses also.

I would not change this even though it comes at a high price. Our children are wonderful blessings that came to us mainly through adoption and the foster care system. Children deserve the chance to have "normal" childhood experiences, and this is what Camp Kern has done for our children. It lets kids be kids, and our family relies on scholarship assistance to help them have those positive childhood memories.



Dear Camp Kern,

My son has come to camp for the last four years. These times have been invaluable to him, helping him through the difficult realities of home.

I am extremely ill, diagnosed with Gastroparesis and a form of Lupus, I have multiple feeding tubes and many medical issues.

My son's father left when he was only four years old, and the next year, his father returned and took his brother away when he was five. He is father to both of the boys, although only wanted to raise one.

My son has had some huge hurdles in his life. He is now ten years old, and has been doing really well. His grades are good in school, and he has recently become involved with the church youth group.

I may be forced to spend up to two full weeks in the hospital this summer for my medical treatments, both in the Dayton area and at the Cleveland Clinic.

Please do what you can to help my son attend camp. If someone else needs it more, we will understand.

He wants to come for the two weeks I am in the hospital, and he has been raking leaves, shoveling driveways and mowing lawns to earn enough to pay for one week. He is also saving his allowance money.

He is so excited to come back. Every year, he has made friends and done more than he ever believed possible. It gets his mind off of his mother on the couch with feeding tubes and home nursing visits. He is a wonderful boy, and any help you can offer is greatly appreciated.



THEIR FUTURE

At the YMCA of Greater Dayton, strengthening community is our cause. The Y has been listening and responding to our communities' most critical needs for over 140 years.

Whether developing skills or emotional well-being, welcoming and connecting diverse populations or advocating for healthier communities, the Y fosters the care and respect all people need and deserve.

Together we can bring a smile to the face of your neighbor. We can build stronger, more inclusive communities, provide support for families and promote positive change overall. **Help Provide a Smile Today for a Better Tomorrow!**

Please fold into three parts, seal and mail

Donation Amount Suggestions: Any amount helps kids!

\$2500 Allows six teens to be involved in teen programs at YMCA Camp Kern

\$1370 A child can gain new skills and confidence at an entire summer of day camp

\$560 Enables a child to experience a full week at YMCA Camp Kern

\$250 Gives a child a full week of new friendships at a week of summer day camp

\$55 A child can take one full session of summer swim lessons to promote their safety and confidence

Thank you for your Strong Kids pledge!

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone (Work) _____

Phone (Home) _____

E-mail _____

PLEASE SEND A PLEDGE REMINDER—BILL ME:

Monthly Quarterly Semi-Annually

Beginning _____

I'd like my gift to remain anonymous

I wish to give with appreciated property—please contact me.

I'D LIKE TO PAY BY:

Cash Check DISCOVER

VISA MC Exp. _____

Card # _____

Name on Card _____

Signature _____

2012 Total Pledge Amount _____

Amount Enclosed _____

Balance Due _____

Please add \$_____ per month to my monthly membership.

Campaigner _____

•••➤ You can also make an online donation at www.ymcaonline.org

For more information or to make a pledge by phone, please call: **Jeff Merhige, Executive Director at 513-932-3756**