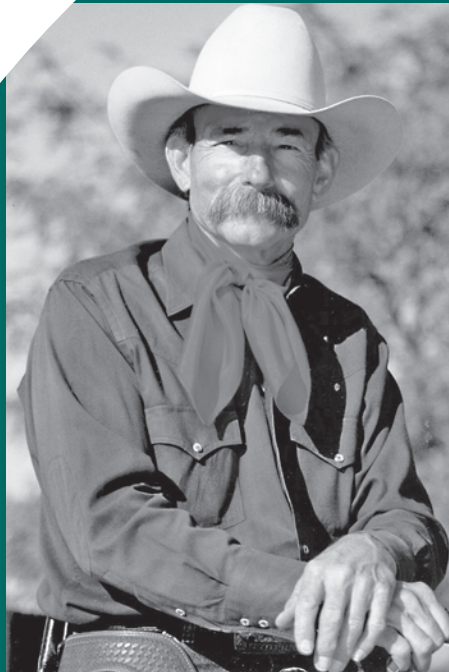


OUR MISSION

OUR MISSION IS TO HELP CHILDREN
AND ADULTS WITH DISABILITIES
LIVE AS INDEPENDENTLY
AS POSSIBLE, BE INCLUDED
IN THE COMMUNITY AND
FUNCTION AT THEIR
MAXIMUM POTENTIAL.



Baxter Black, Cowboy Poet and Humorist

A Weekend of Real Cowboy Fun

For one weekend in September, Red Cedar will be home to some real cowboy fun. Three very special events, Jazz at Red Cedar, Saddle Up for Red Cedar and an Evening with Baxter Black, will raise funds for Red Cedar's summer camps. Y'all come now!

Jazz at Red Cedar Goes Denim and Diamonds

The 5th annual Jazz at Red Cedar will take place Friday, September 9 and this year we're goin' Denim and Diamonds. Bruce and Vickie Boxberger are chairing the event, an evening of rock-a-billy music, a little two-steppin', great food with a Tex-Mex flare and cowboy humor. For a change of scenery, Jazz moves to the front meadows, but carriage and boat rides will give guests an opportunity to enjoy Red Cedar's beautiful 10-acre lake. Guests are encouraged to dress country casual – jeans, boots, bolos and cowboy hats. Invitations are already in the mail but if you would like more information contact Lynne Gilmore at 260.744.6145.

Saddle Up for Red Cedar

Saturday, September 10 marks the first annual Saddle Up for Red Cedar. This fundraising event includes real Indiana

cowboys and cowgirls riding pony express style from the Mizpah Shrine in Columbia City to Red Cedar via the back roads. Saddle up and gitty up to watch this spectacular, one-of-a-kind event! More information will be sent in September complete with route maps, times and a list of activities.

A Night of Cowboy Comedy with Baxter Black

Also on Saturday, September 10 at 8 p.m., Red Cedar presents an Evening with Baxter Black at the Scottish Rite Center. Baxter Black is a nationally known cowboy poet whose work is featured regularly on National Public Radio; he has also appeared on the Tonight Show and PBS. Everything about Baxter is cowboy — his cartoonish mustache, his personality and his poetry. He makes a living shining a spotlight on the flaws and foibles of everyday cowboy life and demonstrates that it is the truth in his humor that makes it funny. Baxter has recorded his poetry and humor in numerous books and on CD's. The Washington Post says, "He could make a dead man sit up and laugh." Tickets for the performance will go on sale in mid-August. ☺

Getting a Bang for Your Buck

AWS employees know the value of a buck. They also know the value of giving a buck. They are giving a dollar (and more) a pay period to Buck Up, AWS' employee annual fund. When the program began in 2002, the fund had \$7,000.

This year 400 employees gave to the Buck Up fund generating more than \$12,000 for agency programs that are unfunded or under funded. Programs apply for Buck Up funds by submitting a proposal that must meet certain criteria including the project's relationship to the AWS mission and the benefit(s) to clients.

"These funds are so important," said Michelle Kauffman, program coordinator for Supported Living in Fort Wayne.

"Buck Up gives clients opportunities to participate in activities and have access to equipment that they might not otherwise have. Quality of life is essential to all of us and that's what Buck Up helps provide for our clients."

There are wide-ranging uses of Buck Up funds. From day-trips to zoos, aquariums and ball games to multi-sensory therapy equipment to a television/DVD player for summer camp rainy day activities. Two programs have already put their awarded funds to use.

Bucks Go Camping

Buck Up funds gave 21 clients from Marion (IN) their very first camping experience. Will Voit, Supported Living program director, says trips like this are important to clients because it helps them improve their social skills. "Since we serve people in their home setting, they don't often have the opportunity to meet and socialize with other clients in the Supported Living program," says Will.

During their four-day/three-night camping trip at Oubache State Park, not only did the campers fish, swim and explore the woods, they also did a little buffalo watching thanks to a nearby herd safely penned in. The wilderness experience gave clients a chance to learn new skills such as

cooking, fishing and working together, and how to do tasks safely.

Because the majority of clients have little or no extra spending money, Buck Up funds paid for camping materials and equipment. "A \$16 sleeping bag may not seem like a big deal to you or me," Will said, "but to them that can be a huge expense — one they just can't afford. Many of them wouldn't have been able to take this trip without these funds."

Bucks at Work

For individuals with disabilities who are job-hunting in Columbus (OH), finding a central resource for job listings, resumé writing assistance, job and skill assessments and interview training may feel as frustrating as

looking for a needle in a haystack. So Denise Klausner, Employment Services director, is putting her program's Buck Up funds to work. Literally.

Called "The Employment Center," clients will have a one-stop employment resource at AWS. Before pursuing this new service, Denise researched local workforce development offices and other providers and found that truly personalized job search services were not available.

"Clients can go to a state workforce development computerized job bank," she said, "but they will likely be one of 20 people looking for attention and assistance from one or two employees. That means you either spend a lot of time waiting for help or you give up in frustration because you can't type or understand how the program works."

AWS' Employment Center will have everything one needs for a job search from comprehensive job listings and career and interest assessment programs to resumé writing and video taping mock interviews. Working one-on-one with an employment consultant or job coach really tailors a client's job search saving time and money, and giving that person skills they can carry with them into the future. ☺



2826 South Calhoun Street
Fort Wayne, IN 46807

Nonprofit Org.
U.S. Postage Paid
Fort Wayne, IN
Permit No. 760

thrive[®]

VOLUME 1
ISSUE 5

A newsletter about Anthony Wayne Services

An Extraordinary Summer Camp

Summer. Camp. Two ordinary words, but put them together and they defy the ordinary. Just how some describe summer camp at Red Cedar. Campers have exciting outdoor adventures, are away from parents and/or siblings, do things they can't do any place else and meet camp counselors they want to emulate.

That's certainly true for Paul Sommers. "Paul is 21 years-old and he doesn't speak,"

says Marilyn Sommers about her son. "But he comes home from Red Cedar summer camp everyday with a smile on his face. We just know he has a great time."

For the last two years Paul has attended not one, but eight weeks of Sunshine Nicka day camp which is perfect for him – a real outdoorsman. He loves the fresh air, sunshine, water and woods. Marilyn admits that apart from Red Cedar there aren't a lot of other alternatives. "If Red Cedar

didn't exist we would probably send Paul to an indoor care facility during the day," Marilyn said. "These are good facilities, but Paul wouldn't have the opportunities to be outside enjoying nature, which is where he loves to be. Camp Red Cedar makes that possible."

Risks Reinforce

Learning

Paul is typically more of an observer than a doer, but at Red Cedar he has taken what might be considered risks that have helped to further his development.

"Paul has conquered his fear of the water and now he loves to swim," Marilyn said. "He has also joined in on arts and crafts projects and even learned to ride a horse."

With a staff of nearly 30, patience and flexibility are among the counselors' many traits and why campers with special needs can excel here. As a parent, Marilyn says camp experiences are invaluable to her son's ongoing development, but another very important aspect is knowing that he's doing the same activities as his peers.

"Everyone fits right in and that makes me feel so good," she said.

Situated on 57 acres, Red Cedar has beautiful meadows, lush woods, a 10-acre lake, sandy beachfront and an equestrian center for therapeutic riding and riding lessons. It's not an ordinary camp because there are summer camp programs for kids with and without disabilities. "Camp Red Cedar is the only integrated summer camp in northeast Indiana," said Kathy Morse, director, "that also has a full summer camp program for kids with disabilities and special needs that begins in early June and ends in mid-August."

A Place for Independence

Like Paul, Samantha Gavette enjoys being outdoors. Her favorite outdoor activity is swimming. Samantha, a headstrong, independent 12 year-old, attended a specialty camp at Red Cedar for kids and young adults with Down syndrome. This was the first summer that Red Cedar hosted a weeklong day camp for DSANI (Down Syndrome Association of Northeast Indiana).

One of 20 DSANI campers, Samantha's mother says she learned some new skills and had a great time. "She loves the water and

see Cover Story, inside



Paul Sommers cools off in the lake at Camp Red Cedar.



Samantha Gavette carefully checks out the camp food. The verdict... It's Good!

2826 South Calhoun Street
Fort Wayne, IN 46807
260.744.6145
Fax 260.444.0006
awsusa.com



Gillian Short, Camp Red Cedar counselor

DISCOVERING HER REAL PASSION

When Gillian Short enrolled at St. Mary's College in South Bend four years ago, she was destined to be a biochemistry major. She thought science was her life's passion. And then she discovered Red Cedar.

It was the summer of 2001 when Gillian was home from school, looking for a job. Her mother saw the newspaper ad about camp counselor positions at Red Cedar. She decided to apply for a camp counselor job — a job that changed the course of her life. "After just one summer at camp I knew," Gillian said. "This is my calling and I cannot ignore that. I have to work with individuals with disabilities in some capacity."

Gillian can't remember a time when she wasn't around people with disabilities because her mother is a special education teacher. As a little girl, Gillian met and spent time with kids in her mother's classes. With that experience one might assume that she would consider a similar career working with people with disabilities. Not so.

After working two summers as a camp counselor and the past two summers as Program Director for Sunshine Nicka camps, Gillian says she has gained valuable skills that will help her in her future work. As Program Director, she develops weekly goals for the campers, prepares and maintains camper files, trains camp counselors and facilitates program activities. "I know this experience will help me as I take on internships and other job development opportunities," Gillian said.

As the 2005 summer camp season winds down, Gillian's own summer camp season is ending. She is off to graduate school at Indiana University this fall to pursue a master's degree in Public Affairs Policy Analysis and Non-Profit Administration and will continue her work with people with disabilities. "Red Cedar is so special to me," she said. "The facility is beautiful, and I have made amazing friends and the clients are just incredible to work with. I will miss them terribly, but I'm excited for the next phase of my life."

And speaking of the next phase... Gillian met her fiancé, Phillip Frazier, at Red Cedar to whom she will be married in January. "Red Cedar will always be part of me," Gillian said. "It is my second home."

R



COVER STORY, CONTINUED

had a wonderful time playing in the lake," Deb Gavette said. "But more importantly, she got to do things she had never done before. She played archery for the first time and loved it."

Deb was impressed with the staff and the extra care they took with the campers. "Samantha had never been on her own before so we sent her behavioral therapist with her the first day, just as a safety precaution. The therapist called at 11 a.m. to tell me she was leaving. She said, "This is great! You don't need to worry about a thing."

Kathy Morse says the staff wanted parents to feel comfortable leaving their kids for the day. "For the younger kids we assigned one counselor to be their buddy. This was a great way to make sure that every camper had a wonderful and safe week." Although a camp counselor was watching over her at all times, Deb believes that a week of camp was just the thing Samantha needed to

encourage her independent spirit.

"I tell Samantha that she can accomplish anything she puts her mind to," she said. "But being on her own for a week at camp was a great way to reinforce that I trust her and know that she is capable of doing things on her own."

Paul recently wrapped up his eighth week of summer camp and Marilyn says she's already looking forward to next summer. "After two years, I can't imagine Paul not wanting to be at camp for the summer. Paul has a disability, but he's just like everyone else. At Red Cedar, no one has to feel different or set apart."

Deb is also looking ahead. "All of the kids had such a great time. The counselors were wonderful and the activities were well planned. We are definitely excited about expanding the DSANI camp and going back next summer. Red Cedar is an awesome place." ☺

Riding for Red Cedar

Three years ago steel worker and avid cyclist, JD Pulver, called AWS and offered to help raise money for Red Cedar. He and three of his co-workers, Jordan Breiner, Will Rollings and Wayne "Wally" Wells III were taking a road trip by bicycle to tour Steel Dynamics' (SDI) four plants in Indiana. "The genesis for the event happened while the Tour de France was going on," Jordan said. "We had recently opened a facility in Jeffersonville

to make a pledge for every mile ridden. On October 7, 2003 JD, Jordan, Will and Wally began their four-day, 350-mile journey from Jeffersonville to Butler and their first SDI Tour de Plants: The Ride for Red Cedar. They completed their journey on schedule, with no major incidents, and generated nearly \$8,000.

Last September JD, Jordan and Will did it

grow every year," he said. "Red Cedar is a worthy cause and one that we want to keep at the forefront of everyone's minds." Not only has interest grown for the Tour de Plants, but interest in supporting Red Cedar has grown as well.

Red Cedar appreciates the generous support of the cyclists, riders and SDI. Kathy Morse, director of Red Cedar, understands the value of fundraisers such as these. "We've recently lost \$20,000 in United Way program support so events like this ensure quality, affordable summer programs are available," she says. "Summer camp is an essential experience for kids with disabilities," she said. "It's an experience that, thankfully, we are able to provide for more and more kids each summer because of the generosity of the wonderful people at Steel Dynamics."

Another Ride for Red Cedar

"If they can do it on bicycles, heck, we can do it on horseback!" So says Lucky Baron, Shane Beasey and Roger Rowles who are all avid horsemen, if not real Indiana cowboys. These three seasoned riders and owners of herds of horses are rounding up riders for a pony express relay ride called Saddle Up: The Pony Express for Red Cedar. Lucky, an SDI employee is the primary event organizer; Shane and Roger work for one of SDI's vendors.

Saddle Up will be held on Saturday, September 10 and consist of a 30-mile ride from the Mizpah Shrine Horse Center in Columbia City to Red Cedar. Two or three riders will run a 3-mile leg of the route together, and then another group will ride the next 3-mile leg, and so on. Fifteen riders have been recruited, something Lucky says has been easy to do. "When I tell them what we're doing and why we're doing it, they've all signed up without hesitation," he said. Riders will take monetary pledges for each mile they ride.

Riders range in age from the youngest at 14 to Lucky who is a fit 61. All must have a healthy horse capable of doing the ride. Among the breeds that will be ridden are quarter horses, appaloosas and paint horses. To ensure safety, a veterinarian will check out each horse before the ride and a farrier (for horseshoeing) will follow the riders.

Traveling along back roads, the cowboys ride out of Columbia City following Route 9 to Cider Mill, picking up Route 205 through Churubusco then on to Route 3 to Gump Road, to Old Auburn and then heading down Hursh Road to their final destination. More information about this event will be made public.

Lucky's horse will carry a leather pouch fashioned after the mail pouches carried during the pony express era, and hopefully will be filled with pledges of financial support for Red Cedar, and a few other commemorative surprises. When asked what he hopes for, Lucky emphatically replied, "Dig deep in your pockets to support the riders and Red Cedar to make this a success!" ☺



The original SDI cyclists Wally Wells, Will Rollings, JD Pulver and Jordan Breiner.

"IT'S VERY REWARDING TO BE PART OF THIS, IT GIVES HIGHER PURPOSE TO RIDING OUR BIKES."

(near Louisville, Kentucky) and thought that would be a good place to start the tour. As we began to plan, Bob Bly, hot mill manager for SDI in Butler, jumped in with the idea to make it a charity event and raise money for a good cause."

It didn't take long for a "good cause" to surface. They knew that the daughter of a co-worker and former member of their crew, Curt Butler, had taken therapeutic riding lessons at Red Cedar. Ironically, the cyclists rode past Red Cedar every day which was on their cycling route. Too busy training, they had never ventured onto the property.

To raise funds for Red Cedar, the four cyclists asked co-workers, family and friends

all over again. Unfortunately, Wally had to sit out the ride due to a reoccurring knee injury. This time, more than 30 people joined them for the last leg of the ride – a 40-mile stretch from SDI's Columbia City plant to the Butler plant. The 2004 ride raised over \$10,000.

The 3rd Annual Tour de Plants begins September 28, 2005 and concludes with the 40-mile open ride on Saturday, October 1. To inspire more participants, Jordan developed a training guide to help weekend riders get in shape. "It's very rewarding to be part of this," Jordan said. "It gives higher purpose to riding our bikes. From the beginning we've had two objectives – raise money for a good cause in our community and raise awareness about the benefits of physical fitness and cycling within our organization. From the money we have raised for Red Cedar and the growing interest and participation in this ride, we feel we are accomplishing our goals in a big way."

JD agrees. "We want to see this continue to

Helping People Thrive

AWS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Don Steininger, President
Ben Eisbart, Vice President
Patti Hays, Secretary
Joe Ruffolo, Treasurer

Donald Andorfer
Joe Bockerstette
Tom Current
Darrell Jagers
Candy Knowles
Renée Morrison
Joe O'Connor
Mark Reynolds
Cathy Rogers
Ian Rolland
Deborah Sturges
Dick Teets
John Wellington
Ken Williams
Pete Witkewiz

AWS STAFF

William Swiss
President

Mark Flegge
Chief Financial Officer

Lynne Gilmore
Vice-President
Marketing and Development

Courtney Heiser
Director
Communications



Local Foundations Supporting Red Cedar

Red Cedar receives major support from the English Bonter Mitchell Foundation, Foellinger Foundation, Fort Wayne Community Foundation and Lincoln Financial Group Foundation. Thanks to their generosity, kids with disabilities have access to 10 weeks of quality summer camp programs.

How You Can Support Red Cedar

Red Cedar summer camps do not come cheap. One week at Red Cedar costs \$300 because campers with special needs require extra assistance making camp more expensive than traditional camps. For example, Red Cedar's counselor to camper ratio is very low and sometimes requires a one-to-one

ratio but typically one counselor is responsible for three campers; traditional camps use one counselor for 15 campers.

You can support summer camps for kids with special needs by making a direct gift to Red Cedar, the endowment fund, or including Red Cedar in your will. Thank you! ☺

Not Your Average Joe

Joe Bockerstette has devoted his life to helping people with disabilities. Joe and his wife, Jenny, have two daughters, 21-year-old Lindsay and Amy, who has Down syndrome. At six, Amy is an active and outgoing little redhead who will attend kindergarten at Three Rivers Montessori School this fall. "Having a daughter with Down syndrome, I am always looking toward her future." That led to Joe joining AWS' board six years ago. "I believe in AWS' mission," he said, "and I wanted to know more about the services AWS provides for adults with disabilities. AWS is an outstanding organization and I'm honored to be part of the board of directors."

In addition to being an AWS board member, he is a founding member of DSANI (Down Syndrome Association of Northeast Indiana) and serves on the board of the National Down Syndrome Society. Professionally, Joe is a partner in an investment company that buys and operates small manufacturing companies. One of the best-known companies in Fort Wayne is Mark Fore, specializing in corporate apparel. The investment group recently acquired Alltuff Products, a manufacturer of travel bags and equipment for public safety organizations such as EMS,



Joe Bockerstette, Board Member with daughter, Amy.

police and fire departments

Ever mindful of his own daughter's future, Joe makes the future possible for others by employing people with disabilities within his own companies through AWS' employment services and DSANI.

Joe sums up his commitment this way: "I am passionate about advocating for people with disabilities. That's what I have been called to do. ☺"