

THE HAPPINESS RUNNER



CAMP DREAM STREET 2009



If you have great memories or stories from this summer, please send them to us at: news@dreamstreetms.org

Your story might appear in an upcoming edition of the newsletter.

A WORD FROM THE DIRECTOR...

Dear Dream Street Friends,

Thank you all for helping to make Camp Dream Street 2009 an amazing success. Based on our fun-o-meter, the level of fun at camp this year was off the charts. From the pool to the tower to the horse corral to the lake (where we caught a record setting 308 fish!!!), the smiles were brighter than the Mississippi sun. I want to thank each and every one of you for contributing to such a great week.

I also want to thank everyone for allowing me to be the Program Director for the past two years and giving me an incredible, life-changing experience. Serving as the Director has been one of the most beneficial experiences of my life, and I appreciate the opportunity.

I am excited to announce that **Ellie Streiffer** and **Kyle Goldich** will be taking over as Co-Program Directors for Dream Street 2010. Please help me congratulate them and wish them the best of luck!

Dreamily Yours,

Jeremy Podolnick

jeremy@dreamstreetms.org



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2010 SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS!!!

Camp Dream Street is proud to announce our Co-Program Directors for the 2010 session:
**Ellie Streiffer and
Kyle Goldich**

Mark your calendars for Dream Street 2010!

The dates are

Campers:

June 1-5

Counselors/Staff:

May 30- June 5

Goodsearch

Ever wonder how you can raise money for Dream Street throughout the year while surfing the internet?

WONDER NO MORE!!!

Go to

www.goodsearch.com,

add it as your preferred search engine, and choose 'Camp Dream Street Mississippi' as the organization for which you want to raise money!

HOW DREAM STREET LED ME TO PURSUE A CAREER IN PHYSICAL THERAPY

BY JOY LAUDENHEIMER

At Dream Street, I tried to make a difference in children's lives while giving them the chance to experience the joy of summer camp. Throughout high school and college, I looked forward to getting that one week at a place that was truly magical. For the campers, camp is a safe place where they can just be typical kids. As a staff member for Great Expectations, a team program for teenagers with disabilities, I found myself really wanting to hear about each participant's life at home and what their typical days were like.

It was the Great Expectations program that really sparked my interest in working with people with disabilities. I learned a lot about transfers, toileting, and the importance of equipment. I spoke to a physical therapist on staff about his career, and he told me that he had the privilege of working with kids with disabilities on an everyday basis. I suddenly became inspired and knew that I wanted to work in the physical therapy field for my career. With his help in writing letters of recommendation to several physical therapy schools, I was accepted at UT Southwestern Medical Center in Dallas. Currently, I am learning about different types of disabilities and the most recent inventions helping people of all ages. After learning about the campers' personal achievements each summer and seeing their infectious spirits, I knew I had to pursue a career in physical therapy. Over the years, Dream Street has influenced the lives of so many people, on so many levels, including mine. Without it, I would have never known about physical therapy, much less find myself in the middle of physical therapy school with hopes of having my own clients one day, too!



Joy with Alan, former Dream Street camper and Great Expectations participant

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We're all at
camp together.
And it shows
when we stand
hand in hand
make our dreams
come true!



A DIVA'S DELIVERY

Hey Hey Camp Dream Street! **Sharpay** here! I just wanted to write a quick note to tell all of you how great a time I had at camp. Did I say "great"? I meant "**FABULOUS**"!!! Swimming, cooking, arts and crafts, horseback riding, sports...and did I mention singing and dancing?!?! I had such a fabulous time doing all of those wonderful activities with the Dream Street High gang. I have never worked with such a talented group of swimmers, chefs, artists, horseback riders, athletes, and, of course, performers. Not only did I have a fabulous time with all of you, but you also helped me to learn the importance of teamwork. I now realize that we were able to make the grades, shoot the hoops, and perform fabulously because we were all in it together! Thank you, Dream Street High, for teaching me about teamwork and showing me such a fantastic time.

Have a fabulous summer and see you next year!

-Sharpay-



Donna and Sharpay flash beautiful smiles at the FABULOUS Dream Street High prom

THE WORD FROM THE



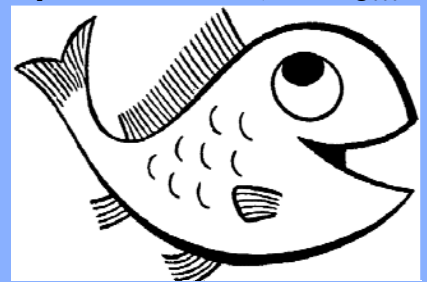
In addition to the recently completed session, the Dream Street Board of Advisors has been busy throughout the year! This past fall, we launched Project DREAMS, the goal of which is to increase camper applications by expanding awareness of Camp Dream Street among professionals who serve potential campers. Professionals who are in regular contact with potential campers—such as therapists, doctors, nurses, and social workers—are excellent sources of referrals to camp. For that reason, we are working to make sure they are aware of all of the great things we do at Camp Dream Street and how much fun their patients could have as campers! Our pilot city is New Orleans, and so far we have seen a great response to our program!

We're also working on updating our database of contact information so we can better stay in touch with you and other camp alumni and friends. Please be sure that we have all of your updated information (name, address, email, phone, and years at camp) by emailing us at news@dreamstreetms.org.

SALLY'S SOLILOQUY BY SALLY BRONSTON

Dream Street has undoubtedly touched the lives of the thousands of participants who have experienced its magic. But there's another group of people upon whom Dream Street leaves its magic: the members and alumni of NFTY-Southern who dedicate a week of their lives to camp as counselors. As a NFTY-So alum, I can personally testify to the fact that Dream Street touches the lives of NFTY-Southerners in more than just an emotional way—our experiences at Dream Street shape anything from our daily routines to major life decisions. Dream Street can change the way we treat people with disabilities and even the language we use in daily conversations. Dream Street can influence major choices in our lives; I've known many former counselors who plan to study medicine, physical therapy, or occupational therapy because of their experiences at camp. For me, this major life decision manifested itself in the form of my college essay. Upon reading the topic of an influential person in my life, my thoughts did not linger long before I decided to write about one of my Dream Street campers. To say she and I initially butted heads would be an understatement. But over our five days together, she did teach me patience and understanding—emotions I expressed in my essay. Writing about Dream Street was such an obvious decision for me because nothing makes me prouder than my involvement with this camp. Being involved with Dream Street is not only fun and rewarding—it's a privilege that all NFTY Southerners and alumni should cherish because, if you allow it to, it will change your life.

FISH COUNT 2009... 308!!!



Carolann and Sally are all smiles during Dream Street 2009



ALUMNI!!!

If you'd like to volunteer your time and energy to the Dream Street program, please contact the new Program Directors at: ellie@dreamstreetms.org or kyle@dreamstreetms.org.

JOKE OF THE DAY

Q: WHAT DO YOU CALL A CHICKEN WITH A BAD SUNBURN?

A: FRIED CHICKEN!

LETTER FROM THE EDITORS

Hello, Dream Street Family! We hope you enjoy the summer edition of *The Happiness Runner*!

We would like to send out a special thank you to everyone who contributed to the newsletter by writing articles. Remember, if you would like to submit articles, photos, stories, jokes, or memories, email us at news@dreamstreetms.org.

We really enjoyed our tenure as editors of Camp Dream Street's newsletter, but are thrilled to be taking over as Co-Program Directors! Please be on the lookout for an announcement of the new editor of *The Happiness Runner*!

Dreamily Yours,

Ellie Streiffer & Kyle Goldich
ellie@dreamstreetms.org
kyle@dreamstreetms.org



Dream Street is provided free of charge to all participants and is funded entirely through private donations. If you would like to support the program, please visit www.dreamstreetms.org/donate.php or send donations to the camp address (see bottom right corner of this page).

Camp Dream Street, MS qualifies as a tax exempt organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code and your contributions are tax deductible. Please consult with your tax advisor regarding your specific tax situation.

Camp Dream Street, MS is a five-day, four-night camping program for children between the ages of eight and fourteen with physical disabilities and/or related cognitive disabilities. The camp is held on the grounds of URJ Henry S. Jacobs Camp in Utica, MS and is sponsored by NFTY's Southern Region. Dream Street was founded in 1975 with the mission that all children—regardless of their abilities—must be offered the chance to have fun, to make new friends, to achieve, to be accepted for who and what they are, and to learn from the challenges of group life. Both the campers, who attend free of charge, and the staff, who attend on a volunteer basis, benefit from the life-changing experiences the camp has to offer. Dream Street is a place where children with physical disabilities are given the chance to be children – not “special” children, not children with disabilities, but just children.

WHAT'S NEW:

Matt Preis is creating a new promotional video to show future campers and donors what we all love about Camp Dream Street!

The **Website** is up and looking better than ever! Go to www.dreamstreetms.org to see pictures from camp this year!

CONGRATULATIONS!!

Congratulations to **Tiffany Goodman Bilbe** and **Judith Kaplan Keifer**. In honor of the many years and countless hours of dedication each have given to Dream Street, they were both honored this summer with plaques in the Dream Garden.

THANK YOU!

Thanks to all of the fantastic **Counselors, Upper Staff, and Professional Staff** who volunteered for Dream Street 2009. You helped make it a wonderful summer.

Special thanks to the members of the program staff for all of their hard work in planning camp this summer: **Jeremy Podolnick, Jonny Orlansky, Josh Berman, Jeff Dreifus, Mark Parchment, Kimberly Evans, Amelia Mann, and Shana Orlansky.**

Thanks to everyone who contributed to the **7th Annual Atlanta Fundraiser** in July. You helped raise over \$5,200!! Great work!

Camp Dream Street

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CAMP DREAM STREET, MS IS A PROJECT OF THE DREAM STREET FOUNDATION, NFTY-SOUTHERN, AND URJ HENRY S. JACOBS CAMP.