



Circle of Hope for Inn Residents

Last September a relationship emerged between two organizations that would bring a welcome diversion of fun and happiness for Inn residents. A volunteer from Circle of Hope Riding Center approached The Children's Inn wondering whether their therapeutic horseback riding program would be an ideal fit for children at The Inn. After meeting with Inn staff, Circle of Hope agreed to donate their services and even secured a sponsor to provide dinner for Inn families during their field trip visits.

Circle of Hope Riding Center, located in Barnesville, MD offers therapeutic riding sessions as weekly private lessons and as field trips for various groups. This experience allows children and adults to get a glimpse of life on a farm as well as interact closely with horses such as Gray Lady, who was named the 2011 PATH International Horse of

INNspirations

The Children's Inn at NIH

FALL 2011

Mission Statement

The Children's Inn at NIH is a private, nonprofit, family-centered residence for pediatric patients at the National Institutes of Health and their families. Its purposes are to keep children together with their families during serious illness, reduce their stress, and facilitate their healing through mutual support. The Inn relies on private contributions for its operating funds.

INNspirations

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the Year. During a field trip in August, the children and their families participated in various activities all pertaining to life on a farm. They made "pizza" treats for the horses, learned how to properly groom and shoe a horse, and most exciting, had the opportunity to ride the horses.

When asked what his favorite part of the field trip was, Inn resident Liam responded, "...trotting and giving the horse a hug!" Staff members of Circle of Hope led a game of 'Simon Says' while the children were on horseback, allowing them to fully interact with the animals.

Many Inn residents remarked how wonderful the food was, which was donated by Famous Dave's BBQ. They graciously donated BBQ chicken, pork, corn muffins, and other snacks during the past two fields trips at Circle of Hope for Inn residents.

The staff members at Circle of Hope have various levels of expertise to work closely with Inn residents and their families, ensuring a fun and vibrant experience. Because of the staff's patience and kindness, residents truly enjoy this extraordinary and unique opportunity and are eager for future field trips.

There are several upcoming outings planned to Circle of Hope this fall. Check the activities calendar at www.childrensinn.org for more information. You may also visit Circle of Hope's website at www.chtr.org to learn more about this amazing organization and their various programs.



Inn resident Haley Wilson enjoyed making shoes for the horses at Circle of Hope Riding Center.

INNspirational PEOPLE



Above: Eric Downey during his family's summer visit to The Inn.

Below: The Downey Family - Mom, Susan; Eric; and sisters Lauren, Emily, and Kristen.



The Inn Participates in the CFC! (#10324)

It's CFC Season! The Children's Inn at NIH is participating in the 2011 Combined Federal Campaign—a vital source of operating income for The Inn. All federal employees may designate The Inn as the recipient of their gift by indicating our charity number: 10324. Virginia and Maryland state employees can support The Inn through the Commonwealth of Virginia Campaign (CVC #4622) and the Maryland Charities Campaign (MCC #7142). Visit www.childrensinn.org and click on Ways to Give/Workplace Giving or contact Lauren Conte at contele@mail.nih.gov or 301-451-9461 for more information.

Eric Downey: Extraordinary Inn Sibling

Eric Downey, 18, quick with a smile or a joke, has learned to lighten the load for the Downey clan.

The oldest of four siblings, Eric helps his mom Susan Downey take care of his three younger sisters: Kristen, 15 and twins, Lauren and Emily, 9.

"My mom has to manage a big job outside the home, so I help at home," he says. His mom is the CEO of a Boston-area hospital and brings the whole family to the NIH for Kristen's treatment of neonatal onset multisystem inflammatory disease (NOMID), a rare disorder that causes high fevers, persistent inflammation and tissue damage. She was diagnosed with NOMID as an infant and was among the first children in the world treated at the NIH, Susan says.

The family has been coming to The Children's Inn for the past seven years from their home in Massachusetts. On their July visit, Eric accompanied his twin sisters to Sibling Day at The Inn. "It really opened your eyes," he says.

The day included a "Fantastic Voyage" to the NIH Clinical Center, where siblings got an insiders view of treatment – from a mock scanner to the operating room - where they suited up with masks, hair caps and shoe covers. NIH researchers also explained the science behind the treatment of diseases, helping siblings gain a better understanding of bacteria, blood cells and biomedical research.

Eric says he hasn't talked to his sister Kristen much about the hard parts of treatment. "I know she doesn't like to relive it."

But being able to experience the scanner was worthwhile, he says. "That's the stuff you don't really get to see much. I was only inside it for like a minute. She has to stay in there for an hour."

For the Downey family, a day devoted to siblings was an excellent way to bring the family together, says mom: "It puts you on an even playing field," Susan says. "We're all in this together. It makes 'battling a disease' a family experience."

New Members Join Board of Directors

The Children's Inn at NIH would like to welcome Kitty Higgins, Frederick S. Humphries, Jr., and Ryan A. Riel to our Board of Directors.

Kitty is the President of the Higgins Company, a Washington, D.C. government relations firm. She came to Washington from Yankton, South Dakota and earned a B.S. degree from the University of Nebraska. She has more than three decades of experience in the public and private sectors, including serving on the staffs of two presidents.

Fred is the Vice President of U.S. Government Affairs at Microsoft Corporation. He is a graduate of Morehouse College and Temple University School of Law. Fred has served on the staffs of four presidential campaigns and held senior positions in the private sector at U.S. West Communications and the American Medical Association.

Ryan is the Senior Vice President at EagleBank. He earned a B.A. in Economics from West Virginia University. "As a father of two young girls, there is nothing I am more grateful for than the health of my children. I have seen family and friends struggle through a child's illness and The Inn offers a chance to relieve some of this burden," he says.



INNspirational EVENTS



YAC members Dianna Buckettt and Kim Jappell take a break from the festivities to pose with guests at the Friendraiser.

The Inn's Young Ambassadors Ask "Are you INN?"

A DJ kept the crowd dancing, the mouth watering smell of barbecue wafted through the air, and guests laughed and talked over backyard games and kids' arts and crafts. But the scene didn't take place at a neighborhood block party; it was the setting of a summer "friendraiser" hosted by The Inn's Young Ambassadors Council (YAC).

Formed this year with the goal of increasing opportunities for individuals in their 20s, 30s, and 40s to get involved with The Children's Inn, the YAC is made up of talented and energetic Inn supporters – staff, volunteers, donors, residents, and corporate sponsors. To kick off their efforts to increase awareness of The Inn's mission and raise needed funds to support Inn kids and families, the YAC hosted a kick-off "Friendraiser" BBQ at The Inn in July. More than 60 young professionals attended to enjoy dinner, mix and mingle with Inn residents, and take guided tours of The Inn. "It was nice to be invited to an event geared towards me and my peers," said 26-year old DC resident McNeel Keenan. "It shows that The Inn values young people's ideas and appreciates our support." After guests and residents had a chance to get to know each other over dinner and activities, the BBQ quickly turned into a giant outdoor dance party. Residents of all ages linked arms with party guests in a conga line that stretched across the parking lot. It was close to 10:00 p.m. when residents started to go back to their rooms and guests headed home.

"The success of the Friendraiser is a strong indicator that the Young Ambassador's Council is just at the tip of the iceberg in terms of attracting a new base of support for the tremendous work of The Children's Inn," says YAC President Beth Maloney, who is excited about what the future holds for the group. "The positive energy among attendees at the BBQ was palpable and we have a great opportunity to keep the momentum going into our fall and winter programs." The YAC's next major project will be to host a fundraising event to support The Inn. If you would like to learn more about the Young Ambassadors Council, contact Lauren Conte at contele@mail.nih.gov or visit www.childrensinn.org/youngambassadors.

The Inn Thanks Major Donors

On June 16, more than 65 donors, staff and board members gathered for a "Thank You" picnic at The Inn. CEO Kathy Russell and Board Chair Linda Berdine welcomed guests and thanked them for their generous financial support of the programs and activities offered at The Inn. Dr. Alan Wayne, Clinical Director, Pediatric Oncology Branch, National Cancer Institute, discussed the advances in the treatment of pediatric leukemia. Glenda Teasley, parent of Inn resident Rachel Teasley, age 20, thanked the guests for their generous support of The Inn and said "...thanks to you good people and The Children's Inn, I still have Rachel by my side. When you walk in the doors, it's like getting a big hug. It's like someone is sharing your burden."



Stuart Kramer, SRA International, attends the Major Donor Picnic at The Inn with daughter Samantha and wife Marcie.



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The Children's Inn at NIH

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There are many ways to support The Children's Inn such as food drives and the Thoughtful Treasures mailbox program. Visit www.childrensinn.org and click on Get INNvolved to learn more about how you can help the many children and families who call The Inn home.

4th Annual Golf INNvitational a Success

More than 30 foursomes took part in The Children's Inn at NIH Golf INNvitational at Lakewood Country Club on June 6. The 4th annual tournament began with lunch on Lakewood's beautiful outdoor terrace, followed by a shotgun start, on-the-course competitions, and plenty of fun. After a full round of golf, attendees enjoyed cocktails and hor d'oeuvres while participating in a silent auction and raffle before dinner. The event concluded with WUSA9 Now medical reporter Anita Brikman serving as emcee for the evening auction.

Former Inn resident Eric Esarte from Canada participated in the day's events, bringing his twin brother and a friend from home to join in on the fun. "This was the third time I've played in The Children's Inn Golf INNvitational and it was a great day as usual...a great day for a great cause," he says. "The Children's Inn made a really tough time for me and my family a lot easier."

With the event raising over \$170,000 for The Children's Inn, it was the most successful INNvitational to date. Mark your calendar for the fifth annual Children's Golf INNvitational on June 4, 2012.



Inn Board Member Dr. Lauren Wood congratulates the winning foursome: Tim Gallagher, Johan Wester and Kelvin Womack. (not pictured, David Weir)