

Ohio-West Virginia YMCA
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Alice and Kepler Smith Trust for YMCA Camp Horseshoe

The Ohio-West Virginia YMCA is pleased to announce that the late Alice and Kepler Smith (Parsons, WV) have established a trust for YMCA Camp Horseshoe. "The Smith's were long time supporters of Camp Horseshoe who believed strongly in the camp's work to help children and teenagers succeed and become responsible citizens," said Senator Sarah Minear, a friend of the Smiths and the Ohio-West Virginia YMCA Board president. The Smiths directed that one half of the earnings from the Smith Trust go to YMCA Camp Horseshoe and half to the Tucker Community Endowment Foundation. The total value of the trust is \$7,000,000.

Senator Minear, President of the Ohio-West Virginia YMCA Board, commended Mr. and Mrs. Smith for making "this significant demonstration of faith in our YMCA as an investment in the future of our families, our young people and our communities. Their gift is the largest gift our YMCA has received. It is a tremendous boost for our work to increase our endowment to at least \$30,000,000 supporting all our programs," said Minear. "In addition to endowment gifts, our youth programs exist because of annual gifts, small and large, from individuals and organizations who believe in what we do and want to influence youth in positive ways. Our annual gifts campaign goal is \$500,000. We also are in a major campaign to raise the \$15,000,000 required to re-build Horseshoe and additional funds to build our new Cave Lake Center for Community Leadership in Ohio.. We appreciate everyone's help to get us to this point and encourage others to follow Alice and Kep's example with their own support. Gifts of every amount are needed more than ever to help today's children and youth grow into responsible citizens," Minear said.

The Ohio-West Virginia's program roots extend back to 1867. Unique among YMCAs, this YMCA's programs are directed to youth, the children and teens of every community may participate, its focus is helping young people become responsible contributing members of their communities today and throughout their lives and its only adult programs are opportunities for adults to volunteer helping its youth programs of HI-Y, Youth in Government, Model United Nations, Camp Horseshoe in West Virginia and now Cave Lake in Ohio.

YMCA Camp Horseshoe opened in 1940. Horseshoe programs are open to the children and youth from every community. There are no membership requirements. Horseshoe has earned a national reputation for its quality teen leadership and entrepreneurship camps, its special programs for low income boys and girls and its adventure camps for 7 – 12 year olds. More than 95% of Horseshoe campers are sponsored to their camp week.

"I know that Alice and Kep wanted their gift to motivate others to help as their circumstances allow," continued Senator Minear. "Gifts of every size for Horseshoe and for all our youth programs will allow them to succeed. We all know that in today's world our young people need good experiences more than ever. These are time tested and proven programs that make differences for good. I ask everyone to do all they can to help these programs succeed in the lives of our families, children and teens. In addition to annual gifts, special gifts to our endowment and for facility construction will truly touch the future through the hands of youth," Minear concluded.

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