



Association of Horizon, Inc  
 3712 North Broadway # 335  
 Chicago, IL 60613

# What's on the Horizon?

SPRING/SUMMER  
 2012

## UPCOMING EVENTS:

- **Golf Outing**  
June 16th
- **Horizon Camp**  
July 22nd-28th

*Got an idea for a Horizon event? Post your idea on our Facebook page.*

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## 2012 Horizon Camp is Shaping Up to be a Record Breaking Year

The camp/recruitment committee is excited to report that we have completed phase one of our 100 camper goal! For the first time in our history we have 100 campers apply for camp. The harder phase, finding enough volunteers for 100 campers, is still underway. Please help us by volunteering or getting someone else to volunteer for a wonderful week of Game Show Mania. Camp is being held July 22-28; applications can be found on our website. We are hopeful that we will reach our goal. We do not want to turn any camper away.

It seems as though every year we keep getting bigger and bigger. This is wonderful because the number of lives we are positively affecting keeps growing! Unfortunately, this growth also comes at a cost; this year's camp is



going to cost roughly \$80,000. We are always looking for help in obtaining these funds. Since our last newsletter, we have had a handful of people help, and we are extremely thankful for their efforts. We know that there are plenty more like them that can do the same! Please contact the fundraising committee if you have any ideas or would like to lend a helping hand.

With great numbers, comes a great need for supplies. If this sounds like they way you would like to help out, here are a few suggestions. When doing your household shopping, consider picking up a few items for Horizon. We can always use facial tissue, wet wipes, rubber gloves, anti-bacterial soap, paper towels, Lysol spray or sun screen lotion. Shopping not your thing? We gladly accept gift cards for Wal-Mart, Sam's Club and Jewel/Osco for necessary supplies. Gift cards to Michael's or Hobby Lobby are great for Arts & Crafts supplies. If you have a donation for us please call the hotline 773-477-5170 or e-mail [George.Czerwionka@AssociationofHorizon.org](mailto:George.Czerwionka@AssociationofHorizon.org).

*“Some of my closest friends are people I have met at camp.”*

## Dedicated From the Start - Camper

Geri Skudney has been involved with the Association of Horizon since the start. Her very first camp experience was the last year MDA offered camp to adults. She had such a great time and was disappointed to hear that this was not going to be available any longer. Needless to say, once she received a letter from the founding members of Horizon about the camp they were starting, she was anxious to help make it happen.

With the help of her friends and family,



Pictured: Brenda Bokowski, Geri Skudney and Lori Moore at a Night at the Races fundraiser.

Geri held the first, of what was going to be many fundraisers, for Horizon. The first fundraiser was a Candlelight Bowl that ran annually for about 8 years. After that, she and her crew ran a Night at the Races at Balmoral Park for 12 years. Besides these big fundraisers, Geri has also helped in smaller ones as well, such as Candle Sales, Pasta Dinners and Tastefully Simple Parties. “I never feel that a fundraiser isn’t good enough. If it brings in money it’s great because it all adds up.”

Keeping Horizon thriving is important to Geri. It is like having another family to her. “Some of my closest friends are people I have met at camp” she says. “I can’t imagine my life without these people. I know if Horizon ended today I would still be friends with many of the people I see at Horizon events. Even still, I want to make sure Horizon is around for others to have the opportunity I had to extend my family.”

## Lily Shen Receives 2012 Horizon Hope Award

The Association of Horizon, Inc. is proud to announce Lily Shen as the 2012 Horizon Hope recipient. This year there were many well deserving applications, which made the selection process difficult. Lily began volunteering for Horizon camp when she was a junior in high school. Now she is in her third year of a Doctor of Physical Therapy Program in Chicago and will use the grant to help her further her education.

Applications for the 2013 Horizon Hope will be available online by July 1st. If you do not have computer access but would like an application form, please call the hotline [773-477-5170](tel:773-477-5170) to request one.



Pictured above: Lily Shen



## Dedicated From the Start - Volunteer

It was his senior year of high school when Dan Persak attended a recruitment presentation for Horizon Camp at his school. Listening to that presentation had a major impact on the rest of his life. Dan thought camp sounded like a fun, challenging experience and decided to volunteer. Twenty one years later, he is still volunteering and has not missed a single week.

Even though Dan was a young new volunteer, he was placed with an individual who needed a lot of time and care. When the first year of summer camp finished, Dan may have been physically drained, but he learned a lot about himself and realize this was something he wanted to do every summer. Like many others, the first few years he dedicated his time to one-on-one volunteering and enjoyed every minute of it. After several years as a returning volunteer, Horizon asked Dan if he would be willing to take a bigger role and become a Team Leader. Now, as a veteran team leader, he is training future team leaders through first-hand experience during camp.

Dan was born and raised in Chicago, but several years ago, through work, he transferred to Orlando, Florida. Before the move, he told friends, "I will see you next year at camp." Sure enough,



Pictured above: Dan Persak and Plamen Chakov

he lived up to his word and flew back for camp each summer he was in Florida. Now that he moved back to the Chicago area, he uses the money he would have spent on plane tickets to buy supplies and snacks for his beloved cabin. Like many other volunteers, Dan uses vacation days to ensure he gets the time off of work and if they won't let him use vacation days he takes time off without pay.

If you want to find Dan Persak during the week of July 22, you won't have to look far. You can find him in Hudson, Illinois in or around "FALCON."

## Stay Informed

The Association of Horizon's monthly e-newsletter is the best way to keep up to date on everything Horizon throughout the year. Every month you will be able to stay informed of upcoming events, read an article about one of your Horizon friends, see our monthly progress on our fundraising goal, and much, much more. If you are not already on our e-mail list and want receive the monthly e-newsletter, send your e-mail address to [Michael.Trimpe@AssociationofHorizon.org](mailto:Michael.Trimpe@AssociationofHorizon.org).





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[www.associationofhorizon.org](http://www.associationofhorizon.org)



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## Visitor's Day, July 27th

If your family, friends or loved ones come home from camp every year with stories that makes you wonder what really goes on there, maybe you should consider spending a day with us on visitor's day to see what it's all about.

Come on down on Friday, July 27 and get a taste of the experience that keeps our campers and volunteers coming back for more.

If you plan to stay for dinner, we will need you to RSVP to our Horizon hotline (773-477-5170) by Sunday, July 22 or let us know at camp registration.

Hope to see you there!



Volunteer Eric Herrera and camper Theresa Sanchez dressed in their best for Friday night's dinner.