



## YMCA Camp Ihduhapi

# The Palmer Ericson Chapel Project



*“A place to remember those who made a difference.”*

For more than fifty years, the Palmer Ericson Chapel at YMCA Camp Ihduhapi has been a special place for campers and staff to gather—individually or in groups, large and small—for reflection and inspiration. It is a beautiful and treasured part of Ihduhapi’s heritage.

Perched on a steep hillside overlooking Lake Independence, the Chapel is showing its age, and is in crucial need of an upgrade. The purpose of this message is to seek your support in this project.

**Our vision for this project is simple: to renovate the Chapel so that it again reflects Palmer Ericson’s vision of a special place of inspiration at Camp Ihduhapi.**

We are not seeking to build a monument, but rather a functional structure that will be safe, accessible, and low-maintenance, a place that can serve new generations of campers and guests for at least another fifty years. Our fundraising goal for the project is \$60,000.

Thank you for your time in reading these materials and for your consideration of support.

## ***The Man Behind the Chapel***

The chapel was the inspiration of Palmer Ericson, caretaker at Camp Ihduhapi from 1946 until 1961. Palmer personally built this beautiful chapel and lovingly maintained the structure for many years. Besides being an excellent caretaker, Palmer was also an inspiration. His deep Christian belief and kind manner made him a role model for campers and staff members. To this day people remember Palmer, and talk about how his devotion to Christ made a difference in their lives.

Countless boys and girls have visited the Chapel and have sat on its wooden benches over the past five decades. The fact that the Chapel has lasted this long, situated on that steep hillside, is a testament to Palmer's craftsmanship and skills.

### ***Time Has Taken a Toll***



The years have a way of catching up with even the most well-built of structures. Mother Nature works to reclaim her own. Palmer's chapel is in serious need of repair and renovation. The wooden benches he built have deteriorated. The area around the steps has been



filled with years of soil driven by runoff. Foundations have shifted, and some of the steps are unstable. The concrete platform is showing its age and needs replacement as well.

The chapel is also too small for current needs. It was designed to meet camper volume in the 1960's. Today the chapel needs to have room for 200 people in its beautiful setting.

In its better years the Chapel was also used for Easter Morning services and numerous weddings. We would like to again be able to utilize the chapel for those kinds of special events and services.

Importantly, the Chapel area needs to be accessible to people of all ages and disabilities.

Improvements will also prevent further erosion of the hillside, and will make the entire site and structure safer for all who use it in years to come.

### **A Plan for Chapel Renovation and Renewal**

There is good news. Initiated by several former Ihduhapi summer staff members whose experiences at the Camp profoundly and positively affected their lives, a plan has been completed to restore and improve the Chapel.

The Chapel will be rebuilt with treated lumber and crushed gravel fill. Stairs and railings will be added to provide better access and to control hillside erosion. A sloped entrance will permit access for the disabled. The concrete platform will be rebuilt.

### Our Project Goals

1. To raise funds for the renovation of the Palmer Ericson Chapel at YMCA Camp Ihduhapi.
2. To begin renovation by May 1, 2014, so that campers can use the renovated Chapel.
3. Rename the Chapel "The Ihduhapi Memorial Chapel" to recognize the leadership and devotion of Palmer Ericson and other people who have made a difference.
4. Add Jerold Neseth to the names of the memorialized leaders.

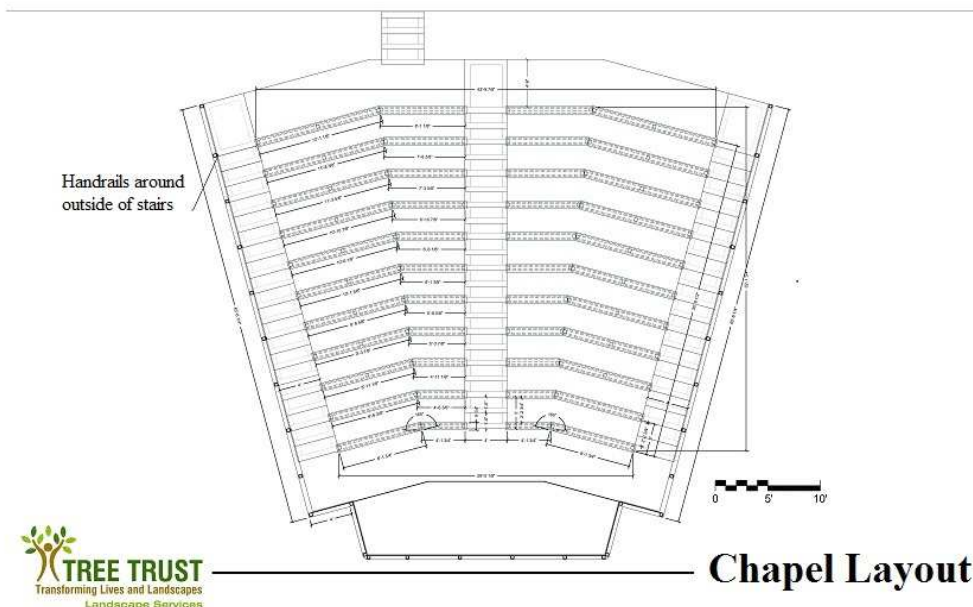
### Our Partners at Tree Trust

Jeff Voshell from Tree Trust, a non-profit youth development organization, will work as our design and project manager. Jeff has done a number of projects for Twin Cities YMCA Camps, including cabin row steps at Ihduhapi (picture below).



Jeff has extensive knowledge of building outdoor amphitheater projects that are similar to this Chapel project. His experience will be invaluable to providing a well-constructed, cost effective Chapel for YMCA Camp Ihduhapi.

*(Visit [www.treetrust.org](http://www.treetrust.org) to learn more about its wonderful work of providing jobs for young people).*



## **"The Ihduhapi Memorial Chapel"**

***Project Need: \$60,000***

Given the deterioration of the Chapel over the decades, and our vision for its overall improvements, we seek to raise \$60,000 for this project.

**We respectfully seek your support of this project. Gifts of any size are welcome and will help us reach our goal of a beautifully restored Chapel at YMCA Camp Ihduhapi.**

- Donations can be made at: <http://give.ymcatwincities/ycampchapel>.
- Donations to the YMCA for this project are tax-deductible.
- We will update our progress on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/ycampchapel](http://www.facebook.com/ycampchapel) and on [www.ycampchapel.com](http://www.ycampchapel.com).

**Please join us in returning the Chapel to the special place that Palmer Ericson envisioned and created!**

***For more information, please contact:***

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The YMCA is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit social services organization dedicated to Youth Development, Healthy Living, and Social Responsibility.

**Our appreciation to Tastera Consulting LLC for their donation of production costs for this brochure.**