

Bay Cliff News



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Fulfilling the dream...

Pestka Father and Son, "Let's Do It!"

It's been over 25 years since Bay Cliff changed Norman and Dan Pestka's lives, but their gratitude and "can do" philosophy continue to benefit future generations of children. Norm still remembers dropping off his son at the health camp that first summer. Dan, who was born with cerebral palsy, was nearly seven years old at the time. "We had to carry him. He couldn't walk," Norm explained. Two months later, when Norm came to take Dan home, he got the surprise of his life. "Here comes Dan, walking down the sidewalk...I just couldn't believe it. How could they make him walk in seven week's time? I mean, we'd get him to stumble around a little bit, but every time we'd try to make him walk, he'd cry, because it would hurt."

Now Dan is 33 years old (his birthday was on August 6) and the superintendent at the family business, Pestka Construction, in Ontonagon. He sits at a desk right next to his father's, and performs general office duties, like making copies, taking care of faxes, preparing coffee and greeting visitors. "I've been doing the mail everyday," Dan pointed out. The right side of Dan's body, which was affected by the cerebral palsy, is still weak. He has trouble grasping items with his right hand, is blind in his right eye, and can only see for a distance of about 20 feet with his left eye. Nonetheless, Dan is a productive employee of Pestka Construction and is sharing the money he earns with Bay Cliff Health Camp.



Lake Superior Trail & Overlook Dedication — July 15, 2006
Norm and his son Danny Pestka help the Bay Cliff Board of Directors and 2006 Summer Campers dedicate the Lake Superior Trail & Overlook. Danny donated the overlook and his father provided the work to complete the wheelchair accessible trail to Lake Superior.

Norm, along with his good friend Chuck Oberstar, sponsored the \$100,000 paved trail that allows children in wheelchairs to make their way down to Lake Superior. Dan sponsored the \$45,000 lookout along the trail. "It comes right out of his paycheck," Norm said, explaining how significant Dan's donation is. "He cherishes his cash like it's gold." The decision to build the trail was made on the spur of the moment during a routine conversation between Norm and Tim Bennett, Executive Director of Bay Cliff. "We said, 'Wouldn't it be nice if we could

Continued on the back page

“Fulfilling the Dream” Bay Cliff Project Summary



“Fulfilling the Dream” Partially Funded Projects

	Unit Status	Actual or Estimated Cost
Unit II Boys Housing	partially funded	\$ 1,100,000
Shady Nook Housing	partially funded	500,000
Laundry-Linen Barn	partially funded	300,000
Family Staff Cabins (4 duplexes)	in progress	300,000
Arts and Crafts	partially funded	125,000
Visitors' Center (Old Shop)	sponsored	60,000
Gateway Entrance	sponsored	25,000
Therapy Cabin – One (six remaining)	sponsored	25,000
Total of Partially Funded Projects		\$ 2,435,000

“Building for the Future” Completed Projects

	Unit Completed	Actual Cost
Big House — Dining Hall	May 2002	\$ 1,375,000
Offices / Auditorium	May 2003	765,000
Unit I Housing and Health & Dental Center	May 2005	2,100,000
Burma Trail to Lake Superior	September 2005	100,000
Trailhead Overlook	June 2006	45,000
Unit V Housing (formerly Sam's Place)	June 2006	860,000
Total of Completed Projects		\$ 5,245,000
Total of Completed Projects, Projects in Progress and Campaign Goal		\$ 7,680,000

“Completing the Dream” Unfunded Projects

	Estimated Cost	
Unit III Boys Housing	\$ 1,100,000	
Pool – Aquatic Therapy Center	Cost undetermined at this time	
Therapy Cabins – Six	200,000	
Teen Center and Barn Complex	700,000	
Waterfront Development	200,000	
Site Development	250,000	
Old Shady Nook (Staff housing)	200,000	
Recreation Center	100,000	
Total of Unfunded Projects		\$ 2,750,000

Bay Cliff Health Camp gratefully thanks over 1,530 donors who have pledged over \$4.9 million to the Building for the Future Campaign.

“Fulfilling the Dream” Building Projects ...where dreams come true!

There are eight facility renovations targeted for the next building phase at Bay Cliff Health Camp. Five of these important housing and program buildings are shown here in their present and anticipated forms.

Several of these projects have been partially sponsored by generous donors but all continue to need the support of other donors in order to fulfill the dream of making Bay Cliff fully prepared to serve campers year-round.

Bay Cliff has carefully taken time to plan facilities that will meet the rigorous criteria for serving children with disabilities and for offering year-round program functions.



Unit II Housing



Unit III Housing



Shady Nook Housing



Laundry & Children's Clothing Center



Arts & Crafts Building



Announcing...

“Fulfilling The Dream” Campaign Phase

Nearly four years ago, Bay Cliff Health Camp started its “Building for the Future” Capital Campaign with the renovation of the Big House dining hall underway and a goal of \$7.2 million. Thanks to the earnest efforts of hundreds of volunteers and over 1,500 donors, “Building for the Future” is now ready to celebrate the \$5 million mark in pledges. That celebration not only includes the wonderful support from all across the Upper Peninsula, but it also includes excellent renovations to the Auditorium/Office, camper and staff housing units, and medical/dental facilities, as well as a totally new Overlook and accessible trail to Lake Superior. We truly have many accomplishments to celebrate!

Another step in celebrating the campaign effort is an updated plan and campaign phase to complete Bay Cliff’s dream for year-round camping programs. Bay Cliff has evaluated the remaining projects, updated construction estimates and prioritized future renovations. This has led to an updated campaign total of \$7.68 million. With \$5 million already pledged, this leaves a goal of \$2.68 million to complete “Fulfilling the Dream”.

The “Fulfilling the Dream” Campaign that is now underway will seek new donors and encourage existing donors to extend their pledges or add gifts. Our goal for “Fulfilling the Dream” is \$2.68 million. We hope that many of Bay Cliff’s many friends across the U.P. will join us in this exceptional cause to modernize and winterize the camp.

Let’s do it for the kids!

Ways to Give

Any gift is appreciated and can be pledged over a five-year period. There are a variety of ways that you can give to the Bay Cliff Health Camp Campaign, including:

Direct Giving: By cash, check, electronic funds transfer or Visa or MasterCard. Also available online at www.baycliff.org

Pledges: Commitments can be spread over one to five years and paid in installments.

Personal Property

Life Insurance

Gift of Stock

Real Estate

In-kind Contributions

Planned Giving and Estate Gifts

Recognition &

Memorial Opportunities

For specific details on any of these giving methods or to make a pledge or gift, please contact the Campaign Office at the number below.

Winter Programs: A Dream Come True



This winter brought another success to Bay Cliff, warm interactions in the deep cold of winter with Bay Cliff campers. The comfort of the new Unit I housing facility enabled 26 children to come to camp for a special winter program that included fishing on Lake Independence and sled dog rides.

Would you look at the 30” Northern Pike that Trevor Smith caught? This fall we will host many beneficial programs including a Post Polio Wellness Retreat fulfilling our dream of a four-season camp.

Pestka, continued from front page

make a trail and get those kids in wheelchairs down to the lake,” Norm remembered. “And I said, ‘Let’s do it. I’ll take care of it.’”

Contributing to the capital campaign to renovate and winterize the health camp is not the only way the Pestka family has helped Bay Cliff. Norm has furnished handicap-accessible buses and pontoon boats for the children, purchased lawnmowers, put in water and sewer connections and paved the roads at the camp. The motivation for Norm’s charity goes back to that first summer Dan spent at the camp in Big Bay. “From that day on,

I just made a commitment to Bay Cliff. There’s a debt that I will never be able to repay,” Norm emphasized.

He encourages others to donate to the capital campaign and help Bay Cliff fulfill its dream of providing updated facilities for youth with physical disabilities. “The people who got successful in the world of business and were touched with handicapped children is where that money is going to come from,” Norm explained. “It takes money and soft hearts.”

And a “Let’s Do It!” attitude certainly helps, too!

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