

Kaleidoscope

changing . . . adapting . . . growing



Next Top Camper
page 4

**2014
6th Annual
Summer Fest**

page 8

**New Picnic Tables
for Fithian House**
page 12

Kaleidoscope

changing... adapting... growing

Fall 2014

Contents

3 In Our Community
SBAWP Participants Give Back
Were You On Top This Summer?

6 Special Events
Support Group
Back To School
6th Annual Summerfest Takes Flight
Annual Tony Yakemowicz Golf Outing
Upcoming Fundraiser Events

12 Program Updates
New Picnic Tables for Fithian House
Chairmans Award
Volunteers
Calendar of Events



Executive Committee

Chairperson | Richard Smith

President | Joseph F. McCormick

Vice President | Jeffrey B. Balicki, Esq.

Vice President | Stephanie L. Schneck-Jacob, M.D.

Treasurer | Karen Rath

Secretary | John Liebenguth

Board of Directors

Joseph H. Bucci Esq.

Susan Lancel Sandstrom

Melanie Dragovits

Robert Davies

Christine Shambach

Steven Shivak

Rachel Zalewski

Emeritus Board of Directors

Peter Kochis



Spina Bifida

Spina Bifida Association of
Western Pennsylvania

1158 Dutilh Road

Mars, PA 16046

Phone: 1-800-243-5787

Fax: 724-934-9610

www.sbawp.org

info@sbawp.org

Donations may be made on line at:
www.sbawp.org or by check made payable to
"Spina Bifida Association of Western PA"
and mailed to:

Spina Bifida Association of Western PA,
1158 Dutilh Road, Mars, PA 16046-9448

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.

SBAWP Participants Give Back



On September 4, 2014, 3 staff and 4 residents of the Fithian House volunteered at the Jubilee Soup Kitchen, in the Hill District. The Jubilee Soup Kitchen started as a place where persons in need could receive a hot meal every day between 8 am and 2 pm. The services currently available on-site include a soup kitchen, a medical clinic, John Heinz Child Development Center, Job Corner/Employment Center, clothing, and referral services.

The Fithian House residents and SBAWP staff helped to prepare the lunch meal to be served. The residents cut fresh fruit and vegetables that had been generously donated to make a tossed salad and a fruit salad to be served at 11 am for lunch. After they had finished preparing the

lunch, the residents had the opportunity to join the homeless in reading a verse from the bible and join in prayer for the meal that was prepared and about to be received.

In addition to preparing the meal, the residents passed out silverware and a snack, and assisted in serving the meal. The residents then had time to socialize with the luncheon attendees. Theresa Chutz, Fithian House resident, had the opportunity to socialize with several attendees who did not have a place to go after the meal was over. Upon returning to the Fithian House, Theresa said, "It was a new and eye-opening experience, an opportunity to give back to the less fortunate and be grateful for the things I have." The residents and staff plan to participate in a volunteer experience each month in order to continue to give back to the community they live in.



FORT PITT CAPITAL GROUP

YOUR FUTURE IS OUR FOCUS

Proud Supporter

Of

Spina Bifida Association of Western PA

INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT

FINANCIAL PLANNING

RETIREMENT PLANS

Read Our Blog
www.FortPittCapital.com

(412) 921-1822
FPCG@fortpittcapital.com

Follow us on Twitter
[@FortPittCapital](https://twitter.com/FortPittCapital)



Were You on Top This Summer?

We had a blast exploring everyone's abilities during camp. With the theme Next Top Camper, campers participated in a variety of competitions throughout the week. Some excelled at sports while others topped the charts in singing or rapping.

We welcomed back Josh and Gab and their "Anti-Bullying" presentation. We met a new friend, Romebo, that helped us create art projects. Romebo engages and leads art lessons through Fine Art Miracles Inc.

During adult week, we spent time learning fantastic recipes and outdoors playing sports. One of the highlights was the camper lead baseball game. There were home runs, strike outs, laughs, and cheers.

FireFly Camp is always the place to be. We look forward to seeing everyone at the fall and spring retreats.

Don't forget, we're currently selling raffle tickets (\$1 each) for a chance to win \$500 in gas gift card(s).





Support Group

Don't forget!! Once a month, the Spina Bifida Association of Western Pennsylvania hosts a support group for individuals and parents of individuals with spina bifida and related disabilities. SBASP teams up with National Rehab to find topics and speakers for our families. Each month is different: health and wellness, art therapy, bowel management routines, wound care and wound prevention, etc.

During support group, we offer childcare to our families who may not be able to attend otherwise. This is a great opportunity for our BluePrints program participants to play together. We love to play outside, blow bubbles, and run around with friends- old and new!

If you are interested in attending our support group, or know someone who would like to present at one of our upcoming sessions, please email Kelly at kmayer@sbawp.org!

To keep updated on when the next support group is, "Like" the Spina Bifida Support Group for Caregivers Pittsburgh and Western PA area's Facebook page!

Back to School!

Do you need help with your child's education? Does the phrase Individualized Education Plan or "IEP" sound familiar? We can help!

Family School Partnership emphasizes collaboration between families and schools in order to successfully educate each child (preschool through graduation). The primary focus is to equip parents with the information they need in order to advocate for the diverse needs of their child by increasing families' abilities to work as equal partners with school personnel.

These are some ways we can help.

- In service training to school personnel
- Support and guidance related to adult services (with a focus on transition planning) including employment, vocational assessment, post high school training, community integration, and community resources.
- Family Consultations
- Pre-school Planning
- Individual Plan Recommendations
- (IEPs & ITPs)
- Family Workshops
- Student Observations
- Resource Fairs
- Transition to Adulthood Planning

Contact Tricia Reesman at 724-934-9600 or reesman@sbawp.org for more information.

Cool Blue Holiday Extravaganza

Saturday, November 1, 2014
Springdale Veterans Association
10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Come join us for a day of fun!
Start your holiday shopping early
30 vendors/crafters/artists



- Bake Sale/Refreshments/50-50 Raffle/Auction Basket
- Special Appearance by Mr. and Mrs. Santa (take your own photos—donations welcome)
- Proceeds will benefit our charities:
- Animal Protectors Spina Bifida SEAPC (Southeast Asia Prayer Center)

*Sponsored by the Bell Bottom Blues chapter of the
Blue Thong Society www.bluethongsociety.com*



Seubert & Associates, Inc.
is proud to support
Spina Bifida Association of Western PA



Seubert. We make insurance work for you.
1010 Ohio River Boulevard | Pittsburgh, PA 15202 | (412) 734-4900
www.seubert.com



6th Annual Summer Festival-Takes Flight

This year's Summer Festival presented by Seubert and Associates was a huge success, with over 600 people in attendance and raising over \$40,000 to support the SBAWP.

This year's event hosted something for everybody with live music throughout the day generously provided by the Theradancers, Center of Life Krunk and Jazz, Wexford's School of Rock House Band, Southern Comfort, Kid Icarus, and Midlife Crisis.



The kids and even some big kids had fun racing in the hamster balls, flipping on the Eurobungy, or checking out the LifeFlight helicopter, while others played the variety of games provided, visited with vendors, and tried their luck at winning one of the Chinese auction baskets.

We had great weather, a great crowd, and something for everyone. We are looking forward to next year's event being even bigger, so mark your calendars for August 15, 2015! ■



Thank You

Thank you to our sponsors for this year's event-we could not have done it without them.

Seubert and Associates, Presenting Sponsor
PGT Trucking, Inc
Nathan Contracting
Leisure Lawn Service Company
Altar TV.com
Federated Investors Foundation, Inc.
Fort Pitt Capital Group

American Back Center
Blackburn's
Cipriani & Werner
Coloplast
Creative Force Video Productions, Inc.
eKidz Care
Fifth Third Bank
Finn Chiropractic
First Choice Mortgage Services

HarKel
John Edelman
Kozik Bros, Inc.
National Rehab/
McKesson Patient Care
NexTier Bank
Numotion
Pioneer Investments
Quest Energy Solutions
Saul Ewing, LLP
Scott Advertising Specialist
SMC Business Councils
Stick with It Fitness
Tudi Mechanical
Turo Family Chiropractic
Vector Security
Yetsick Family



Annual Tony Yakemowicz Golf Outing Goes to New Heights!

Once again, the Boilermakers Local 154, the Steamfitters Local 449 and the Ironworkers Local 3 hosted the Tony Yakemowicz Annual Golf Tournament for the Spina Bifida Association of Western Pennsylvania. The event was held July 21, 2014 at the Hickory Heights Golf Club in Bridgeville, Pennsylvania where 30 foursomes enjoyed a delicious brunch, mid-afternoon sandwiches and a great steak dinner.



Dan Quinn, retired Financial Secretary-Treasurer/Business Agent for the Boilermakers, has continued, in the role of Honorary Chairman, to lead the preparation for this very successful tournament for 26 years! This year's outing had over 80 sponsors and donors! Golfer's had a chance to win \$1 million on a hole-in-one, new cars on holes-in-one, a set of golf clubs and numerous other prizes. Awards were given for other skill items. Attendees included past and present local sports figures. Dan McCoy, past SBAWP program participant

and member of the United States Men's Sled Hockey Team who took the gold medal at the 2014 Paralympic Games, enjoyed the afternoon golfing with friends.

Coverage for this event was filmed from above by a drone courtesy of L.A.B Therapy Media Solutions. (See for yourself on the SBAWP.org website.) And, Sammar Accessories provided silent auction items with something for everyone including sports memorabilia, jewelry and experience packages.

During the 26 years that the Unions have been golfing together, they have helped to send hundreds of children and teens with spina bifida and other related disabilities to summer camp. Together they have worked to enable the attending campers a summer experience like no other! The theme for the 2014 Summer Program was "Next Top Camper". At camp, youth receive the support and encouragement that enables them to embrace success by participating in the many activities and challenges in daily life.

SBAWP gives a special "Thank You!" to Dan Quinn and all the sponsors and dedicated individuals who have supported this event for the past 26 years! ■



Stream
Energy.

It's in your
power
to help

SIGN UP ►

POWER
UP!



Support SBAWP just by paying your energy bill each month by enrolling in Stream Energy's unique Power Up! Program, which pays us monthly commissions if you enroll for your electricity or natural services through SBAWP. Just go to: <http://spinabifida.streampowerup.biz> for more information or to enroll.

Upcoming Fundraiser Events

girlfriends
for good



Purse Bash

Saturday, November 8th, Noon - 3:00

Doors open at Noon for Heavy Hors d'oeuvres and Vendor Shopping. Drawings begin at 1:00
Wine and Nonalcoholic beverages provided

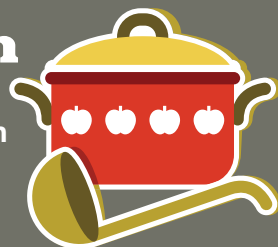
Soup & Salad Brunch

Sunday, November 16th, Noon- 3:00pm

Cranberry Community United Presbyterian Church

Soups, salads, bread, desserts & beverages.

Gluten free soups will be available



AFTERNOON JAMFEST

Saturday, March 7th, 1:00-5:00pm

Jergels's Rhythm Grille (Warrendale)

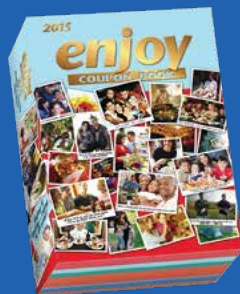
Entertainment by Government Cheese,
50/50 & Basket auction

For questions or sponsorships contact Rebecca
@ 724-934-9600 or rcrim@sbawp.org

2014-2015 Enjoy Book

Save on purchases and raise money to support the programs of the Spina Bifida Association of Western PA (SBAWP) by buying your 2014-2015 Enjoy book from SBAWP this year.

Enjoy Books can be purchased for \$30. Call Diana at 724-934-9600 to place an order today!



New Picnic Tables for Fithian House Residents, Friends and Families



In November 2013, Isaac Harvey, a Sewickley resident and a student at North Allegheny High School, contacted SBAWP about wanting to do an Eagle Scout Project for the benefit of SBAWP. Isaac is a Boy Scout from troop 344 in Wexford Pennsylvania. He has been in the cub scouts and boy scouts for nine years. He was currently working on his Eagle Scout Service Project.

An Eagle Scout Service Project is the opportunity for a Boy Scout, Varsity Scout or qualified Venturer in the Boy Scouts of America to demonstrate leadership of others while performing a project for the benefit of his community. This is the culmination of the Eagle Scout candidate's leadership training, and it requires a significant effort on his part. Achieving the rank of Eagle has to be done no later than three months after the occasion of an Eagle Scout's eighteenth birthday.

Isaac toured the Fithian House, a facility that houses 14 individuals who have spina bifida and live independently in Wexford. The residents' ages range from 26 to 41. Isaac shared his interests, skill set and asked about the SBAWP needs at the Fithian. Several potential

projects were discussed, but the one that resonated with Isaac was the need for wheelchair accessible picnic tables so that the residents could enjoy their cookouts on the patio off the lower level of the building. The residents did not have outdoor furniture that was practical for use with motorized or manual wheelchairs.

The project took about five months to plan. Isaac made several visits to the Fithian House to verify the required height and design of the tables to make them truly wheelchair accessible. Isaac made drawings and submitted the details of the project to his Scout Leader, troop committee and the council prior to starting the project. Isaac's goals in making the wheelchair accessible picnic tables were: (1) to be able to accommodate each individual's need for space, (2) create more space for more wheelchairs and (3) give residents a greater opportunity to have picnics, spend time with friends and family and hold community events outdoors.

Additionally, Isaac was successful in seeking financial support and material donations to construct the tables. On July 12th, Isaac, along with 12 other people (family and friends) arrived at the Fithian House with power tools and lots of lumber. They worked all day, and to our





surprise and pleasure, the finished product was not just one wheelchair accessible picnic table, but rather four high quality wheelchair accessible picnic tables. What a blessing for SBAWP and the Fithian House residents!

What Scouting Means to Isaac:

"Scouting has played a huge role in how I go about everyday life. I believe the biggest part of scouting were the leadership roles. In scouting as I have got older I believe being the leader has been the best way to go about, and it's not because I would have more power or seniority over someone, but because it puts me in a position where I have a great opportunity to help others and hopefully impact them in a positive way. It puts a whole different perspective on things. To me, being a leader is about who has more class and will be responsible and do the right thing in any situation, and even when the situation may get tough. A leader isn't the person who gets the most laughs for a

joke they told or the person who has the most friends. A leader to me is an individual who puts others before themselves, and looks for resolutions to problems that may have occur. They are charismatic, patient, attentive, respectful, committed, honest, and creative in the way they go about tasks. I believe they are not afraid to accept their mistakes, but will learn from their mistakes, and work to improve and become a better person overall, thereby motivating others to do the same."

What the Project Meant to Isaac

Personally: "This past summer I was given a great opportunity to give back to others. With the support from family, fellow scouts, and Adele Duffy, Executive Director, and her team from the Spina Bifida Association, it would not have been possible to complete this project. During the project, there was a sense of accomplishment and satisfaction seeing the project that took months to prepare for, come to life. On September 9, 2014, the Fithian House hosted a picnic, which was held outside at the new wheelchair accessible tables. It meant a lot to me seeing the residents and their families all being able to spend time with each other at tables where everyone fit. At the picnic especially, I enjoyed being able to talk to the residents and learn about their unique needs and abilities. At the end of the day it's great to know that my project made a difference and hopefully improved people's lives."

What the Project Meant to SBAWP and the Fithian House Residents:

"SBAWP benefitted greatly from Isaac's leadership ability, skill set, knowledge and willingness to give back to the community. The SBAWP staff, program participants and Fithian House residents enjoyed working and meeting with him during the course of the project and at the picnic celebration on September 9th. The wheelchair accessible picnic tables will be enjoyed for years to come, and we will always remember our new friend, Isaac Harvey and his gift to SBAWP. ■



CHAIRMAN'S AWARD PRESENTED TO

JEFFREY KELLEY

SBAWP has been annually presenting its Chairman's Award to an individual, or group who has demonstrated extraordinary generosity to the improvement of the quality of life for individuals with disabilities since 1996.

On August 16, 2014, Richard L. (Dick) Smith, Chairman of the Board of the SBAWP, presented Jeffrey (Jeff) Kelley with the Chairman's Award at the SBAWP's 6th Annual Summer Festival. Jeff received the award for ... giving his time, talents and treasures in friendship and support of the Association.

Jeff has been volunteering at SBAWP since the first SBAWP Summer Festival in 2009. Jeff and a friend volunteered to man the Archery Activity at the event. They setup a few bales of straw with targets in the field and showed interested attendees how to shoot a bow and arrow. For many, it was a first time experience. Jeff has a passion for hunting and sharing his interest with others, and he has continued to be responsible for the Archery Activity for the past 5 years.



Jeff is employed by Ameriprise Financial Services, Inc. where he has a financial advisory practice, Kelley & Associates with his son Micah. Jeff was responsible for hosting several estate planning workshops for families, caregivers and people with special needs. Jeff volunteered his hunting expertise with the raffles at the 2013 and 2014 annual Tony Yakemowicz Spina Bifida Golf Tournaments. Additionally, Jeff was instrumental in helping SBAWP partner with the Men In Christ Ministry's annual Pittsburgh Smoker Fundraiser Event in 2012 and 2013.

When he is not wearing a suit and tie or hunting attire, Jeff and his wife, Carol, have been seen in work clothes and gloves helping to weed and spread mulch at the SBAWP office. They both have a genuine heart to serve and give back to the community not just at SBAWP but at other nonprofits, as well. SBAWP is blessed to have the support and friendship of Jeff Kelley and his family.

Volunteers

Volunteers are not paid- not because they are worthless, but because they are priceless! No one understands that better than we do at SBAWP. The overall success of many events and activities the Association does are in large part due to the efforts of volunteers. We could not do it without them!



Sue Wood

From planning fundraisers to shoveling stone, we at SBAWP are fortunate to have some amazing volunteers. It was our pleasure to honor two of these amazing volunteers at our 6th Annual Summer Festival.

Sue Wood, a National Rehab/McKesson employee has spent countless hours planning fundraisers, recruiting volunteers, hosting support group, and car-



Gynni Gorman

ing for campers at summer camp. She is an invaluable resource to the SBAWP families and we are honored to call her our friend.

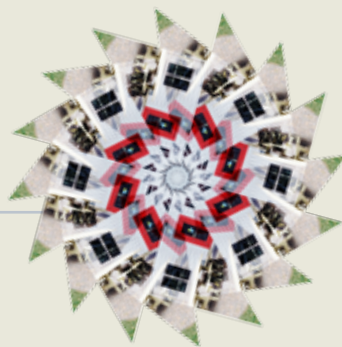
Gynni Gorman, a mother of a young adult who participates in programs has generously given of her time to plan and organize fundraisers like the pancake breakfasts and summer festival, gather donations, and sell candy bars and raffle tickets. We admire her spirit and commitment to not only her daughter but all of our program participants.

On behalf of all of us at SBAWP, THANK YOU to all those who have shared their time, energy, and talents with us this year, you have truly made a difference in the lives of many! ■

Calendar of Events

October, 2014

- 14 Support Group - Fithian House
- 17-19 FireFly Youth & Teen Retreat - Family Retreat Center
- 24-26 FireFly Adult Retreat - Family Retreat Center



November, 2014

- 1 Blue Thong Society Holiday Extravaganza – Springdale Veterans Association
- 8 Girlfriends for Good Purse Bash - Adam's Ridge Community Center
- 11 Support Group - Fithian House
- 14-16 FireFly Adult Retreat - Family Retreat Center
- 16 Soup/Salad Brunch - Cranberry Community United Presbyterian Church

December, 2014

- 5-7 FireFly Adult Retreat - Family Retreat Center
- 9 Support Group - Fithian House

Save the Date!

AFTERNOON JAMFEST

Saturday, March 7th, 1:00-5:00pm

Jergels's Rhythm Grille (Warrendale)

Entertainment by Government Cheese,

50/50 & Basket auction



girlfriends
for good

Purse Bash

Ladies come out for an afternoon of
fun, food and your favorite purses
such as...

Dooney & Bourke • Michael Kors
Coach • Vera Bradley

Saturday, November 8, 2014
noon-3pm

Adams Ridge Community Center

Only 200 tickets will be sold, \$40 each
Admission with Pre-Purchased Ticket Only
Doors open at Noon for
Heavy Hors d'oeuvres and
Vendor Shopping. Drawings begin at 1:00
Wine and Nonalcoholic beverages provided

Phone: 1-800-243-5787

Fax: 724-934-9610

www.sbawp.org • info@sbawp.org

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage

PAID

Pittsburgh, PA
Permit No. 2535



Spina Bifida Association
of Western Pennsylvania
1158 Dutilh Road
Mars, PA 16046