Association of Horizon, Inc
3712 North Broadway # 335
Chicago, IL 60613 ww.associationofhorizon.org

What's on the Horizon?

FALL 2009

UPCOMING EVENTS:

VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR DETAILS

- Hoilday Shop-with -a-Friend
- Holiday Party
- Hackney's Recruitment Kickoff

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Oh, What a Great Week of Camp it Was!

Campers enjoying a walk along the trail. Front row: Jamie Sutton, Chris Ballantyne, Jen Sutton. Back row: Liz Anichini, Bobby Coleman, Viki Peer.

The weather may not have been as warm as some would have liked, a few nights may have been beyond chilly, but it was hardly noticeable with the warmth we feel at camp from our Horizon family.

The week of camp 2009 goes into the record books as our biggest camp session ever! Throughout the week we had over 200 people who took part in our 18th Annual Summer Camp. It was a perfect blend of old & new. It was great to welcome back some we hadn't seen in awhile as well as meeting many new faces.

We attribute much of our growth spurt to the latest age limit cut set by MDA camp. When we heard of the cut last year, we were concerned whether we would be able to accommodate the anticipated increase in our population. Where would we fit everyone? Will we be able to recruit enough volunteers? Can we afford to handle such a big crowd? These were just a few questions that had us on the edge of our seats.

It was a rough, long road but in the end we made it happen. We had a pleasant unexpected surprise from Timber Pointe of three additional cabins that were being built. At times we weren't sure they were going to be ready, yet in the final days of our planning we got the official word that they passed inspection and were ready for our use!

Volunteers were not a problem at all thanks to the hard work of our Recruitment Committee and our newly established relationships with Brother Rice H.S. and Immanuel United Church of Christ. Our previously well established relationship with Lincoln Park H.S. is always a key factor in finding great volunteers to help provide a wonderful week.

The final piece to the puzzle was funding. This was accomplished mostly by the hard work done by the fundraising committees of Bowl for Horizon, the Golf Outing & Luau, the Night at the Races and the family of Sarah Hudetz who also held a very successful Golf Outing this year.

Thanks to all of you for doing your part. Without your incredible efforts Horizon would not be able to do what we do. You help bring smiles to the faces of many deserving individuals and for that we are forever grateful.

~Geri Skudney

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Letter From the President

I would like start by thanking the 2008/2009 board members for their commitment to Horizon this past year. I know with the busy schedules we all have it isn't always easy to find the time needed to run this wonderful organization; yet year after year we manage to do it and do it well. A very special thank you goes out to Lori Moore for her wonderful leadership as our president for the past 4 years! Lori's dedication to the organization is second to none. As I step into this new role, I know that I have big shoes to fill! The examples that were set by my predecessor will be extremely valuable to me. Luckily even though Lori is no longer serving as the president of the board she will continue to serve as a board member, I know that I will be leaning on her for advice and direction from time to time. Under Lori's leadership we saw sensational growth for our organization including the creation of the Horizon Hope Scholarship. I only hope that I can continue this forward motion. With much love and appreciation, I would like to thank you again for all of your efforts as a member of this organization.

This past year was a great success for our organization on two major fronts. First we successfully held our largest summer camp ever! With just over 200 participants this year's summer camp has set the bar for future growth. Secondly we had a wonderful year for fundraising. In addition to our normal fundraisers (Bowl for Horizon, Golf Outing/Luau, Night at the Races and our year long lottery raffle) we received three big contributions, which came from members of our extended Horizon family.

As much as theses donations were extremely helpful to our organization, I can't express enough how important fundraising is to keeping our programs alive. As our organization grows so do our expenses, not just for summer camp but also our daily operating expenses. Without turning this into a plea for participation in our fundraiser efforts, I just want to remind everyone that we can always use any support that you may be able to provide.

We need fresh faces with fresh ideas to help keep us moving forward. With that said, I'm excited to announce that we had four new members join the 2009/2010 board of directors. Welcome Viki Peer, Andy Rader, Greg Ogorkowski and Ernestine Swearnigen, I'm looking forward to working with all of you. With the addition of the new board members I would also like to welcome all of the participants that may be joining us from other groups and camp programs. We are excited to have you as a part of our family and look forward to hearing all of your wonderful ideas as to how we can improve our programs!

In closing I'd like to say, just because you're not on the board that doesn't mean we're not interested in what you have to say. If you have an idea for raising money or an outing you'd like to see us do, contact us at (773) 477-5170 or e-mail info@associationofhorizon.org.

Wishing you all much happiness during the upcoming holiday season,

Tom Daly
President
Association of Horizon, Inc.

Horizon Makes a Positive Impact

Back in April, when we were out giving presentations to different groups to recruit volunteers for camp, one thing we promised to new recruits was that volunteering at Horizon Camp would be a life changing experience. After we say it I secretly hope that it stands true for the group we had just addressed. As wonderful as this week is, it really isn't for everyone.

When I said it to the group of students at Immanuel United Church of Christ, I somehow knew it was more than a promise, it was more like a guarantee. There was something I saw in their faces that made me realize we hit a jackpot with this group.

IUCC decided to make our camp their mission trip for the summer. I was able to attend the service when they presented their mission trip to the congregation. I was so happy to see that Horizon made exactly the impact on them that we had promised. At the presentation, each of the volunteers were given a letter from the word Horizon and they had to come up with a word starting with that letter to describe their experience at camp.

Below are the words they used. Since we don't have enough space to include their full speeches, you can view it on our website at www.associationofhorizon.org

~ Geri Skudney

H - Humbling & Honored
O - Open-minded
R - Reality & Responsibility
I - Intimidating
Z - Zonked & Zigzag
O - Overwhelming
N - Nifty

IUCC Youth Group after their presentation.
Pictured from left to right: Lisa Rodriguez, Tim Hosty, Brittney Pfister, Dylan Chandler, Aimee Elias, Aly Austin & Chris Wilke

Thank You Marcy

After many years of service as a Horizon board member, Marcy Davis has sadly decided to step down this year. She is a well respected member of our Horizon family and her contributions over the years have undoubtedly helped to make us the great organization we are today. Losing Marcy definitely leaves a void at our meetings, and she will clearly be missed more than she knows. I would like to thank her for graciously opening up her home to all of us; never have I felt more welcomed.

~George Czerwionka

2009 Amazing Race, Camp Theme song
Co-written by Amber Garza and Geri Skudney
To the tune of the theme from *Cheers*

Making your way to camp today
Looking forward to it a lot
All the planning to get it ready
We hope it's not to hot!
Don't you wish we all could stay?

Sometimes you want to go
Where everyone gets treated the same
You'll be really glad you came
And when you're here you won't feel
And trouble or any pain
You want to go where everyone knows your name

CELEBRATE!

at the Association of Horizon's Annual Holiday Family Party

Your family is joyfully invited to share in Horizon's Holiday Cheer!

Saturday, December 12, 2009
11:30am - 3:30pm

Avalon Banquets
1905 East Higgins Road
Elk Grove Village
847.439.4750

Share the holidays with old and new friends!

Lunch will be a sensational buffet.

If everyone is good, there will also be
a surprise visitor for the children

7th Annual Golf Outing & Luau - A Great Success

On June 13th, 2009 the 7th Annual Golf Outing was held at The Links at Carillon in Plainfield, IL. This year's event was our most successful year yet. The outing raised over $14,000 this year!!! In attendance were 64 golfers and over 150 luau guests.

Congrats to Nate Funk, Brian Cis, Nick Goodman and Joe Crowley (pictured below left) on their first place win!

The luau was a blast and people danced the night away to the amazing sounds of the Underdogs. The food was delicious and an open bar always makes the night.

Tom Daly & Rachel Youngberg also presented the check to the recipient of the 2nd Annual Horizon Hope Grant. Congratulations to Lea Svihla! (pictured on the right)

We had wonderful silent auction items, raffles prizes, and our famous ball busters all night long. The committee would like to thank all those attendees who helped make this year truly incredible. We hope to see you all next year!

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

Board of Directors

Tom Daly, President

George Czerwionka, Vice President

Brenda Bokowski, Treasurer

Jen Bernover, Secretary

Patrick Brice
Kathy Colunto
Donnie Flynn
Mark Gray
Michael Meyer
Greg Ogorkowski
Matt Passen
Viki Peer
Andy Rader
Lea Svihla
Earnestine Swearnigen

Mike Trimpe
Geri Skudney

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