Bay Cliff Health Camp has always been a place where dreams come true. For many years, the staff and Board of Directors of Bay Cliff have had a dream—a vision of what Bay Cliff could be. We realized that the camp buildings needed to be updated and made more accessible to children with disabilities. At the same time we wanted to winterize our buildings so that we could begin offering programs on a year-round basis—providing children with more opportunities to learn and grow. In 2004, the pursuit of our dream began with the Building for the Future capital campaign to raise funds for the renovations and rebuilding. It has been wonderfully gratifying to see all that has been accomplished.

THANK YOU!
You are one of the more than 2,000 generous donors and volunteers who have made this happen!

The camp looks different today with the new buildings and improved facilities, but our mission of helping children is still the same. Just ask Brittany Sundstrom. Brittany was a camper at Bay Cliff for much of her childhood. She spent many summers in the old Unit I girls' housing. When Brittany 'graduated' in 2006, she had lived two summers in the newly remodeled Unit I. "What a difference!" She was able to return there again for Snow Days (a new winter program).

Brittany came to camp as a preschooler. Over time, she learned to walk here. She learned to take care of her personal needs. She learned to ride a bike. She learned to do all the things children take for granted. Brittany will tell you that Bay Cliff changed her life. "Bay Cliff rocks!"

Bay Cliff remains rock solid in its commitment to helping children like Brittany pursue their dreams. We are grateful to all those who have helped us. The future requires the continued financial support of friends like you. We need your help as we move forward with future renovations and as we look to securing the funds needed to support our expanding program.

One major campaign project remains to be done—an accessible place for the boys to live. We hope we can count on you to renew your pledge or gift to Bay Cliff. Invite a friend to join you.

Thank you for helping to make dreams come true ... now, and into the future!
With the support of over 2,000 donors, the campaign to “Build Bay Cliff” for the future has made tremendous progress. Eight major projects have been completed. The improvements have made a wonderful difference for the children and adults who attend camp. Thank you for believing in Bay Cliff!

Thank you for your generous gifts—and for making this possible!
“Mike’s Place”

On July 8, 2008, the new Bay Cliff Program Center was dedicated as “Mike’s Place”, in memory of Tony and Kathy Ross’s son Michael.

The historic camp barns have been fully restored and renovated. The complex now includes: the Teen Center, Radio Station, Astronomy Silo, Costume Room, Staff Lounge and Program Offices.

This wonderful transformation has been made possible by a generous gift of over a million dollars from the Michael Ross Memorial Foundation. Bay Cliff is very grateful to Tony and Kathy Ross and their many friends for their generous support of Bay Cliff and the children!
...Growing the Program

Organizations are teaming up with Bay Cliff to offer many more opportunities for people of all ages to lead a fuller life. In 2008, thirty-eight programs were held at Bay Cliff serving over 1,800 children and adults. Exciting new programs are already being planned for 2009 as well. Working together we can do so much more!

Therapy on skis! Jesse Sparkman was thrilled to waterski for the very first time during Bay Cliff’s Summer Therapy Program.

Viewing the world from a different angle at Camp React, for children with autism.

A teaching moment during Camp Setebaid, a camp for kids with diabetes.

Learning together at Spring UP, a retreat for children with hemophilia and their families, full of education and camp fun.

Dominick Harper conducts the interviews and plays the tunes at the radio station located within Mike’s Place, “WBC 89.1 FM—Where Dreams Come True!”

Above and left: Success & triumph at Summer Sports Training Camp for Special Olympic athletes.

Above and left: Kids that use prosthetic limbs learn that “Yes I Can!” do anything at Camp YesICan.
Securing the Future...

First Gift to the New Development Fund!

Long-time donor and supporter of Bay Cliff, Norman Pestka of Ontonagon, has become the first person to contribute to the health camp’s new development and endowment fund. When asked why he continues to give to Bay Cliff year after year, he simply answers, “Why not?” And it really is that simple with Norm. His 35-year-old son, Dan, was nearly seven years old when he learned to walk at Bay Cliff (see the Pestkas’ story in the Summer 2006 newsletter). Norm recalls that experience over 25 years ago and says, “There’s a debt I’ll never be able to repay.”

Both Norm and Dan have contributed to Bay Cliff’s capital campaign to renovate, winterize and expand the 75-year old camp in Big Bay and are now leading the way as Bay Cliff transitions to the next phase. “We have been very successful in our capital campaign to upgrade the facility,” Camp Director Tim Bennett points out. “Our challenge now is to grow an endowment and development fund to maintain the facilities and meet the program needs of the future.”

Bay Cliff has charted an exciting and wonderful vision for the coming years by developing year-round programs that help children and adults pursue their dreams.

Establishing a permanent source of income for future operations is essential to the camp’s future success.

Norm is happy to help secure Bay Cliff’s future and says it’s all because of Dan. “Every year I go there, I see kids like Dan. You see it and say, ‘Keep this going.’ The greatest resource we have is our kids. If we can give kids like Dan, a chance at life at Bay Cliff… that’s why I give.”

Tim says, “Norm Pestka has been a close friend to Bay Cliff for many years and we are very grateful for his generous gift of $100,000. We are hopeful that others will be inspired by his donation and make a gift of their own.”

Norm has an idea of how to accomplish that. “I wish I could get somebody to match me.” And what if someone did? “I’d be excited,” he exclaims. “Then I’d match them and they’d have to match me back!”

When asked about his continued pattern of giving, Norm replies, “Bay Cliff has a soft spot in my heart, a BIG soft spot.”

Tim knows there are others out there who feel the same way and encourages them to step forward. “Everything Bay Cliff has is a gift from someone who believes in Bay Cliff and the children we serve. Thank you for believing in the children and their future.”

Our Mission

For over seventy years, Bay Cliff’s primary mission has been to improve the lives of children with physical disabilities. Today, Bay Cliff is a therapy center serving children with every kind of orthopedic, speech, hearing and visual disability. Through an intensive summer program of daily therapy and traditional camp activities, children learn to become more independent and are inspired to believe in themselves and their potential.

Bay Cliff is a place where very special children are able to pursue their hopes and dreams for the future!
“Continuing The Dream”
Campaign Update

Our “Building for the Future” campaign has made tremendous progress. Many donors are reviewing their pledge or making a new gift. Thank you!

- Over 2,000 pledges or gifts received
- $7,260,000 has been raised
- Wonderful improvements made to the facility
- Important new programs are offered

As we enter the final phase of our campaign, “Continuing the Dream”, we need your help! A new boy’s living unit is badly needed! We must raise $2.3 million to build it and successfully conclude the campaign!

We encourage you to share your newsletters with family, friends and colleagues. Invite them to join you and make a generous gift. With your help in reaching out to others, we will be able to build a new home for the boys.

Thank you for your continuing support for Bay Cliff and the children. We are very grateful!

Staff Alumni Day
Celebrating 75 Years!

It was coming “home” again, on July 12th, for nearly 200 staff alums and their families this summer, as Bay Cliff marked 75 years of serving children. There was representation from each of the decades since the 1930’s. On this warm Bay Cliff sunny day, friends who hadn’t seen each other in years embraced again. Laughter bubbled out of conversations of memories recalled and stories shared. The Teens escorted the guests on tours of buildings old and new. Nowhere was the Bay Cliff spirit more powerfully felt than standing hand-in-hand with the children at the evening Flag Ceremony, as campers quietly lowered and respectfully folded the flag.

A picnic in the Orchard followed—chicken barbeque style, and the alums were treated to ice cream and camp songs in the Big House! Mr. Johnny Bullock and Mr. Tim Bennett, Camp Directors past and present, recounted how founders Elba Morse and Dr. Goldie Corneleuson, and all the staff over the years, have lifted Bay Cliff to the level of quality it is now.

The Teens signified this in the song “You Raise Me Up” sung as a thank you to everyone.

As they watched the fireworks on the bay and bade each other farewell, the alums knew in their hearts that the spirit of Bay Cliff, present since the beginning, is still strong, and “Bay Cliff Will Shine” into the future!

Good News! IRA Direct Charitable Gift Extended!

Congress extended an excellent charitable planning opportunity for both 2008 and 2009. This act permits a person age 70 1/2 or older to make a direct transfer to charity from their IRA. The transfer may be up to $100,000 in one year, and this tax saving opportunity will exist for year 2008 and year 2009. You may want to consider this as you plan for your charitable giving. Contact Bay Cliff or your tax advisor if you would like more information.

Important Dates & Upcoming Events

January 2, 2009 Bay Cliff’s Christmas / New Year Open House
January 22-25, 2009 Winter Blast
March 6-8, 2009 Snow Days
June 20, 2009 Children’s Summer Therapy Program

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