

# THE *Fun Times*

July 2005, Issue 2

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## From the Director's Desk

Camp started with a bang on June 19 when 63 campers arrived to spend one or two weeks at Camp Allen. What an exciting time we had at camp... rides in the GEM cars are a special treat for many, and our pool is a popular spot for both campers and counselors! Wolfgang, one of our youngest campers, held a turtle for the first time! Session 2, our physical challenges session, brought old and new friends together for a terrific time. This is a group of folks who have been coming to Camp Allen for years. Ricky T. just spent his 31<sup>st</sup> year at Camp Allen! Imagine that! And he calls me the "old lady"! We are currently in our third session, where counselors have an opportunity to bond with individuals with severe and profound disabilities. I am truly blessed to witness the love that happens here at Camp Allen each and every session.

Mary

**FACT: All Camp Allen sessions are full this summer. Camp Allen is providing residential camping experiences for 452 campers and 141 day campers for summer 2005. Last year a total 433 campers in both day and residential camp were served.**

## Annual Trip to Hampton Beach a Huge Success

On July 10 in the wee hours of the morning, (at least wee for Camp Allen), counselors woke up the campers, put them in bathing suits, and shared a quick breakfast as buses arrived from Laidlaw in Salem, Granite State Independent Living, Manchester Transit to take 43 campers and 40 staff to Hampton Beach for a day of fun! For those of you unfamiliar with how this is done for 43 campers, 41 of whom use wheelchairs, well we will just let you imagine the logistics. After all were seated, the chairs and other equipment packed onto the huge Associated Grocers tractor-trailer truck, we set out to Hampton. The buses were rockin' as staff and campers sang our camp songs all the way to the beach. When we arrived and disembarked from the buses, we were greeted by old friends and new, Teamsters who plan this wonderful outing for Camp Allen each year. The music under the pavilion was terrific, dancing and karaoke. Campers and counselors alike were able to strut their stuff and entertain all with song. A highlight of the day was watching campers faces as they were wheeled down to the ocean in sand chairs by two big burly Teamsters, the smiles and laughter was a beautiful sight to see. The food was in abundance and everyone enjoyed the cookout. At three we once again embarked all the buses and headed out...this time a bit quieter due to all needing a nap after such a wonderful day. Camp Allen campers and staff want to thank all of our friends at Teamsters Local 633 for the best time ever.



### SHOOT FOR THE MOON

Students from Memorial High School and three hired directly by Camp Allen are working here at the camp this summer. A total of 12 young people, working in teams spend 20-30 hours each week, cleaning the dining hall, managing the laundry service and the Camp Allen General Store. In addition they work on special projects that include grooming the campfire area and the trails, assisting in the kitchen, painting and organizing the maintenance shed.

Camp Allen is working collaboratively with Memorial High School, Jobs for New Hampshire Graduates and the Department of Labor to provide work skills to these students. We are also grateful to the Bishops Charitable Fund who provided seed funding for this project.

We are 5 weeks into the camping season and are reaping the benefits of this unique project. The store is a huge success! Our laundry is done well, organized, and returned to the cabins on time, the grounds look great!

A big thank you to both the Memorial students and the young people we directly hired. Camp Allen would also like to thank the project manager, Chris and the two site trainers, Ruth and Laura who train and supervise all the students.

### Camp Allen Food Service

This summer our Food Service Director is Chef Perrin Long, the chair of the Culinary Arts Department at Southern New Hampshire University. The response to meals has been very positive!

Thank you Perrin, Ethan, Sol, and Victor for all the great meals!

### Night of Irish Music and An Old Fashioned Barbeque

*You are cordially invited to attend what we hope is the first annual Night of Irish Music and an Old Fashioned Barbeque on August 6 at 6 p.m. This fundraiser is to benefit our Building Fund. You may call the office for tickets or more information at 622-8471.*

### Focus on Staff

**Our very dedicated staff this summer come from all over the world. The countries represented and include: Madagascar, South Korea, Taiwan, Thailand, South Africa, Egypt, France, England, Ireland, Canada, Paraguay, Uganda, Kenya, Jamaica, Mexico, Venezuela, Czech Republic, Sweden, Denmark, Poland, Ukraine, Russia, Moldova, and the USA. Counselors are sharing their cultures, teaching each other words in their language, games, and music. Alice from Korea learned basic sign language in one day when she learned that her first camper was deaf and used American Sign Language! Watching Goosha from Poland and Veronica from the Czech Republic care for campers with significant needs was such a moving sight. Counselors were told that they would "fall in love" with Camp Allen and their campers and we have watched the miracles happen.**

Check out our new deck, docks, and ramps...thanks to Cogswell Benevolent Trust for their generous donation to Camp Allen! The deck is a very popular place for campers and staff, a quiet place to chat and observe activities!