

Bay Cliff News



www.baycliff.org

Letting Go...

A Mother's Perspective

When little Jimmy Bennett came to camp last summer, he had just turned 3 years old. How did his mother, Molly, feel about letting him go? "It was scary! I was so nervous—even though I knew camp would be good for him!" Molly would know. She grew up at Bay Cliff.

"My sisters Kelly, Katie, Anna and I were "staff kids" at camp. We lived in the cabins with the campers and did everything with them. As we grew older, we had the blessing of working here as staff members. So I knew what camp would be like for Jimmy." Even with her years of Bay Cliff experience though, it was a strain on her heart when she brought him to camp. "I had no idea what parents go through until I was the parent saying good-bye," confided Molly. "I trusted camp completely to take care of Jimmy, but it was being separated from him that was so hard. There is a unique element at play when you know your child needs a lot of extra attention and care because of his special needs. That makes it harder to let him go."

Jimmy was born with spina bifida, a congenital deformity that affects his muscle strength and ability to walk. Jimmy has been involved in therapy for much of his young life, and he was referred to camp to continue the course of physical and occupational therapy. "Jimmy's young age is a pivotal time to intervene, so I knew he needed Bay Cliff," continued Molly. "Also, in March of last year, he had hip surgery and was very weak afterwards. He really needed the intensive therapy Bay Cliff gives to build up his strength and endurance and to help him persevere in trying. My goal was to get him walking again."

And walk, he did! "I was thrilled with his progress! It was at camp that he really started to use his crutches. He walked so much at camp that he almost regressed when he came home. That bolted me into action to make sure he continued to walk as much as possible!"

The strain of being separated from her son eased for Molly but never completely went away. "It helped that I knew he was in good hands. It was hard to be apart, but the separation enhanced our relationship. The re-uniting at the end of camp was powerful! It was like we had a renewed appreciation for each other."



Jimmy Bennett

Summer is fast approaching, and Molly says Jimmy is already looking forward to camp. "He still talks about his friends, the counselors, and his therapists. And he talks about the rules!" She knows "letting go" will be a little easier this time. "I am so grateful that he has this priceless opportunity. Bay Cliff helped mold my sisters & me into who we are today. It instilled in our family an appreciation for the precious gift of life. At Bay Cliff, the staff & campers learn what matters most in life. That my son can experience this, too, is truly a gift."

Spring Cleaning

Pioneers to the Rescue!

When the snowbanks disappear and the flowers once again bloom, we know it's time to get camp ready for the summer! There are leaves to be raked, gardens to be cultivated, windows to be washed, firewood to be cut, the pool to be cleaned & filled, and cabins to be swept and made ready. That's just the start of a long list of chores and special projects! With so much to do before the busy camping season starts—who you gonna call? The Telephone Pioneers of America! They made the call to us!



Bill Menhennick
"Pioneer Patriarch"

The Pioneers are the largest corporate volunteer organization in the world. They have been partnered with Bay Cliff since Bill Menhennick and Bernie LaBonte installed the first phone at camp almost 60 years ago. They were smitten by the children... and they never left!

Since that time, Pioneers from across the state and mid-west region have



brought their energies, talents, and volunteer spirit to camp twice a year—in the spring to ready camp for the summer, and in the fall to prepare camp for winter. From cleaning & sewing, to shingling roofs & fixing screen doors, to white-washing the beach trail fence, to repairing the phones lines... they are ready and willing to do whatever it takes to keep Bay Cliff operating, looking beautiful, and ready for the campers!



Thank you, Telephone Pioneers!

Adaptive Kayaking at Bay Cliff...



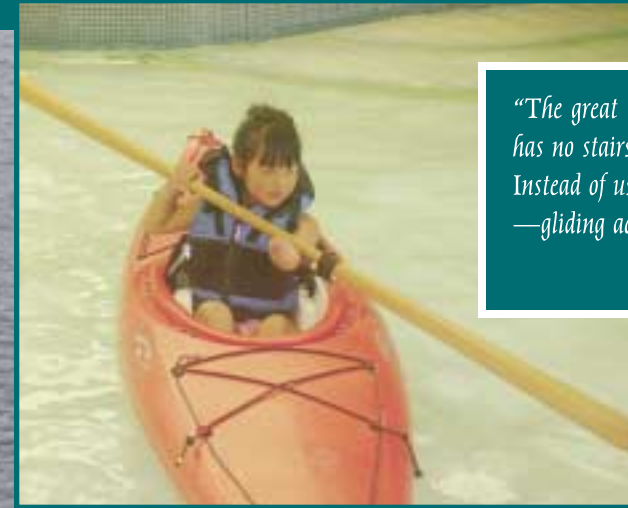
Bay Cliff has long been a place where dreams come true for children and adults with disabilities. Sometimes, this happens on the water!

In 1998, Bay Cliff brought adaptive paddling to the Upper Peninsula. Janet Zeller, president of the American Canoe Association and an accomplished paddler with disability, served as the Lead Instructor Trainer. She was joined by Nancy Uschold, Bay Cliff and Marquette-based physical therapist. The program was a great success, and Bay Cliff Health Camp joined an elite number of training sites across the nation to host adaptive paddling workshops.

The "APW" brings together kayak instructors, and those who enjoy paddle sports. The goal is to teach kayak enthusiasts how to include people with disabilities in the fun of paddling.

The workshops have enabled Bay Cliff to safely offer a kayaking program for teen campers each summer, and provide adaptations so that all teens can participate. Campers start with practice sessions in the pool and then graduate on to Lake Independence. In addition, adults with disabilities participating in Bay Cliff's Camp Independence and polio survivors attending Bay Cliff's Post-Polio Wellness Retreat have enjoyed the opportunity. Campers in Camp YesICan, a program for children with limb loss, have learned that they, too, *can* kayak.

Bay Cliff is an ideal site to learn kayaking, located on the shores of Lake Superior, with its accessible heated pool, nearby open water, and comfortable housing and home-cooked meals. When plans for a new Aquatic Therapy Center become reality, Bay Cliff will be able to bring the kayaking program to a whole new level and continue to make dreams come true.



"The great thing about kayaking is that it is something virtually anyone can do. Water has no stairs, curbs, or steep hills, that the folks with disabilities encounter when on land. Instead of using braces, crutches, canes or a wheelchair, the paddler becomes part of a boat—gliding across the water."

—Nancy Uschold, P.T., Instructor Trainer



"Every year, I am amazed at the spirit and determination the campers show in learning to paddle and achieving their goals. Seeing them out on the lake is its own reward—the smiles on camper faces, the pride in learning a new skill, the awe in seeing an eagle soar overhead, or the laughter as we enjoy an all-out water fight on a hot summer day."

—Nancy Uschold, P.T., Instructor Trainer



"With adaptive paddling training, you can help friends and family members with disability to learn to paddle. Because there are no barriers on the water, paddling is open to everyone and spans the ages. It becomes a life-long activity."

—Sam Crowley, Instructor Trainer

...Living Life to the Fullest!

The Packers are Coming to Town!



**Tuesday,
May 10th
4-8:30 p.m.
Superior Dome, Marquette**

Green Bay Packers Support Bay Cliff

A “once in a lifetime” opportunity!



Desmond Bishop

Join Packer President/CEO Mark Murphy, current and alumni players and fans from across the Upper Peninsula to celebrate the Packers Super Bowl Victory. This will be a fantastic event filled with fun for the whole family.



Dorsey Levens



Matt Flynn

- **Super Door Prizes**
- **Photo opportunities with Lombardi Trophies**
- **Super Bowl Highlights & Packer Trivia**
- **Q&A with present and past Packer players**
- **Tailgate food and beverage for purchase**
- **Face painting, games, etc.**



Gilbert Brown



Josh Sitton

General admission tickets \$5

Includes all the above and the opportunity to access all the Tailgate activities and fun of the evening. *(Autograph session not included.)*

Bay Cliff is honored to have been invited to host this exciting event. Please help us to promote it throughout the Upper Peninsula.

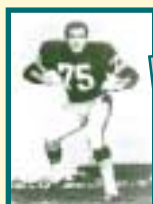
The Superior Dome is a big venue—Let’s Fill It!



Antonio Freeman



Jim Taylor



Forrest Gregg



Hall of Fame alumni also attending!

Jim Taylor & Forrest Gregg will have their books available for sale and signing *(open to all)*.

Tickets available for purchase at www.baycliff.org and food markets throughout the U.P. Call us for locations in your area.

Tickets also available in quantity to employers, schools, clubs and organizations and families. Great given as gifts of appreciation and thanks! Call Bay Cliff at 906-345-9314 for quantity purchase.

Thank you Packers for your support for Bay Cliff and the children!

Will You Join Us?

The 2011 Campership Appeal... Coming this Summer!

The Campership Appeal was established in 2009 to assure that there is funding for every child with disabilities who attends Bay Cliff in the summer. While Bay Cliff has many financial needs, including facility improvements and expanding programs, a gift to the Campership Appeal will provide funding specifically for the children's summer therapy program. The Campership Appeal is hugely important to Bay Cliff's efforts to serve the children.

Last year's Campership Appeal was very successful, raising over \$112,000 in support of the children's program. This year, we hope many additional individuals, families, businesses, and organizations will join us in this important effort.

The Campership Appeal will be coming your way... just as we begin another great summer at Bay Cliff. Please watch for it and help send a child to camp.

Thank you for your generous support!

Additional Ways to Give

Development/Endowment Fund & Remembering Bay Cliff in Your Will

Bay Cliff Health Camp also has a fund that provides long-term investment funds for the camp. If you would like more information on making a life insurance gift, planned giving, gift by will or bequest, memorial or other special gift please contact the camp office.

Building and Facilities Fund

Bay Cliff is tremendously grateful to the more than 2,000 donors who have helped us to make major renovations to the camp facilities. While much has been accomplished, we are still seeking gifts for several remaining important building projects. We would be pleased to provide more information if you wish to help!

Upcoming Camp Programs & Events

- April 28-30, 2011 Skerbeck Bros. Carnival
Ishpeming, MI
- May 13-14, 2011 Transitions to Hope & Healing
Childhood Loss & Grief Workshop
Lake Superior Hospice and Bay Cliff Health Camp
- May 16-18, 2011 Camp React
Children with Autism
Eastern U.P. Intermediate School District
- May 19-20, 2011 Orthotics, Prosthetics & Seating Workshop
Education for Health Care Professionals
Wright & Filippis and Bay Cliff Health Camp
- June 18, 2011 Children's Summer Session
Seven Week Therapy Program
Bay Cliff Health Camp
- July 16, 2011 Camp Open House
Bay Cliff Health Camp
- July 16, 2011 Harley Davidson Bike Show & Raffle
American Legion Hall, Little Lake Harley Owners Group (HOG)
- August 9-13, 2011 U.P. Sports Training Camp
Children with Disabilities
Marquette Alger R.E.S.A.
- August 14-20, 2011 Camp YesICan
Children with Prosthetics
Wright & Filippis
- August 19-27, 2011 Camp Independence
Adults with Physical Disabilities
Bay Cliff Health Camp
- Sept. 8-11, 2011 Adaptive Paddling Workshop
Instructor Training
Bay Cliff Health Camp
- Sept. 12-17, 2011 Post Polio Health and Wellness
Retreat for Polio Survivors
Bay Cliff Health Camp
- Oct. 29-30, 2011 Spina Bifida Family Camp
Children with Spina Bifida and Family
Bay Cliff Health Camp



Win a 2011 Harley Davidson Heritage Softail® Classic

Proceeds to Bay Cliff Health Camp

Purchase your \$5 tickets online at baycliff.org

Drawing July 16, 2011 4:00 p.m.

Bay Cliff Health Camp

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