Fernside Alum Aces 2007 Summertime Classic!

Chad VonLehman, 24, made a hole-in-one on the par 3, 184-yard, third hole at the Hyde Park Country Club to win a two-year lease on a Jaguar as well as other great prizes! Chad and his mother, Sally and his sister, Sarah attended Fernside support groups in 1995 after his father, Mel VonLehman, died. What made the day extra special was that Chad was playing with his father’s golf clubs. Chad’s foursome included his stepfather, Dr. Jim Anthony, his stepbrother, Jim, and his priest, Fr. Len Wenke who stated right before Chad made the shot “I see a Jag in your future.”

Chad’s winning drive capped off a highly successful Hospice Summertime Classic. The two-day event raised over $212,000 and all proceeds benefit Fernside. The event began with an evening of casual fun on Sunday June 3rd that included a Summertime Fair dinner, entertainment and auction. On Monday, golfers participated in morning and afternoon flights and enjoyed a “Grill out on the Green” Awards luncheon and a delicious pasta bar at the Awards dinner.

Thanks to committee chairs Jackie West, Sharon Streck and Fritz Turton. Thanks also to presenting sponsor, Wal-Mart and to the additional sponsors and donors who helped make this event a tremendous success.

Reaching Out Through Newest Collaboration

Recently Fernside partnered with the Children’s Home of Cincinnati by providing grief support to their students on site. The Children’s Home is a private, non-profit, social service agency, that supports children and families by providing services to “at risk” children and families – those with little or no resources or support systems.

Five children who had recently experienced the death of someone close to them participated in a series of support groups led by Mary McCutchen. “Fernside services have enriched our Partial-Hospitalization program at CHOC by giving our students a specific group setting in which to identify and share their feelings dealing with the grief and loss of a loved one,” said Carmella Blocher, staff member at the Children’s Home. Carmella also had this to say about the collaboration. “Fernside services have enriched our program. The group showed them creative and appropriate ways to express their grief. I feel this was a great collaboration, and hope this will continue for our future students.”

Fernside is committed to continuing to look for ways to bridge the gap in services for grieving families. Partnering with community agencies allows us to do just that.
Who raises children after a parent dies and the surviving parent isn’t able to care for them? Often it’s grandparents or aunts and uncles. Some of these extended family members who are living this reality participate in the adult support groups at Fernside. Here they have shared some of their challenges and rewards:

- Grandparents, who were planning to retire, now need to continue to work so they can provide for their grandchildren financially.
- Raising grandchildren in a world so different than the one in which they raised their children.
- Being older and not able to do the things that parents can do with their children, and struggling with health issues that often accompany aging.
- Raising children, who are grieving, often filled with anger and sadness.
- Blending the family, and finding a balance, to include the grieving children.
- Meeting the needs of all family members impacted by the death and the changes in the family structure.
- Seeing their loved one in the children; their gestures, facial features and expressions, their attitudes, hearing them in their voices and laughter.
- Knowing the pain will always be there for the loss of their loved one, but also knowing that giving of themselves to their new found family extension is life giving, and a way of healing while working through the grief each day, month and year.
- Knowing that happier times are coming as time moves ahead, creating opportunities for new traditions and memories. One family has a group hug every day that they call their "Love Pack."

All of the support group participants believe they have grown by coming to Fernside. It has been a great support system for them, providing them the ability to say things that no one would otherwise understand, and knowing that what they say in group is affirmed and understood.
Volunteer News

Growing Up ... Giving Back

Fernside’s volunteers are all awesome, each in his or her unique way. However, there is a special group among our volunteer ranks that is remarkable for one reason...these individuals went through our program as children after a significant death in their lives. Currently, this set of volunteers numbers twelve. We asked them to talk about their participation in our grief support groups and what led them to return as volunteers.

Their responses all included variations on the same themes. They found Fernside to be the only place where they met children like themselves; unlike other settings in which they all felt different and alone. It was only in the support groups that they were encouraged to tell their stories in their own way and at their own pace. Now as volunteers, they can return this gift.

Aimee LeMond, a volunteer facilitator for the past three years wrote, “As a teenager, I didn’t want to go to Fernside. What I found when I got there, however, was a place that made me feel normal when most every other hour of the day I felt so different from everyone else. I heard some facilitators’ talk about losing a parent 8, 10 years ago. Seeing them gave me hope that I too could make it through those early days and that I would be ‘okay’ again someday. That was one of the greatest gifts I got from anyone during that time in my life. It is my hope as a volunteer that I can give that gift to someone else and help kids feel normal during a chaotic time in their life.”

Thanking Our Flying Pig Runners. TEAM FERNSIDE!

Colin Canipe – Fun Run
Elijah Hicks – Fun Run
Christine Bennett – 5K
Jacob Bennett – 5K
Jillian Bennett – 5K
Jim Bennett – 5K
Carolyn Donovan – 5K
Liam Donovan – 5K
Tiffany Patterson – 5K
Matt Hanson – Half Marathon
Robb Mangold – Half Marathon
Paul Vonder Meulen – Half Marathon
Susan Wesley – Half Marathon
Margie Doran – Marathon
Dan Geraci – Marathon
Joan Fopma-Loy – Marathon (Walking)
Justine Howe – Marathon (Walking)
Jen Brann – Relay Division
Marty Brann – Relay Division

Jerry Conlon – Relay Division
David Dawson – Relay Division
Scott Hunter – Relay Division
Jami Pfirrmann – Relay Division
Denise Stearn – Relay Division
William Weber – Relay Division

Team Fernside collected pledges and raised over $3,600.00 for Fernside. Way to go!

Pictured L-R: Stacey Meyer, Aimee LeMond, Amanda Lucas, Jillian Bennett, Chris Pankau, Susan Schlueter, Megan Owens, and Roy Mastromauro Not pictured: Maurice Brown, Jack Byrnes, Sara Hodapp and Jessica Townley.

Above: L-R: Elijah Hicks and Colin Canipe
Left: L-R: Jen Brann, Marty Brann, Carolyn Donovan, Liam Donovan, Paul Vonder Meulen and Alex Donovan.
The Girl Scout Cookie Share project is an opportunity for troops to choose a charity that means something to them and pass on cookies as a donation. Two troops in Cincinnati chose Fernside to share in this year's campaign. Girl Scout Troop #5181 (top photo) collected Girl Scout cookies through the Cookie Share program and created cards and decorated boxes for this special delivery. Thank you also to Troop #1518 (bottom photo) for your wonderful donation of cookies as well. All of the kids (and adults) who come to Fernside thought they were delicious!