

The Carl B. Kern Fund of The Dayton Foundation

established 1987

updated May 20, 2023



The Dayton
Foundation
We help you help others.

Honoring Carl B. Kern

- The Kern family was one of the four founding families of Germantown, Ohio – originally natives of Berks County, Pennsylvania – who permanently settled in the area in 1804.
- Carl B. Kern graduated from Germantown High School in 1898. He served as a tool maker apprentice in Dayton before traveling to Cleveland to become the Assistant Secretary for the West Side Y.M.C.A under M.D. Crackel. He then attended the Y.M.C.A. College in Springfield, MA, graduating in 1907.
- Carl B. Kern was recruited by the Poughkeepsie, N.Y. Y.M.C.A. to lead its Boys' Dept. His impact on youth became clear. After he announced in 1909 that he would be accepting the job of Boys' Work Secretary for the Dayton Y.M.C.A. starting in September, a send-off reception included touching testimonials and a "loving cup" as a memento of affection.
- An extensive biographical history of Carl B. Kern - including links to newspaper articles and the YMCA archives - has been compiled on the Fund's website (www.kernfund.org), from his birth in 1880 to his tragic accidental death in June, 1917.

The Impact of Camp Ozone

In a September 20, 1915 report of the Boys' Work Secretary to the Dayton Y.M.C.A. Board of Trustees, C.B. Kern wrote, "The spirit demonstrated throughout the camp will mean much for the entire work and without doubt will prove lasting... This speaks much for the splendid location and the permanent equipment already developed. **More of permanent value can be accomplished with a week in camp with a boy than months of casual contact.**"

Report of the Boys' Work Secretary
to
the Board of Trustees, Sept. 20, 1915

The work of the summer has been interesting as usual and gratifying in more ways than one. The summer being a rainy one made the building more than ever necessary.

698 Members September 1. 822 books were issued during July and August. 1010 boys attended the various bible classes during the two months. Baths and Gym attendance averaged over 1500 each month. Membership earnings to September 1, \$571.70 - \$130.00 ahead of last year. 144 boys attended camp.

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We were successful in securing Mr. S. C. Britton as Boys' Physical Director who began his work September 1.

Our Department Annual has been prepared and will be out next week. The work is opening up splendidly and from all indications this year ought to break all records.

Respectfully submitted,



Boys' Work Secretary.

The Accident – June 3, 1917

“An automobile truck, which Mr. Kern was driving, was struck by the 11 o'clock north bound [Dayton and Troy traction] car on the Troy pike just north of the city. Mr. Kern was thrown beneath the wheels of the car and suffered injuries which caused his death in Miami Valley hospital at 3:30 Sunday afternoon.” - *The Dayton Herald*, 4 Jun 1917, page 3.



The Tributes

June 4th - Editorial - "A Friend of the Boys" - "Carl B. Kern sought no greater honor than to be accounted worthy the friendship of the hundreds of young fellows who were under his personal care and attention in the boys' department of the Y.M.C.A.... Camp Ozone, at Ft. Ancient, where hundreds of these full-of-life young chaps were accustomed to spend their vacation days, will stand as a permanent memorial to the aggressive activities of Mr. Kern.... And so today the boys of the Y.M.C.A. are grieving because one of their number has gone away. It will be a rather difficult task to fill the vacancy that Carl Kern's death has created. His loss is a personal one in hundreds of Dayton homes." - *Dayton Daily News*, 4 Jun 1917, page 6.



Tribute Booklet Printed in 1918

“It is quite impossible in a small space – or even a large one – to do justice to a great character.... The life of Carl B. Kern will never be adequately written, yet it is very real. It was ‘caught’ by the boys whom he touched and goes on reinflecting those whom they touch. The power of his example, the results of his efforts are as the bit of yeast that is saved after each baking to leaven all the succeeding loaves.

However, it was thought fitting to publish a few dates and facts and especially some pictures so that his friends would have some material keep-sake of him.”

(full booklet on web site)

BOOKLET HONORS LATE C. B. KERN

In honor of the late C. B. Kern, boys' work director of the Y. M. C. A., who lost his life in an automobile accident last June, boys of the department have issued a little booklet. It will be distributed among all the boys in the department.

The booklet contains a photograph of “C. B.,” who was “a friend of every kid in town,” together with pictures of Camp Kern at Fort Ancient, which the secretary founded. Mrs. C. B. Kern helped to prepare the booklet.

And So the Tradition Continues...

- In September of 1917, the Dayton Y.M.C.A. board of directors votes to rename Camp Ozone to Camp Kern to honor Carl B. Kern.
- Seventy years later, in November of 1987, The Carl B. Kern Fund is established with The Dayton Foundation to honor Carl B. Kern and provide financial support to continue his work in perpetuity.



Background – The Dayton Foundation

- The Dayton Foundation is a non-profit tax-exempt community foundation, established in 1921 with an initial \$250,000 donation by the Patterson family (John H. Patterson, Julia Shaw Patterson Carnell, and Robert Patterson).
- As of March 31, 2022, the Foundation had **\$1 billion** in assets, held in more than **4,000** charitable funds. The 2021-2022 fiscal year saw **\$77.1 million** awarded to nonprofits through **23,745** grants.
- The Dayton Foundation is **second** among all community foundations nationwide in the number of charitable funds under management and the number of grants awarded - **more** than community foundations in **New York City, Los Angeles** and **Chicago**.
- **FUN FACT #1 – Don Battelle** served as the Foundation's first director from 1930 through 1973. He also attended Camp Ozone in 1912 and later was hired by Carl B. Kern to become an assistant after graduating from Steele High School in 1914, in charge of the boys' camp that summer.
- **FUN FACT #2 –** In 1943, the Foundation provided \$400 to help finance camping for underprivileged boys at Camp Kern, as announced by Dayton YMCA Boys' Work Secretary **William Young**.

Background – Excerpts from The Fund Agreement

- In November, 1987, **Stuart T. Weinberg, MD** worked with Foundation President **Fred Bartenstein** to establish The Carl B. Kern Fund (one of **124** funds at the time) with an initial gift of \$1,000 and the support of C.B. Kern nephew **George E. Kuhn** and niece **Mary Kuhn Sigel**.
- “The Fund was established in honor of Carl B. Kern, for the exclusive purpose of furthering his ideals and areas of interest, primarily camping, other youth activities, and the outdoors.”
- “In order to carry out the purpose enumerated above, net income of the Fund shall be distributed not less often than annually to the organization responsible for the management of Camp Kern to be used solely for supporting camper scholarships and defraying the operational and capital expenses of Camp Kern.”
- The Fund is overseen by an Advisory Board, “who shall each have demonstrated a commitment to pursue the interests and ideals of Carl B. Kern.”

Current Kern Fund Advisory Board Members

- **Stuart T. Weinberg, MD** (1988 -) - *Chair, Founding Board Member*
Kern Camper '68-'74; Staff '75-'78, '80-'82, '84; Board '85-'89
- **Chris J. Addison** (2022 -)
Kern Staff '05-'13; Kern Executive Director '14-'22
- **Sarah E. Kuhn** (2021 -) - *Kern Relative (great-great-niece)*
- **William C. Pees** (1988, 1999 -)
Kern Board '84-'95; Kern Board Chair '88-'89

The Carl B. Kern Fund – Results, as of May 20, 2023

- When established with a **\$1,000** gift, the Initial Donor specified in the Fund Agreement, “It is my hope and expectation that other individuals, corporations and organizations will seek to further this purpose by adding to the Fund.”
- Over **\$526,000** has been raised from **1,228** donations and bequests.
- There have been 4 estate gifts, from **George E. Kuhn, Roz Young, Mary Kuhn Sigel, and Robert Salisbury**.
- Just under **\$238,000** has been distributed to YMCA Camp Kern on behalf of the Fund, most recently **\$21,000** in 2022.
- Complete financial details are available on the website: www.kernfund.org

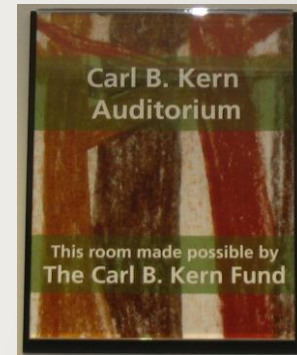
Honorary and Memorial Gifts – 2022 Examples

- In honor of **Loretta Bailey** - "In appreciation of her years of service and friendship to counselors." - *Gerry and Stacy Siegert*
- In honor of **Tim Baker** - "Tim attended 16 years' worth of Indian Guide weekends at Camp Kern with his three kids. They all loved every minute of their time together! Bravo, Snoring Eagle!" - *Lucy Baker*
- In honor of **Kent Barnheiser, Larry Maxwell, and Mike Sherman** - "Kent, Larry, and Mike had a direct impact on my growth during my four years working at Camp Kern." - *Peter Cade*
- In memory of **David 'Loaf' Bredenfoerder** - "Loaf's open kindness softened us all." - *Mike Sherman*
- In memory of **Bob Daganhardt** - "My father was on the Camp Kern Board for many years." - *Holly McConnaughey*
- In memory of **Dr. Richard Poeppelmeier** - "Dick was a good friend and certainly a loyal member and friend of the Dayton YMCA and Camp Kern." - *Harry L. Bradbury*
- In memory of **George P. Sperry. M.D.** - "My father who taught me the love of outdoors and camping." - *Jack P. Sperry*
- In memory of **Walter G. and Earl E. Sterzer** - "Whose experiences at the Old Camp in the 1920's-1930's was invaluable. And counselor Bob Erisman from 1928." - *Michael J. Sterzer*
- In memory of **Lee Whitney** - "Longtime volunteer and supporter of all things Kern." - *Betsy B. Whitney*

The Carl B. Kern Fund – Use of Distributions

Since the first distribution check of \$201 was presented to then Executive Director **Larry Maxwell** at camp's Strawberries and Ice Cream event in June, 1989, funds have been used to support many efforts, among them:

- Camper scholarships (camperships) requests (1989-present) – **\$95,500**
- The Harry Schiewetz Assembly Hall - Carl B. Kern Auditorium (2005-2007) - **\$50,000**
- The Charles Snyder Recreation Hall (2012-2015) - **\$25,000**
- The Camp Kern Centennial Campaign (2008-2010) - **\$15,000**
- The Camp Kern Lodge Renovation Campaign (1999-2001) - **\$14,500**
- Renovation of Onsite Staff Housing (2022) - **\$10,000**
- The Circle K Ranch Improvement project including “Sponsor a Stall” (2021) - **\$10,000**
- The Dayton YMCA Capital Campaign (1996-1998) - **\$10,000**
- Partial funding for directional signage and the Climbing Tower (2002, 2003) - **\$6,000**
- Kern camper/staff participation in World Camp 1994 and 1998 (1994, 1998) – **\$2,000**





And Then There Was The Pandemic...

The continuity of financial support from the Fund was particularly appreciated during the pandemic.

From YMCA Camp Kern Executive Director Chris Addison on 4/17/2020:

“Thank you so much for the foresight and the gift. These special circumstances have created a different kind of need at camp, and this donation will help us fill those needs. You have all done an absolutely tremendous job with the Fund and should be so proud of the benefits it has brought to camp and our campers over the years. We are obviously facing some challenging times ahead, but gifts like these will make a big difference.”

Appreciation! – And Looking Towards the Future

- The Advisory Board is so grateful for the hundreds of individuals who have donated to the Fund to date. This has included former Camp Kern Executive Directors and year-round professional staff, Dayton YMCA leaders, Camp Kern Board Chairs and Board Members, former campers and seasonal (summer/Outdoor Ed) staff, and other friends of Camp Kern.
- The Advisory Board is always looking for passionate individuals with “Kern Blood” to help lead and promote The Carl B. Kern Fund for many years to come.
- Financially, it would be great to see a Fund balance of **\$1 million** in the near future(!)
- Comprehensive information about the Fund is available and updated frequently on the web at www.kernfund.org, including the latest Annual Report: <http://www.kernfund.org/2023-02.pdf>
- There is also a Carl B. Kern Fund Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/cbkernfund/>
- **THANK YOU!!!** Please feel free to contact Kern Fund Advisory Board Chair Stuart Weinberg at stwmd@stwmd.net with any questions or comments.