



Friends Project

Fall 2009 Newsletter

Friends Project Participants are Going to College

Friends started a new program at UNH called Wildcat Friends. Wildcat Friends allows participants the opportunity to experience college. On Wednesdays from 3:00-8:00, 14 participants from the Friends Project go to UNH to take a class geared towards their specific interests, a recreation activity and a dining hall experience. Students from the Department of Recreation Management and Policy, Therapeutic Recreation Option will be working with the students throughout the program. Collaboration with the UNH Thompson School of Applied Science Community Leadership Program allows students the opportunity to be involved in a community service project.



A partnership with Residential Life will provide fun recreation experiences with a variety of dorms. The overall goal of Wildcat Friends is for young adults with disabilities to experience college in a meaningful and stimulating way that will allow them to interact and make friends with college students, discover a lifelong love of learning and have an experience that is typical of their peers that they are proud of. Check out our blog at www.wildcatfriends.blogspot.com.

Eric Levenson Hikes for Friends

Eric Levenson, long time friend of Michael Clayburgh, hiked the Long Trail in Vermont while raising \$8,000 for the Friends Project. Eric left the comfort of his own home on July 3rd and hiked 275 miles across Vermont finishing on July 29th. "The Long Trail was an amazing experience that I know I won't forget for the rest of my life," said Eric after finishing. Thanks to Eric and everyone who sponsored him. The experience was a huge success.



PAL Basketball Great Summer Fun

Thank you to Detective Aaron Goodwin for another great summer of outdoor basketball playing against Portsmouth Police Officers. Everyone had a great time. Detective Goodwin did a wonderful job organizing and making sure PAL was fun for all.



Where's Kelsey?

Kelsey Splaine loves the Friends Project. She participates in more of our programs than anyone else. You can always find her with her friends playing basketball, dancing at Friday Night, hanging out with her friend Julian, or having a pool party.

Here's Kelsey with her friends playing basketball and with Ryan helping her hit the ball at the wiffle ball game.



Here's Kelsey having fun at bowling and enjoying friends Cara and Patsy at Cooking Class



Here's Kelsey enjoying her friends from Girls Group and at the York's Wild Kingdom with Rayna.



Take me out to the Ball Game

Friends Project participants had a great game of wiffle ball on a miniature Fenway field at the home of Barbara and Tom Archibald of Rye. Their nephew, Tyler Tierney, who volunteers for Friends, built the field. It was the second annual summer wiffle ball game and cookout. Everyone is already looking forward to next year. Can you find Kelsey?

Open House

Please join us for a casual evening of celebration, thanks and light refreshments on Thursday October 22nd from 5:30-7:30 at Community Campus in the New Heights Gym. Friends Project Participants will be showing off their basketball skills. Come watch a game and cheer them on.

Save the Date

Please save the date for our spring event on April 17, 2010 at the Regatta Banquet & Conference Center in Eliot, Maine.

Creating inclusive social and recreational opportunities for people with disabilities.

Portsmouth High School ● 50 Andrew Jarvis Drive ● Portsmouth, NH 03801
Phone: 603-436-7100 ext. 2919 ● Fax: 603-427-2320 ● www.friendsproject.org