

A Heartwarming Connection The Family Liaison/Camper Relationship

By Deborah Shapiro

Being a member of the Family Liaison Committee has been a profoundly rewarding experience. I have been privileged to help Wildflower campers and their families find respite from their grief through ongoing support and the gift of camp. Eli and his mom became a part of the Wildflower family when Eli was 14 years old, one year after his father passed away. He was shy and quiet and very protective of his mom. As an only child, he wanted to fill the shoes left by his dad...to be the new man of the family. He was worried about leaving his mom during the summer but curious about what camp had to offer.



Eli's first camp experience was a one-week camp, Heroic Journeys, an outdoor-adventure program in Colorado for grieving children. He loved it. He loved the adventure, the new experiences and the opportunity to share his loss with other children with similar experiences. That first year was a turning point for Eli. He started to become more



confident and more willing to pursue his interests in travel, Spanish immersion and community service.

Eli has been a Wildflower camper for 4 years. Each year we sent Eli to a different program giving him varied and enriching

experiences that matched his interests. With Wildflower's support, he has become a self-assured, thoughtful and accomplished young man. He is 18 years old now and applying to college. Upon his return from his final camping trip this summer, he wrote this letter to Wildflower.

I want to thank you and everyone at Wildflower who helped me attend my transformative trip with Deerhill. I'm amazed at how emotionally attached and connected I got with my Deerhill friends in such a short time. My expedition pushed me to grow and develop emotionally, spiritually and as a more mature and globally-aware person. Whether it was canoeing 56 miles on the San Juan River, building a bread oven at The Zuni Pueblo, or summiting Centennial Peak in Colorado, I was connecting with and learning about the people around me. What I learned from my fellow group members has helped me develop a better understanding of myself. I am honored and feel very lucky to have attended this program and would love to share stories and pictures with you.

Eli's school requires graduating seniors to complete a Capstone Senior Project. Eli asked us if he could work with us so that he could give back for all Wildflower has done for him. I know I can speak for the entire Wildflower community when I say, "Eli, we would be honored to have you!"

Team Wildflower Rides Again



On September 29th Team Wildflower rode in the Rodman Ride for Kids, the largest one-day fundraiser for at-risk kids in the nation. For the second year running, the Rodman event was our most successful fundraiser. With 10 riders, four virtual riders and over 300 individual donors, our anticipated fundraising total is \$80,850. Add to that Rodman's 10% bonus and our total soars to \$88,935! Thank you riders, donors, our corporate sponsor Group One and Don Rodman!

MISSION

The Wildflower Camp Foundation helps children who have lost a parent. We provide bereaved families with the gift of camp, enrichment opportunities and ongoing support services. We are committed to renewing the promise of summer, offering a restorative experience for both the children and surviving spouse as they recover from their loss. To learn more visit: www.wildflowercampfoundation.org

A heartfelt thank you to all who have given Wildflower the gift of time, expertise and financial support so that we might give the gift of camp to bereaved children.

Thank You To Our Donors

We are enormously grateful for the unwavering support our growing community of donors has shown us this year. Through your generosity, Wildflower is able to extend our support to more campers each year. In particular, we would like to thank:

The Risa S. Rosengard Foundation for supporting our 2012 scholarship program with a grant award of \$4,000

Dick Forte for selecting Wildflower to receive a \$1,000 discretionary grant from The Forte Charitable Foundation

Margy and Mark Cohen for a combined donation and GE Foundation Matching Gift of \$15,000

A longstanding anonymous donor for a \$12,500 donation to Team Wildflower and the Rodman Ride

Ann and Mark Melanson and Family of the Bailey Family Foundation for their \$10,000 donation and continued support

Louise Slotnick for a \$2,455 donation in stock

Michael and Audrey Loria for donations honoring Audrey's 50th birthday, as well as recurring donations through the IBM Employee Charitable Contribution Program, for a combined donation of \$2150



The Bessye Bedrick Ravelson Fund and Denise Wildman and Allan Lauer as donors in our \$2,000 annual Sponsor-A-Camper Program

The Joseph Gleich Charitable Lead Trust for a donation of \$2,000

Judy and Howie Levine for supporting Wildflower through personal donations made to mark important events in the lives of their family and friends. They have just made their 52th donation to Wildflower!

Judy Orlandi for conducting a personal letter-writing campaign in memory of her niece Nicole Tourigney raising over \$1,200 for WCF

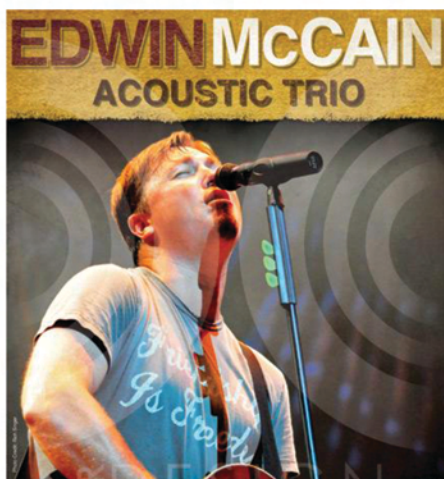
Individual donations of \$1,000 or more by Jeff and Deb Baron, Ceci and Eddie Cordeiro, Jim and Silvia Kyrios, Adam Puritz and Robin Neiterman and Amy and Barry Sylvestsky

Give the Gift of Camp

With your help, we can soften the pain of loss for many bereaved families. Please consider making a donation today to make this dream a reality. Your donation, in any amount, is so important to our mission, our families and our campers. To give the gift of camp donate at www.wildflowercampfoundation.org or send a check to Wildflower Camp Foundation, PO Box 81116, Wellesley Hills, MA 02481.

SAVE THE DATE

Wildflower Camp Foundation presents an exclusive concert
with award winning artist



Edwin McCain

Thursday, April 11, 2013

Featuring hit songs "I'll Be" and
"I Could Not Ask for More"



Tickets available on 12/10

Details at www.wildflowercampfoundation.org/news.htm

McCain's Only New England Appearance in Spring 2013

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