

March 1, 2011

Drew's Day
Bridgeview Elementary
Center
5100 Ohio Street
South Charleston., WV
25309
304-766-0383
info@drewsday.org



Dear Business Owner and Friends,

On April 30, 2011, a 5K walk/run/stroll is planned in St. Albans to support and raise awareness about the **Mountaineer Spina Bifida Camp, Inc.** This event is dedicated to the memory of Andrew Humphreys who passed away in 2006 due to complications of spina bifida. Andrew and his family were strong members of the community who believed in the long lasting benefits of this camp. Andrew attended camp for ten years. This is the fifth annual Drew's Day 5K event.

Mountaineer Spina Bifida Camp, Inc. was established in 1985. The mission is to help children and teens to develop self-esteem, social skills, and self reliance while they participate in recreational and social activities. All funding for Mountaineer Camp comes from donations, grants, and fund-raising.

We are asking for your assistance in raising funds to continue providing children the wonderful opportunity the camp provides. Your donation will be used to directly benefit the Mountaineer Spina Bifida Camp. Attached is more information that may help you feel the impact of this organization.

If there is one important concept I can give to describe what makes camp so great it is this: For 51 weeks out of the year children with Spina Bifida feel like they are outside the norm—but for the other wonderful week they are the norm!

Thank you for giving this matter your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Susan Nelsen
Stephanie Gregory
Suzie Humphreys
5K run/walk/stroll coordinators



Facts about Mountaineer Spina Bifida Camp

Camp originated about 23 years ago from the idea of doctors that treated children with spina bifida in the state of West Virginia. They felt that there should be a place where these children could go to meet with their peers and not feel out-of-place, or be made fun of.

From this idea Mountaineer Spina Bifida Camp was born and is held each year at Cedar Lakes in Ripley, WV. Children that have spina bifida from all over the state may attend and are able to swim, play wheelchair hockey and baseball, make crafts, have campfires and they even have a prom where the campers get dressed for the evening and dance.

Camp is run solely on monies from companies and private donations. The campers are charged a small fee and that is on a sliding scale according to what the family is able to pay. Insurance is the biggest expense. With supplies, food and insurance, the total expense per camper is about \$1,000.

In 2007, they were considering canceling camp due to lack of funds, but monies from the 2007 Drew's Day 5K event kept it open! A special thanks goes out to Alyssa Lawson, a classmate and family friend of Andrew Humphreys, the events namesake. Alyssa created and started Drew's Day to help the camp and the participants. We raised almost \$10,000 that first year, and the camp stayed open! Drew's Day 5K has raised almost \$40,000 since it was started. All the money has gone to fund the camp for the children.

Our goal for the race, is to make it possible for all children with spina bifida in the state, to be able to attend camp if they so desire. It was our Drew's favorite place to be (and also Ryan Fox-another camper who passed away a few weeks after Andrew). We would love to see these children have the opportunity to make life-long memories and friends as Andrew and Ryan did.

Sincerely,

The Family (Randy, Suzie, Kristin and Wes) of Andrew Humphreys

Find more info at **drewsday.org** or email us at info@drewsday.org.

Make Checks Payable to: **Mountaineer Spina Bifida Camp**
Mail to: Sue Nelsen
Bridgeview Elementary Center
5100 Ohio Street South Charleston., WV 25309