

Meetings: 2nd and 4th Wednesdays, 11:45am
Old National Bank Building, Downtown; Blue and Gold Room
Mail Club at: P.O. Box 15905, Evansville, Indiana 47716 - 0905
www.evansvilledowntownoptimist.org
Evansville Downtown Charitable Foundation, Inc.

"Optimist OPTICS"- continued



Ed Harrison
Memorial
Golf Scramble

Financial Support for:

YMCA
Camp Carson



Dan Phillips introduced the guest speaker, Mark Scoular from Camp Carson and reminded everyone that Camp Carson is now accepting donations and up to \$1500 will be matched. Please make a check to the foundation.

Mike spoke about Camp Carson just finishing their 75th season with 25% growth. Indiana has the 4th largest military deployment so many of the campers come from military families. Deployments are now down but the impact is still there. Golden Corral has a Camp Corral that focuses on children who have lost a parent while deployed, have an injured or disabled parent due to deployment or a parent that suffers from PTSD. Over 16,000 children in Indiana qualify for this program.

Mark also told of running into Mrs. Browning recently who mentioned that she was scheduled for an upcoming trip to Washington, DC with a friend that she met many years ago during her time as a Camp Carson camper.

Lastly, he spoke about the reasons why children enjoy being a camper. He told the story of the 45' zipline drop. Many children stand at the top and just cannot make themselves jump. When they take the trip back down the stairs there is no teasing and no putdowns. They are greeted with positive reinforcement with high fives and "you can try again tomorrow", etc. There is NO bullying. Children are ACCEPTED and they are CHALLENGED. For some it is their first trip away from home. For some it may be the challenge of riding a horse for the first time. For some it may be making friends, or learning a new skill or building trust. And then children are EMPOWERED by reaching their goal!

Speaker in two weeks is Mike Burk who will be talking about Google Earth and the Memorial Day flags.

Sheila Seiler



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