

# “What’s on the HORIZON?”



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## Camp is right around the corner.....

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Have you sent your application in? What are you waiting for??? This year we are celebrating our 10th year of existence, and boy are we going to celebrate it! Everyone involved is very proud that we have made it this far and that our camp population continues to grow every year. But we wouldn't be able to do it without the continued support of our dedicated volunteers. If you haven't been up to camp in a while, this is a great year to do it. **We are still looking for more volunteers! And if you can't come up all week, come up when you can.** We always need help setting up (starts 2:00 on Saturday, June 16th) & cleaning up camp (starts 8:30 a.m. on Saturday, June 23rd.) Although it is not the most glamorous position, it is one of the most essential. Please call Sim at 708-503-1505 if you are interested in helping. **And to tempt you to volunteer again take a look at some of our activities at camp this year:**

**Day Activities:** *Ceramics, Arts & Crafts, Kite Building (and flying too), a CPR workshop (attain your certification up at camp), a Hairstylist (get that funky hairdo you've always wanted), Wheelchair repair, Bill Hoffman's animals (doesn't that snake below look like FUN???)*, Games, an Improv workshop, **THE POOL** (who could forget that?), **SPA DAY**, **Therapeutic dogs**, a seminar on PA Management, a very competitive (and funny) **obstacle course**, and more to come.....

**Night Activities:** **Game Show Mania**, *Kraig Kenning*, **astronomy Lessons with mike jaffee**, **COFFEE HOUSE**, *Karaoke*, **CANDLELIGHT BOWL**, and of course, our **Closing Campfire & Talent Show on Friday Night.**

Come share in the good times & make a difference! It's going to be a great Summer Camp!  
-Lisa Broz



## When Worlds Unite



Association of Horizon  
Summer Camp 2001  
10<sup>th</sup> Annual

**Think of us as a great place to place a classified ad, to ask a question, to voice an opinion, or to tell a story... Our next newsletter will go out in July, and we would love any stories or pictures you wish to share from our 10th Annual Summer Camp! For information e-mail [lisabroz@mediaone.net](mailto:lisabroz@mediaone.net) or call 773-477-5170.**

# VISITOR'S DAY - JUNE 22

Please come join us on Friday, June 22nd, all day, any time. We will be sending you an invitation in the mail, so **SAVE THE DATE!** If you haven't been up in a while, come visit with all your friends. *If you're new to Horizon, try us out for a day & see what we're all about.* We have a celebration dinner planned for 6:00, which you are welcome to attend. Please call the Horizon Hotline at 773-477-5170 and leave a message telling us you're coming up.

**Directions:** From Chicago, take 94 North & exit Rte. 132 west (Grand Ave. - Gurnee Mills exit) to Rte.45 and then make a right/south to Grass Lake Road (*light, you can only go west*). Drive about 5 min. to Gelden Road, turn left (*only way*) & YMCA Camp Hastings is just up ahead on your left! (*Note: You will pass an entrance for Camp Hastings East on Grass Lake Road. Continue past this YMCA entrance to Gelden Road, we are the west campsite.*)

**Remember: Friends, great memories & good times = Horizon**



[www.handi-stop.com](http://www.handi-stop.com)

Ken Vantroba suffered a severe stroke at the age of 26, 13 years ago. This left him dependent upon a motorized wheelchair and, unfortunately, the state. After trying for many years to get the answers and assistance that he needed, **he decided to create a "one-stop" site of knowledge and answers for people that shared his dilemma.** When faced with this trauma it seems almost impossible to get straight answers to the questions that immediately arise such as Medicare, personal insurance, assistance funding, special needs equipment information, travel assistance, and care-giver / personal assistant people. We felt that the time had come to put as much information together as possible and give people an opportunity to shop around and learn their rights and opportunities!!

**People need to know what their options are. Many don't even know that they have options.** They need to know that there is more than one place to purchase items and services they need. So, after two years on the drawing board in his head, Ken taught himself HTML (with the help of Learning Tree International sending him the learning aides for free) and created **www.handi-stop.com, the one-click site for people with disabilities and people afflicted with life altering diseases and medical issues.** The site has been up since August of 2000 and covers all 50 states and many international areas as well.

Ken received a degree in CAD engineering after suffering his stroke and is also a Webmaster of three sites. *Handi-stop.com being his proudest, to say the least!* Ken also funded this project out of his SSDI and through the fantastic support of the Woodridge Jaycees, who sponsored the site. Many, MANY thanks to them as well! The response to this site has taken Ken by surprise. Many people from across the world are "clicking in" and keeping others informed! **That's the purpose of this site, to help others learn how to get the help they need.**

While visiting, please don't forget to sign our guest book and, if you are so inclined, sign up on our Pen Pal list! We encourage everyone to visit the site and e-mail us with any suggestions or information that they feel would benefit this community. Also, while visiting the site, don't miss the Guardian Gazette, a bi-weekly e-zine publication that we publish freely featuring articles, stories, and other tidbits for people with disabilities and their families.

## **What's his Name?** *Alvin James!*

Hello again Horizonites... **Today we will focus on meeting Alvin James, or as some know him "Sug Boogaloo."** I did this interview a couple of years ago with Alvin outside of the Fun Lodge at camp, and here is the information I was able to pry out of him. Alvin has been coming to camp for almost 30 years and is from the far south side of Chicago. (Alvin just celebrated his 40th Birthday—Congratulations, Sug! )

He was born at Cook County Hospital and is the second oldest in his family of four sisters and one brother. Two things that Alvin told me he enjoys doing at camp are bowling and strolling. Some of you may recognize Alvin as the guy in the condo at camp (ask him he'll explain it). Alvin is also a die hard White Sox fan & he DJ's at house parties. **I asked him for a motto that he lives by and he told me "If you have trouble with another man's difficulties, try putting yourself in his place."**

*One of his most embarrassing memories was being caught watching Jenny Craig infomercials.* He also wants to acknowledge Moose for being his best attendant. Alvin is an active member of the Horizon Board and has been very instrumental in pushing forward the rights of the disabled. To Alvin James I tip my hat. Remember, when you're strolling or bowling through camp this year and you happen to see a man looking like he's well showered, well dressed, and living large stop and say hello. **It's probably Alvin James, and he is one good man to know!**

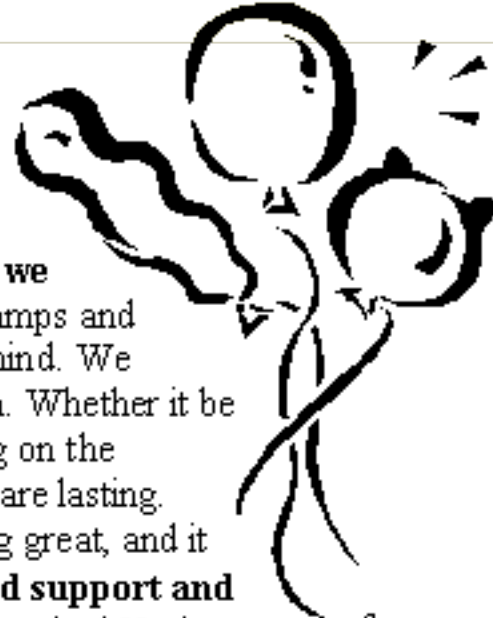
-Creagh Bennewater



## **2001 Wish List**

# It's our 10th Annual Summer Camp!

It is a time to celebrate!!! This summer Horizon will be putting on its 10th Annual Summer Camp. Each year, we seem to be growing into the vision and mission we wrote for Horizon many years ago. **Camp comes and goes and each year we continue to learn about ourselves and others around us.** As we look back on past camps and events that Horizon has sponsored over the years, a whirlwind of memories comes to mind. We remember places and people who touched our lives in ways we could never repay them. Whether it be attending camp, participating in the Laps Around Lincoln, Night at the Races, cheering on the Chicago Wolves at a Horizon event or any other connection to Horizon, our memories are lasting. We are very proud to have made it for 10 years. We have truly accomplished something great, and it is evident in every person who has crossed our path. **Thank you all for your continued support and hard work in making Horizon a strong & lasting organization.** I personally have watched Horizon from many viewpoints. I have been an attendant at camp, a board member and helped on various committees. Some of you may recall some of the memories I have. (and I'm sure you have many of your own.....)



Can you remember when: **The fun lodge showers were under renovation?....** *Horizon had its Halloween Party in the basement of a church?* .....Cabin 3-4 was a male cabin?... **Horizon had the Beach Party at Montrose Beach?...** Bill Hoffman bought his animals up to camp? (oh yeah, he still does that.....) Horizon started the Laps Around Lincoln?... **The cabins flooded in 1994? ... and 1996? ... and 1997?...** Bag skits?... Karaoke?..

We have shared a lot of good memories. **It is a time to celebrate. It is a time to remember.** It is a time to look forward to the decades to come.....

**Thank you & See YOU at Camp, Chris Lopez**

