



# THE HAPPINESS RUNNER





## THE 2000's: A DECADE IN DETAIL


A LOOK BACK AT THE LAST 10 YEARS OF DREAM STREET'S LONG HISTORY, AND HOPES AND PLANS FOR THE FUTURE

### A Word (and some pictures) from the Directors...


Dear  Friends,


Brrrrr...it is  during the wintertime. But thinking about Camp



Dream Street helps give us warm thoughts about fun under the summer  !!!


Camp Dream Street 2010 is right around the corner, so you better get packing! Ok, maybe it's a little early for ,


but we hope you're starting to think about camp this coming summer! We certainly are!

We are so  to serve as the 2010 Co-Program Directors! Along with the Dream Street leadership, we are working hard to plan

camp for this summer. We can't wait to  in the pool, ride

 with Freddie, make beautiful projects in ,

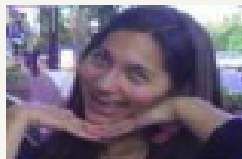
play  at athletics, and do all the other great camp activities. We hope all

this talk of Dream Street 2010 is making you feel ,

but please try to keep your eyeballs in your head.

Be sure to visit our website at [www.DreamStreetMS.org](http://www.DreamStreetMS.org) to learn more about Dream Street, see pictures from 2009, take a virtual tour of camp, donate to support our program, and more.

Dreamily yours,  
Ellie Streiffer and Kyle Goldich  
[Ellie@DreamStreetMS.org](mailto:Ellie@DreamStreetMS.org)  
[Kyle@DreamStreetMS.org](mailto:Kyle@DreamStreetMS.org)



### In this edition:

- Fun Dream Street Facts!
- "Where in the World"
- "Emily's Experience"
- Dream Street Dialogue
- Audry's Adventures
- 2009-2010 Staff



**2010 CAMP DATES**  
**JUNE 1-JUNE 5**

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**STAFF DATES**  
**MAY 30-JUNE 5**

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**APPLICATIONS:**  
**COUNSELOR DUE DATE**  
**MARCH 14**

**UPPER STAFF DUE DATE**  
**MARCH 31**

**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 [HTTP://WWW.DREAMSTREETMS.ORG /DONATE.PHP](http://www.dreamstreetms.org/donate.php) OR SEND DONATIONS TO THE CAMP ADDRESS (SEE P.6)**

# AUDRY'S ADVENTURES

## FINDING THE TRUE MEANING BEHIND THE "HAPPINESS RUNS" SONG

My last ten years at Camp Dream Street are some of my best memories: from meeting new people to forming friendships that will last a lifetime.

In the last ten years at Dream Street, I have done a lot of activities that I never thought I would get the chance to experience, such as climbing the tower and jumping off the diving board.

Over the last ten years, I have had some amazing counselors who were caring, fun, compassionate, outgoing, great listeners and easy to talk to. My time at Dream Street has been the happiest and most joyful of my life.

I am so grateful for Camp Dream Street, because it gives people with disabilities an opportunity to forget about whatever is bothering them, to let go, have fun, and be themselves.

Dream Street will always be a camp where happiness runs in a circular motion, where love is like a little boat upon the sea, a camp where EVERYBODY is a part of EVERYTHING anyway, a camp where you can be happy if you set yourself free. This is what the last decade of Dream Street experience has meant to me.



Audry, 16, is from Madison, Mississippi, and has spent 9 summers at Dream Street! She spent 7 years as a Dream Street camper and was a participant in the Great Expectations Program in 2008 and 2009. Audry will be graduating high school this May.



## IN A DECADE OF DREAM STREET...

**OVER 3,000 PIECES OF  
FRIED CHICKEN HAVE  
BEEN CONSUMED**

**OVER 60,000 HOURS  
OF CAMPER FUN HAVE  
BEEN EXPERIENCED**

**OVER 500  
PERFORMANCES OF  
"HAPPINESS RUNS" HAVE  
BEEN SHARED**

# EMILY'S EXPERIENCE

## DREAM STREET'S NEW HEAD NURSE EXPLAINS WHAT CAMP MEANS TO HER

My Dream Street career began back in high school ten years ago. I loved being a counselor and getting to know the campers. The truth is there still is nowhere I would rather be during the last week in May other than at Dream Street. So, after college and nursing school, I wanted to come back and use my nursing skills at camp. For the past three years, I have worked closely with the camp medical staff. This year, I am so excited to be the new head nurse!

In my "other life," I work as a pediatric nurse on the kidney and liver transplant floor at Children's Hospital in Birmingham, Alabama. All too often, I see families worry about what kids with disabilities cannot do, but at Dream Street, it is about what kids can do! One of my favorite things is to see a camper do something at Dream Street he or she did not think was possible.

Most importantly, we work hard to make sure that Dream Street is a fun and safe environment. Some of the most important "nursing" I will do all week is reminding the campers (and counselors) to wear sunscreen, to put on bug spray, to drink enough water, and to wash their hands.

What keeps bringing me back? The short answer is everything. Even after all of these years I still have trouble sleeping the night before Dream Street starts because I am so excited. This summer will be great, and I look forward to seeing you all soon!

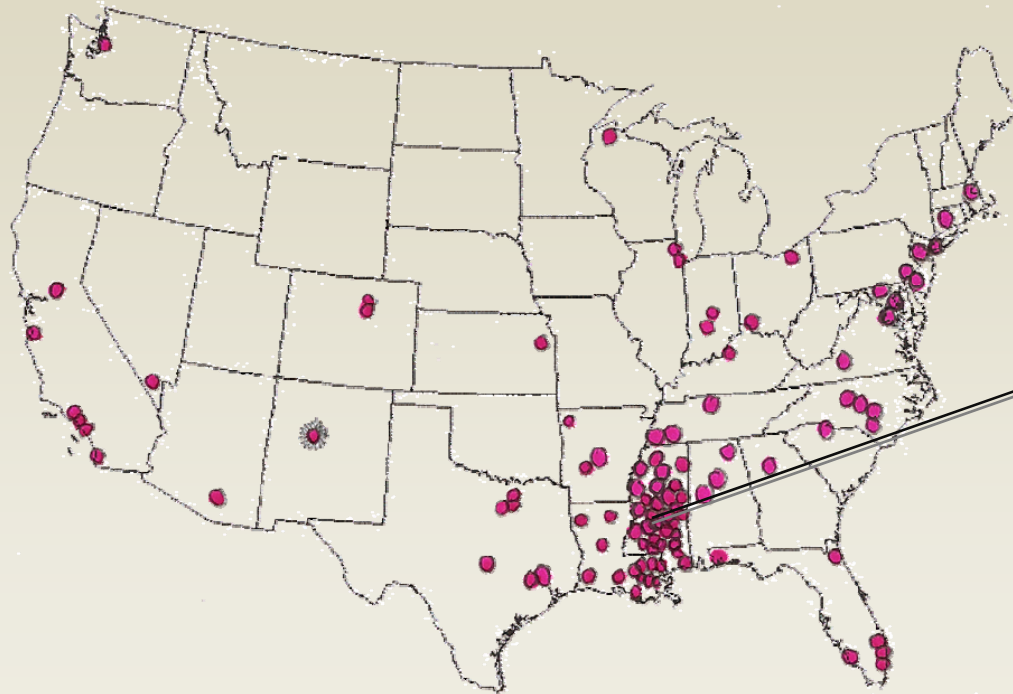
Emily Drell Friedman lives in Birmingham, Alabama, and this will be her 10<sup>th</sup> summer at Dream Street. She has been on the nursing staff for 3 years, and will be the new head nurse.

(From Left) Emily, Damian, and Jack pause for a picture during Song Session



Did your experience at Dream Street impact your career choice? Are you maybe a physical therapist or a doctor today because of your time volunteering at camp? We are investigating specific funding opportunities available based on the impact Dream Street has on volunteers. Please tell us about it by emailing us at [news@dreamstreetms.org](mailto:news@dreamstreetms.org).

# WHERE IN THE WORLD...IS THE DREAM STREET MAGIC?!



These locations on the map are representative of how much the Dream Street Magic has spread!



\*Note the star in New Mexico symbolizes where our friends from High School Musical last year live.

## Keep in Touch!

Help us update the Dream Street database and know "Where in the World is the Dream Street Magic?!" by sending us your current contact information.

Email us at:

[news@dreamstreetms.org](mailto:news@dreamstreetms.org)

## WHAT DOES THE MAGIC DO?

**Ben Zauzmer**, named 2010 Top Youth Volunteer in PA, has sold over 600 Mitzvah Music CDs. Over **\$8,000** in profit has been donated to Dream Street. Find the CD on our site under News@Camp Dream Street.

**Seth Kaplan**, a 25+ year member of the Dream Street professional staff, was featured in the February issue of the *LA PT Association Newsletter*, The Bayou Bulletin. Special thanks goes to Seth for everything he has done for Dream Street.

**135 donors** a year, on average, contribute to support the annual budget of Camp Dream Street. Volunteers have given over **144,000 hours** of their time in the last 10 years!

# DANA'S DREAM STREET DIALOGUE

After Dana had the opportunity to talk to campers, campers' parents, and counselors, she realized EVERYONE gets nervous before their first day of camp. Check it out!

## FIRST DAY OF CAMP MEMORIES

**James Siedel**  
4 Year camper

"I was definitely nervous about being away from my parents for that long. I was also worried if I could do all the things and if I could be involved. I got involved in everything! It's fun and I worried about nothing. You can always find friends. I would honestly say don't be too worried. If you are concerned you are going to be homesick, you are probably going to forget about it pretty quick."



(From Left to Right)  
Top: James Siedel  
and Dakota

**Brad Ringel**  
3 year counselor

"I was nervous if I would have the energy to maintain constant care and enthusiasm. I was nervous if my camper was going to like me or not. It turned out great. It was a blast! It was hard, exciting, and rewarding. It turned out that the energy was no problem at all."



Left: Austin and Brad  
Ringel

**Ashley Spence**  
Mother of Reagan Spence (1<sup>st</sup> year  
camper)

"I was nervous about letting go and letting someone be responsible for her medical care. I just let go. When I first got there I knew it was going to be a great experience for her. At the end, I got the joy of seeing her so happy and being able to say that she can go out and do things alone without her mom. It was a big step for her."



Below: Reagan  
Spence and Cassidy

**Facility updates are always making Dream Street an even more enjoyable experience! On top of the recent camper cabin bathroom improvements of accessible showers, sinks, and toilets, in 2010 we will have use of a pool house with accessible bathrooms and changing rooms!**

# EDITORS' EXTRAS

Hey Y'all! Happy 2010! One way we are celebrating this new decade and the 3rd edition of *The Happiness Runner* is by expanding the readership. We want to do this to help keep even more people connected and spread the camp magic throughout the year. So, campers, parents, staff, alumni, and those interested in simply learning more, we hope you enjoyed this issue. At the very least, we hope it brought a smile to your face and maybe even put an extra dose of happiness in your day.

As for your new editors, Dana Burshell has volunteered with Dream Street for over 13 years is always looking for ways to stay involved, even when she is not physically able to attend camp. Ian Rathmell, a junior at Louisiana State University, has experienced 5 summers at Dream Street that he knows made him who he is today. We both could not pass up the opportunity to think, talk, and write about Dream Street throughout the year, bringing the magic into more of our daily lives.

We have been thrilled to have the opportunity to work with others who love Dream Street as much as we do. We look forward for the newsletter to continue to change and grow to represent your stories, experiences, and most of all, excitement. Since these are email newsletters, make sure we have your (as well as those who you know would like this newsletter) email address. Send us a note at [news@dreamstreetms.org](mailto:news@dreamstreetms.org) to make sure we have you on our list. And remember...Keep that happiness running!

Magically, Excitiliciously. and Dreamily Yours,

Dana Burshell & Ian Rathmell  
[news@dreamstreetms.org](mailto:news@dreamstreetms.org)



## CONGRATULATIONS!

We're pleased to announce the following individuals who have agreed to serve as part of the Dream Street Leadership for 2009-2010.

### Program Staff

#### Program Directors

Ellie Streiffer

Kyle Goldich

#### Orientation

Mike Kaiser

#### Daily Activities

Amelia Mann

#### Evening Programs

Josh Berman

Laura Lohnes

#### Great Expectations

Jeff Dreifus

Josh Podolnick

### Board of Advisors

#### Chair

Scott Levy

#### Vice-Chair

Amanda Abrams

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.

Camp Dream Street, MS is a project of The Dream Street Foundation, NFTY-Southern, and URJ Henry S. Jacobs Camp.

#### **Camp Dream Street**

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