

# Kaleidoscope

*changing . . . adapting . . . growing*



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*changing... adapting... growing*

Fall 2011

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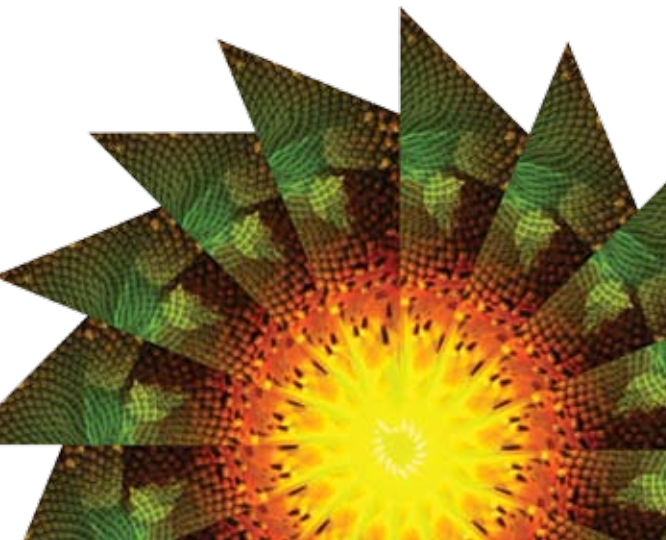
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#### Our Mission

The Spina Bifida Association of Western Pennsylvania is committed to improving the quality of life for people with Spina Bifida and their families by providing a continuum of support services, education and advocacy.





They are neighbors and friends. Families and individuals. People ready and willing to come together and make a difference. To make the places we call home, better places for all. At Highmark we salute this spirit of giving back and are proud that the ideals of community service, philanthropy and volunteerism are so deeply woven into the fabric of our company and our employees.





# SUMMER CAMP RECAP



## *What did you do this summer?*

“What did you do this summer?” is the age old back to school question asked by many teachers and students as children begin to fill bus stops, playgrounds, and school hallways. Thanks to the commitment and generosity of the SBAWP board and staff, individuals with spina bifida and related disabilities will be able to answer with a smile that they went to summer camp.

Greek Week 2011 was a summer of many new experiences. We had a new facility, a new staff, lots of new campers, a day camp for kids ages 2-5, and we had a blast! The weather was hot and at times oppressive but that did not stop all the great activities at camp. We did all our traditional camp activities like arts and crafts, sports, and nature but we also got to swim in an outdoor pool and fish in a stocked pond. We also had entertainment for our evening activities—we had a ventriloquist, the Pittsburgh Sparks, and a line dance instructor. We laughed until our sides hurt, danced until we couldn’t dance anymore, and sang our hearts out as we watched the fireflies light up the summer sky!

had the pleasure of welcoming 15 new summer staff this year. All of our staff were from various colleges around the area and each added an important piece to summer camp!

Our first camp began on July 1st with the adults. Each year the adults come from all over Western PA, Ohio, and West Virginia to gather together to see old friends and meet new friends. Both staff and campers had a blast participating in all the activities! Tie dying, painting, bocce, corn hole, water gun battles, swimming, Minute to Win-It, super sloppy double dare, disk golf, archery, nature walks, basketball, and fishing were just a few of the many activities enjoyed by everyone. Youth and Teen Camp began on July 9th and it also reunited many campers, but a few new kiddos were added to the mix! The youth and teens were able to once again go on the ever so popular annual trip to Kennywood Park. Everyone had a great time!

In addition to our yearly adult and youth/teen summer camps, SBAWP’s BluePrints program for children ages 2-5 and their parents also offered a “mini” day camp. The kids and parents

June 26th is the day it all began... staff training! We



had so much fun meeting other families in the area. BluePrints is a great program to connect kids and parents in the area with special needs children as well as those without! The kids had fun participating in sensory play, swimming, tie dying and much more! For more information about how you and your child can get involved in the BluePrints program please call 724-934-9600 or check out our website at [www.sbawp.org](http://www.sbawp.org).

As always our summer camp would not be possible without

*We laughed until our sides hurt, danced until we couldn't dance anymore, and sang our hearts out as we watched the fireflies light up the summer sky!*

all the wonderful help of volunteers, entertainers, and staff. We would like to give a big THANK-YOU to National Rehab, Cindy Speck, Pittsburgh Sparks Dance Team, LouAnn Scott, The Family Retreat Center, Kennyswood Park, Waldo Young, The SBAWP Board of Directors and Staff, and everyone else that made our 2011 Greek Week possible! We could not have done it without you!

We can't wait to see you all back in the fall for weekend retreats! ■



## { *In Our Community*



### **Adele Duffy, New SBAWP Director of Operations**

In June, Adele Duffy assumed the position of SBAWP Director of Operations, now the lead management position in the Association. Ms. Duffy has been Assistant to the Executive Director of SBAWP for the past three years, and in that position has been responsible for the day-to-day operations of the organization.

Ms. Duffy succeeds C.H. (Dick) Lynch, SBAWP Executive Director from 2008 to 2011, who retired at the end of March. Ms. Duffy has taken on increased responsibility and a leadership role in guiding the agency through the transitional period since Mr. Lynch's retirement.

Prior to joining SBAWP, Ms. Duffy worked for the North Pittsburgh Telephone Company for 31 years. She held the position of Marketing Research Manager at the time of her retirement in 2007. As Executive Administrator for the Moraine Park Summer Festival in July 2007, she was responsible for setting up and overseeing the management of a three-day festival that featured evangelist Steve Wingfield, the Oakridge Boys and Ricky Scaggs.

"It is a privilege to work with the Association's compassionate and dedicated staff and the program participants," said Ms. Duffy, "I hope to use my experience and knowledge from past employment, as well as my current experience at the Association, to grow the Association and improve the quality of life for people

with spina bifida and their families by providing a continuum of support services, education and advocacy."

Ms. Duffy holds a B.S. degree in Administration of Justice from the University of Pittsburgh, and a Paralegal Certification from the Community College of Allegheny County. ■



### **Elizabeth Powers**

Elizabeth "Libby" Powers worked as intern in the Development Department of SBAWP this summer, helping to plan the 2011 SBAWP Annual Summer Festival presented by Seubert & Associates, which was held Sunday, August 7, 2011 at Blueberry Hill Park in Franklin Park.

A junior communications major at La Roche College and a resident of the Fithian House, Libby was an enthusiastic and energetic member of the planning committee. She prepared on-line event submissions for newspapers and event calendars, distributed flyers about the event to the North Allegheny, North Hills, Seneca Valley and Pine Richland school districts and prepared and distributed a bulletin blurb for use by local churches. She also coordinated the effort seeking donations from local and regional companies for use as auction items and game prizes.

Libby is an excellent communicator, whether she is writing a letter, an e-mail, or making a telephone call. With her help, we received donations from 36 companies of auction items and prizes (with the auction raising \$1400) and saw a crowd of between 700 and 800 people attend the Festival. ■



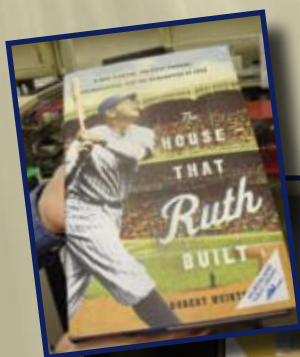
# VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT: ERIK GRUNST

Erik Grunst, a current resident at the Gatehouse, was recently honored by Northland Public Library for his volunteer service. Erik has been volunteering regularly at the library since 2007 where he has put in about 200 hours of service each year. In recognition of his efforts, Erik was given the opportunity to choose from a group of new books, and have a nameplate put inside the book in his honor. The book was then put into circulation at the library. The book that Erik chose is: "The House That Ruth Built", by Robert Weintraub. The book was published April 4, 2011. Erik chose this book because he is an avid sports fan. He especially likes the Pittsburgh Pirates, Steelers, and Penguins. In addition, Erik has participated in the annual volunteer recognition luncheons held by the library, where each volunteer receives a small gift, a volunteer pin and a letter from the President of the United States.

Erik is a familiar face to the library staff and is well-liked. Library staff will stop by his work area to say hello. Erik has found his niche in creating and/or updating all types of directories for the library. He recently finished updating a Daycare Directory, and his current project is typing the handwritten Board meeting minutes into a Word document. His

workspace has been moved around the library as needed. He currently has a workspace in the Computer Center.

The SBAWP and Northland Public Library have a long-standing relationship dating back to 1995 or 1996, when SBAWP participants first began volunteering there. Since the mid-90's, there have been several volunteers from SBAWP, but Erik is the only current SBAWP resident who volunteers. Keep up the good work Erik! ■



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# Youth Volunteers



## Gracie Crim

Gracie Crim is an 11-year-old going into the sixth grade in the Deer Lakes School District. Gracie, whose mom Rebecca is Manager of Youth Services for SBAWP, decided that she would like to participate in the Highmark Walk on behalf of SBAWP this past May. She created a page seeking sponsorships and raised more than \$300 for SBAWP!

Gracie wasn't done helping SBAWP. In August, she asked if she could

volunteer at our Summer Festival. She worked all day, helping to sell raffle tickets, and sell hot dogs.

From Gracie's Highmark Walk Page:

One of the things that [my mom] has taught me is that people with disabilities are capable of doing everything everyone else does, they may

just do it differently.... Kids with spina bifida are just kids like me. Won't you please consider walking with me or sponsoring me? Your donation will help to let kids be kids!

By the way, I chose this picture because it took me a long time to learn to do a back handspring but I never gave up. Kids with disabilities can do things too and they never give up.

***"...people with disabilities are capable of doing everything everyone else does, they may just do it differently.... Kids with spina bifida are just kids like me."***

## Freddy Caye

Freddy is a 15-year-old entering his sophomore year in the North Allegheny School District. An avid skateboarder, Freddy became involved with planning SBAWP's Annual Summer Festival as a school project because of his father, Doug, who is a member of Midlife Crisis-the headliner band for the SBAWP Annual Festival

Freddy did a fantastic job in helping us to promote the Summer Festival. He created a promotional video for the event and a Facebook Page. Going out with his father and with Brian Long, President of Seubert and Associates (presenting sponsor of the Festival), Freddy visited local businesses and used his video to solicit corporate sponsorships and donations to support the Festival. After one afternoon out visiting local businesses, Freddy brought back \$2500 in sponsorships to SBAWP.

Thanks to both these young people for helping SBAWP help individuals with disabilities to lead happy, healthy, productive and independent lives! ■





# BUILD AMERICA

## Pi Kappa Phi Fraternity Volunteers



Build America, a nonprofit organization and part of the Pi Kappa Phi Fraternity, exclusively serves people with disabilities while instilling principles of lifelong service in their fraternity members. Fraternity members travel around the country as construction teams. They help to raise money and awareness for people with disabilities. With members from around the country – California to Georgia-, a 16-man team spent time in Pittsburgh volun-

teering time with a few local agencies. SBAWP was fortunate to have the Build America volunteers spend time with the Spina Bifida Association volunteering and making a difference.

These young men, after a hard day at work helping to construct and improve the nature trail between The Gatehouse and adjoining property, spent several evenings with the residents. They wanted to do some interactive activities with SBAWP program participants.

The evening of Monday August 1st, the volunteers came to the Fithian House to have a pizza party and enjoy outdoor games with the residents. During the day of August 4th, the young men worked on pulling weeds and mowing grass and “prettying-up” the property at the Fithian House. Then, during the evening, these men spent time encouraging the residents of the Fithian

House and Gatehouse to exercise by assisting the residents with circuit training exercises.

The young men participated in a tailgate party with the SBAWP program participants on August 3rd at the Pirate Baseball game at PNC Park. A good time was had by all!

Lastly, these young men spent the entire day on August 8th at the SBAWP Annual Summer Festival. They helped with set-up and tear-down and everything in between. They helped with the heavy items – tables and ramps - and then assisted with the children’s activities such as face painting and sand art. They were amazing to watch. It was apparent that they enjoy serving and interacting with individuals with disabilities.

These fine young men are great representatives of the service purpose of the Pi Kappa Phi Fraternity. SBAWP and its program participants were blessed to meet and work with this very special group of volunteers. ■

### Hollister Continence Care



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For more information about Hollister Bladder Management products, visit [www.hollister.com](http://www.hollister.com).

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# LIONS, TIGERS, AND BEARS.... OH MY!

On Tuesday August 9, 2011, many of our clients traveled to the Pittsburgh Zoo and PPG Aquarium. This year the turnout was thirteen participants and three staff members. Kathleen Jadlowiec and Matt Jadlowiec volunteered their time assisting our clients to push up the hills and assuring that everyone got lunch. Most of the participants purchased their lunches, but a few packed theirs.

We saw some great sights as we were going through the zoo. We saw polar bears swimming above our heads, sharks, tigers and cubs, painted dogs and pups, and many more animals. One of the participants had the privilege of touching a Red Tail Boa

*One of the participants had the privilege of touching a Red Tail Boa Constrictor; she loved every moment of it!*

Constrictor; she loved every moment of it! Another participant's highlight of the trip was seeing the snake up close and personal. The zoo trip was closed by a trip to the gift shop where some participants picked up souvenirs to remember the great day they had by all.

This is a trip we try to make every year due to the zoo's popularity. Everyone, participants and staff included, looks forward to this trip! This year, Carrie Jadlowiec made the contacts necessary to ensure that a zoo trip could happen. This was her first attempt at coordinating a big event with the participants. It was a huge success! Thank you to the Pittsburgh Zoo for donating the tickets for our visit. Many thanks to the staff and volunteers who made this day possible! ■





## **Thanks for Taking a Walk with Us!**

### **2011 Highmark Walk for a Healthy Community**

On May 21st, 125 people walked on behalf of SBAWP in the Highmark Walk for a Healthy Community, raising more than \$8000 to benefit SBAWP programs! The weather was perfect for a walk through the streets of the North Side and downtown Pittsburgh. More than 5000 people walked for 67 non-profit organizations in the Pittsburgh area in the Walk, raising a total of more than \$440,000. In 2012, Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield will be celebrating the 10th Anniversary of the Walk. Mark the date now for the 2012 Highmark Walk for a Healthy Community. The tentative date for the walk is May 19, 2012 and they plan to have more than 80 organizations participating.





# SUMMER FESTIVAL SUCCESS!

## SPONSORED BY SEUBERT & ASSOCIATES

The sun shone brightly on SBAWP and Blueberry Hill Park in Franklin Park during the Third Annual Summer Festival presented by Seubert and Associates on Sunday, August 7, 2011. Between 700 and 800 people attended the event, SBAWP's largest annual fundraiser, and a great day of fun in the Park.

There was something for everyone at the Festival. The kids enjoyed a Bounce House and inflatable slides provided by ELF Entertainment, and Spinning the Wheel for prizes. Kids got "artsy" with face painting, sand art, spin art, and candy art. Everyone enjoyed hanging out with the Pirate Parrot.

People of all ages enjoyed playing and competing in horseshoes, archery, remote car demonstrations and races, golf chipping, and trying their hand at a corn hole toss. The crowd was thrilled with a remote helicopter demo. Bingo provided some indoor recreation and prizes for some of the bigger "kids" in attendance. Festival goers could win a number of auction baskets and prizes, including merchandise from the Steelers, the Penguins and the Pirates,

day spa packages, Steeler tickets and much more!

Richard L. (Dick) Smith, Chairman of the SBAWP Board of Directors presented the Chairman's Award to Brian Long, President of Seubert & Associates, presenting Sponsor of the Summer Festival for the past three years.

A classic rock and jazz concert finished off the festivities. Natalie Vogel and the Humans kicked off the evening with their classic rock tunes. Southern Comfort entertained us with smooth sounds of cool jazz.

Midlife Crisis finished off the night with an energetic set of classic

rock standards.

We are especially appreciative of the Summer Festival Committee, our Corporate Sponsors and donors, Auction and Prize Donors, the Fund Development Committee, SBAWP Board and Staff, and all our tireless volunteers, including Pi Kappa Phi and Kohl's Cares, who all contributed so much to make this event such a success, all for the benefit of SBAWP programs. ■



## CHAIRMAN'S AWARD



### **Brian Long Receives Chairman's Award from the Spina Bifida Association of Western PA**

On August 7, 2011, Richard L. (Dick) Smith, Chairman of the Board of the Spina Bifida Association of Western Pennsylvania (SBAWP), presented Brian Long with its Chairman's Award at its Third Annual Summer Festival in Blueberry Hill Park in Franklin Park.

This honor was given to Long in recognition of his tireless efforts to benefit the Association and his ongoing support of the Annual Summer Festival, the organization's largest annual fundraiser. Long is President of Seubert and Associates, which has acted as Presenting Sponsor of the Festival since the Summer Festival began in 2009.

Seubert and Associates is the largest regional insurance brokerage firm in Western Pennsylvania. Under Mr. Long's guidance, the firm placed second in the "Business Insurance's 2009 Best Place to Work in Insurance" survey, earning recognition in areas of leadership, communications, role satisfaction, work environment, relationship with supervisors, employee engagement and training and development.

Seubert and Associates also earned the nationally awarded 2009 Small Business Commerce Association Community Best of Business Award in the insurance category. The award recognizes the top 5% of small businesses throughout the county based on statistical research and consumer feedback.

Mr. Long was interviewed by Independent Agent magazine in July 2009 in an article titled "Fountain of Youth" where Brian discussed Seubert's Genesis program, a perpetuation program that allows the agency to continue to recreate itself. He also discussed the strength of and his passion for "cross selling."

# 2012 Entertainment Books



**You can save on purchases and raise money to support the programs of the Spina Bifida Association of Western PA (SBAWP) by buying your 2011 Entertainment Book from SBAWP this year. The books are available now at a cost of \$30.00 each.**

New this year is an “On the Go” feature which includes a key tag and a mobile app so you don’t need to remember your coupon book!!

The Entertainment Book is filled with money saving coupons for restaurants, movies, travel, theaters and much more. Two or three coupons will pay for the price of the book, which is good from the time you purchase it through November 2012, more than a year’s worth of savings. SBAWP will earn between 40% and 50% of the cost of the book, all of which will support the programs of the Spina Bifida Association.

## **How you can help:**

**Buy Entertainment Book(s) for yourself or as gifts.**

**Share this information with your friends and family through an e-mail or phone call.**

**Family or friends who live in other parts of the country can also help. They can purchase an Entertainment Book serving their area online.**

## **How to order:**

**Call Diana at 724-934-9600**

**Log on to:**

**<http://www.entertainment.com/discount?groupID=744196> to place an order online so that SBAWP receives credit for the books ordered.**



# Calendar of Events

## September, 2011

- 9-11 | **FireFly Weekend Retreat** – Adults/Family Retreat Center
- 14, 21, 28 | **BluePrints Program**
  - at Bradford Woods Community Church – 6:30-7:30 pm
- 20 | **Parent Support Group**
  - Fithian House Kitchen – 6:30-7:30 pm
- 30-10/2 | **FireFly Weekend Retreat** – Adults/Family Retreat Center

## October, 2011

- 5, 12, 19 & 26 | **BluePrints Program**
  - at Bradford Woods Community Church – 6:30-7:30 pm
- 18 | **Parent Support Group**
  - National Rehab Office – Washington County - 6:30-7:30 pm
- 21-23 | **FireFly Weekend Retreat** - Youth & Teens/Family Retreat Center

## November, 2011

- 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30 | **BluePrints Program**
  - at Bradford Woods Community Church – 6:30-7:30 pm
- 15 | **Parent Support Group** - Site TBD - 6:30-7:30 pm
- 18-20 | **FireFly Weekend Retreat** – Adults/Family Retreat Center

## December, 2011

- 2-12 | **FireFly Weekend Retreat** – Adults/Family Retreat Center
- 20 | **Parent Support Group** - Site TBD - 6:30-7:30 pm



## 2012 Entertainment Books

*You can save on purchases and raise money to support the programs of the Spina Bifida Association of Western PA (SBAWP) by buying your 2011 Entertainment Book from SBAWP this year!*

*See page 14 for details.*



### FireFly Weekend Retreats

#### September, 2011

9-11 FireFly Weekend Retreat  
Adults/Family Retreat Center

30-10/2 FireFly Weekend Retreat  
Adults/Family Retreat Center

#### October, 2011

21-23 FireFly Weekend Retreat  
Youth&Teens/Family Retreat Center

#### November, 2011

18-20 FireFly Weekend Retreat  
Adults/Family Retreat Center

#### December, 2011

2-12 FireFly Weekend Retreat  
Adults/Family Retreat Center

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