



for children with heart disease

THE BEAT

NEWSLETTER FOR FRIENDS OF CAMP ODAYIN
SUMMER, 2005



Remembering Donovan



It is with heavy hearts that we share with you the news that one of our very dear campers passed away this March. Donovan Bays of Washington was a camper at Odayin in the summers of 2003 and 2004.

Donovan was as good as they come! He was friendly, thoughtful, a good artist and

he loved camp. The highlights of his weeks at camp were archery and horseback riding. He was proud of his distinction as the "Best Fake Crier" during a cabin skit! Donovan was a good friend and an all around joy to be near. He had the kindest smile and longest eyelashes you have ever seen!

Donovan's parents wanted our family to know that he loved his days at Odayin. Although many of you never met Donovan, please know that your support of our mission made a difference in his life and his family is grateful.



Donovan will be so greatly missed, we are all lucky he touched our hearts.

Hit the Links to Support Odayin!



The Fourth Annual **Whole Heart Golf Tournament**, sponsored by Medtronic, is Monday, June 27th at Indian Hills Golf Club in Stillwater, MN. The day is guaranteed to be fun with prizes, raffles, a silent auction, dinner and of course, golf! Please contact us if you'd like to receive a registration form or would like to learn more about hole sponsorship. Call us right away or visit our website and download a registration form, the deadline is June 17th!



Why I Volunteer at Camp Odayin...

If you asked me why I volunteer to be a counselor at the camp I could say that I live right across the lake and can go there by boat. I could say that Sara's Uncle Roger was the pastor at the church that I go to, that I worked with Sara's dad at Medtronic for 15 years. I could say that I have had two heart valve replacements, a pacemaker implanted and finally a heart transplant. That is a lot of connections!

Well, it is really like this. When you have been where I have been, it changes you. I cherish life and think it a precious gift not to be wasted. Being at camp with the kids, well there is no better place to spend some of the precious gift of time that we have as individuals. I spent seven months in a hospital waiting for my new heart to come. I never abused my body by smoking or anything like that to bring on my heart condition. I was like the kids that come to camp, I was born with a heart defect that prevented me from being all I could be as a kid. Camp to me is all about the kids.

Yes, the first year it was interesting and fun and I felt like I was giving something back. Almost

every heart transplant acquaintance that I know is so very grateful for their "Second Chance at Life" that they want to give something back. Well, maybe being at camp is giving something back in the sense of volunteering my time. But really, it is all about the kids and feeling like I am one that they can look to as someone that understands. I got the lump where my pacemaker is implanted and the scars on my chest.

I also am the oldest one at camp. I know when the kids see me dancing, riding horses and playing at age 65 that they know that there is hope. You can not imagine the questions I get asked and the way it is to be around these kids...some call me "Paul Bunyon" some call me "Da Kid" and some just like to hang out with me because the older we get, the more stories we have to tell. I just got back from skiing and I hope that the kids at camp can play as hard as I do when they are my age.

Submitted by Paul Kohl, volunteer counselor since 2002!



Festival of the Heart and Soul



As you may already know, local musician Mick Sterling has been working with us this year and named Camp Odayin as the selected charity for the revival of "Festival of the Heart and Soul". There are three events this year that will benefit our programs and mission. The first was a wine tasting that took place this winter, the second is...

An Intimate Night of Music and Stories with Marc Cohn

June 18th, 2005 at Arizona's Restaurant & Lounge in Shakopee, MN.

This is a private concert limited to 220 people. Tickets went on sale May 20th, and can only be purchased through www.heartandsoulfestival.com. Learn more about Marc Cohn at www.marccohn.org.

We hope that you can join us for this special evening!

E-News: Please let us know if you would prefer to receive Odayin news via email. Drop us an email at info@campodayin.org.



Family Camp

We are thrilled to announce our 2nd Annual Family Camp this Fall! We will enjoy a weekend of relaxation, friendship, family time and fun at Camp Knutson October 21st–23rd. Family Camp gives your child a chance to share their experiences at camp with you. It's a great way to spend time with your kids. Our program is flexible enough to allow you the broadest possible range of activities and will also include some educational opportunities for both parents and campers. Each evening includes a special program designed for the entire family that is sure to create fabulous memories and lots of laughs. Information will be mailed to all 2005 campers in the fall. Spaces will be limited, so let us know if you might be interested! Please note: there is a charge of \$25 per person.



Staff Happenings...



A special thanks to Kim Malrick, who has just finished a year-long internship with Camp Odayin. Kim was a wonderful addition to the Odayin family and plans on continuing to volunteer in the future. Thanks again, Kim!

Congrats to "Mr. Spirit" Deke Wolden and his wife, Stacy, on the arrival of their son, Mac. Deke will be back at camp this summer as a counselor and the ever so memorable Mr. Spirit.

Welcome to Molly Brendmoen, Odayin's new Administrative Assistant. Molly has a background in camping and is an all around great person to have in the office. She is looking forward to getting to know more of the Odayin family. Welcome!

Calling All Garage Sale Shoppers

Please join us on June 9th or 10th for a huge Garage and Yard Sale which will benefit Camp Odayin! Over 25 contributors will be offering furniture, housewares, children's toys and clothes, books, adult clothes, cookies, and a whole lot more.

The sale will be at 1386 Knollwood Lane in Mendota Heights starting at 9:00 each day. (From Highway 35E exit on Highway 13 and go east to Watchler. Follow the signs to Knollwood.) Come enjoy a cup of coffee, search for the best bargains, and know that your support of our young campers is greatly appreciated!

Last Call for Campers & Staff

We are happy to say that camp is filling at a record pace! We only have a few spaces left for campers, so contact us right away if you want to join in on the fun. We are also in need of a couple more counselors and nurses, please let us know if you might be able to share your talents with Camp Odayin!

As a reminder, here are the 2005 dates:

Day Camp in Roseville, MN:

June 20 - June 24 (campers ages 6-7)

Resident Camp in Crosslake, MN:

July 25 - July 29 (campers ages 12-17)

August 1 - August 5 (campers ages 8-11)



Applications are available on our website for both campers and staff.



3rd Annual Heart & Sole Walk September 24th!



Mark your calendars for Saturday, September 24th. It's our third annual "Heart & Sole Fun Run/Walk" at Como Park in St. Paul. Walk, run, jog or stroll to support Camp Odayin! Registration information will be mailed in August. Hope to see you there!

Sponsored by: **GUIDANT**

Harvey's Golf

Harvey's Bar and Grill is holding a golf tournament on July 10th, 1pm at the White Eagle Golf Course in North Hudson, WI. Proceeds from the event will benefit Camp Odayin. Call 612-343-5930 for more information. Harvey's is located at 106 N 3rd St in Minneapolis. www.harveysmpls.com.

Congratulations, Becky!

We are very proud to share that one of our campers, Becky R., is on a team that is going to DI Globals in Tennessee. DI or Destination ImagiNation®, is one of the world's largest creativity and problem solving programs for youth of all ages, with thousands of participants in 47 US states, 15 countries and Canadian provinces participating annually. Good Luck, Becky!

** If you are the parent of a camper with some special accomplishments, we would love to hear about it! Send to michelle@campodayin.org.



To add or remove names from our mailing list, please contact us at info@campodayin.org.

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for children with heart disease



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