

Easter Seals™ Drop Zone a Record-Setting Success!

The 2013 Easter Seals™ Drop Zone fundraising events were held on August 24th and 27th. Superhero participants rappelled down the heights of Harvard's Hill Tower II in Regina and Boardwalk's Carlton Tower in Saskatoon.



Laurel McBride

It was the thrill of a lifetime for our Superheroes, many who raised more than the minimum requirement of \$1,500 to rappel. This is the approximate cost to send one child living with disabilities to Camp Easter Seal for a week.

A record-setting \$294,000 was raised in support of Easter Seals™ Saskatchewan.

A huge thank you goes out to all the Superheroes, volunteers, sponsors, and donors who made this year's events so successful. To view pictures or learn more about our sponsors, visit the *Events* section on our website, www.abilitiescouncil.sk.ca.

Drop Zone 2014 is sure to be another amazing year. Are you up for the challenge?!

36th Annual Snowarama Fundraiser in Yorkton Raised \$165,841

298 riders snowmobiled in support of children with disabilities on February 9th.

John Denysek, Regional Director of the Saskatchewan Abilities Council, Yorkton Branch stated that, "the day's ideal weather and trail conditions, combined with the overwhelming fundraising results exceeded all of the committee's expectations. We are most thankful for the generous support of pledge raisers and corporate sponsors."



Easter Seals™ Saskatchewan



Splash

NEWSLETTER

Working at Camp Easter Seal

Every summer, university students are hired as camp counsellors. Those who are hired must demonstrate maturity and compassion, and a sense of humour always helps. Many counsellors return year after year, building on their knowledge and experience. More importantly, they are able to reconnect with the campers. We often see special bonds develop between counsellors and campers.

Prior to the start of the camping season, counsellors participate in intensive training including a series of workshops, simulations and exercises used to prepare them to appreciate and support the diverse needs of the campers. Responsibilities may vary but everyone works towards a common goal – to make sure every camper has a great time at Camp Easter Seal.

Jennifer Brooks and Emily McEwen recently shared their experiences.



Emily & Elizabeth

Hi everyone, I'm Emily. I've worked at Camp for two summers now as a Counsellor-In-Training. As a future counsellor I look forward to many more. I started working at Camp when I was 16 because I wanted to do something meaningful during my summer, and BAM – it turned out to be a match made in heaven. I instantly fell in love with the campers, my fellow staff members, and the beautiful, inspiring atmosphere that is Camp Easter Seal.

At Camp, you not only make friends, but meet your heroes: people of all ages who will have an impact on your life forever, inspiring you to

overcome adversity and pursue every one of life's challenges and opportunities with a smile. Everyone involved with Camp is amazing and I cannot wait to see them all again next summer.



Jennifer & Taylor

My name is Jennifer and I have worked at Camp Easter Seal for three and a half summers. One of the most amazing things about working at Camp is the way you notice yourself grow each summer. We are often told by campers or parents at the end of the week how much we, the counsellors mean to them, but I believe it is us who are the lucky ones.

I am forever grateful for what the campers have taught me. The campers have taught me to relax and appreciate life in general. They have taught me what it means to have a positive outlook on life and that laughter truly is the best medicine. They have taught me to look beyond what doesn't matter and to get to know people based on their character. The most important lesson they have taught me is that I am not special for having worked at Camp, but I am so very lucky.

I am thankful every day for that tiny booth I stumbled upon at a Career Fair back in 2008 and smile when I think about how much of a difference it has made in my life.

Make sure to check out the Camp Easter Seal video on the Saskatchewan Abilities Council website www.abilitiescouncil.sk.ca. It illustrates so well the unique relationship between campers and counsellors.

What is Easter Seals™ Saskatchewan?

The Saskatchewan Abilities Council is a proud member of Easter Seals Canada. The financial support Easter Seals™ Saskatchewan receives each year allows us to offer rehabilitation and recreational programs for children living with varying abilities in our province.

Camp Easter Seal

Camp Easter Seal is the only completely wheelchair accessible camp facility of its kind in Saskatchewan. With activities such as horseback riding, swimming, sports, and much more, it provides a fun and barrier-free experience to all campers. Camp Easter Seal welcomes campers with varied disabilities including those with high medical needs.

Su Huynh, Camp Easter Seal Manager
Telephone: (306) 653-1694
E-mail: campeasterseal@abilitiescouncil.sk.ca

Summer Fun

Summer Fun is an urban day camp program for children and youth living with varying abilities offered by the four branches of the Saskatchewan Abilities Council. Activities and field trips within the community provide



Camp Easter Seal



participants with learning and recreational opportunities that are fun and which help to foster personal development. What a great way to learn about the community!

Regina Telephone: (306) 569-9048
E-mail: summerfun.regina@abilitiescouncil.sk.ca

Saskatoon Telephone: (306) 653-1694
E-mail: summerfun.saskatoon@abilitiescouncil.sk.ca

Swift Current Telephone: (306) 773-2076
E-mail: summerfun.swiftcurrent@abilitiescouncil.sk.ca

Yorkton Telephone: (306) 782-2463
E-mail: yorkton@abilitiescouncil.sk.ca

Adaptive Technology Services

Adaptive Technology Services is dedicated to applying electronics and computers to aid in communication and daily living. Assessment, installation, and repair services are offered for communication and environmental equipment.

Reg Bartsch, Electronics Technologist
Adaptive Technology Services
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Easter Seals™ Saskatchewan
Telephone: 306-374-4448

Visit us online at
abilitiescouncil.sk.ca



Working together to enrich futures through abilities.

Publications Mail Agreement No. 40069020
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Saskatchewan Abilities Council
2310 Louise Avenue
Saskatoon, SK S7J 2C7

Summer Fun in Saskatoon

A highlight for the Summer Fun participants was a visit to Wanuskewin. The children made dream catchers, watched Aboriginal dancing demonstrations and participated in a round dance. They also baked bannock and were able to ask questions about First Nations' clothing and customs.

Wanuskewin was an inclusive activity which involved exploring the unique outdoor environment. Walking up pebbled hills with participants in wheelchairs proved to be an interesting and challenging adventure which required lots of teamwork!



Other fun activities included visits to the spray park, movie theatres, Forestry Farm, mini-golf, Taste of Saskatchewan, city parks, Pike Lake, Fringe Festival, the Exhibition,

Strawberry Ranch, Farmer's Market, pools, bowling alley and the well-groomed Meewasin Valley pathways.

2013 Easter Seals™ Ambassadors

Leah Castle

Leah Castle is pleased to be the Ambassador for Regina. Leah was born with cerebral



palsy and uses a walker, canes, and sometimes a wheelchair to get around. She doesn't let anything get in her way!

Leah takes part in the senior FIAP program at WH Ford School. Her favourite subjects are cooking and gym.

Leah has a large blended family of 13 siblings and a special twin sister, so she always has something to do and someone to play with. Leah would like to be a police officer when she grows up.

Leah has attended Camp Easter Seal three times and she can't wait to go again next summer.

Bailey Clark

Bailey Clark is a talkative, cheerful and quick-witted girl who lives on an acreage with her parents and younger sister.



Bailey loves animals and spending time with family and friends.

As the Yorkton Ambassador she helped raise the final total of \$165,841 made during the 2013 Snowarama.

Bailey has enjoyed Yorkton's Summer Fun for the past four years and is very excited to attend Camp Easter Seal for her sixth time. Friends and camp counsellors look forward to the nightly treats they all get to open sent from Bailey's family at home. Friends, fun, baking, arts and crafts are the highlights for Bailey each summer at Camp Easter Seal.

Taylor Denny

Taylor Denny is thrilled to be Saskatoon's Ambassador. Taylor was born with cerebral palsy and uses a walker or wheelchair.



She currently attends Lawson Heights School and enjoys choir, wheelchair dancing, swimming, arts and crafts, reading, biking and chocolate.

This past summer, Taylor attended Camp Easter Seal for the third time. In the beginning, she thought she would be homesick, but quickly realized that at Camp you are just too busy having fun.

The things she likes best about Camp are the horses, swimming, Rustics, and all her friends from all over the province. She notes that the food and the counsellors are really great too!

Safeway raises a total of \$85,467 in Saskatchewan for Camp Easter Seal

Canada Safeway stores in Saskatchewan continue to show they are all heart when it comes to community. Every year, the month of April is designated as Easter Seals™ Saskatchewan and Special Olympics awareness month.

"Safeway employees and customers make a positive impact on the lives of children," says Su Huynh, Camp Easter Seal Manager.

By collecting donations at the check-stands and partnering with their customers, 16 Safeway locations provided funding for 57 Saskatchewan kids living with disabilities to attend Camp Easter Seal.



Safeway employees spend a day in May beautifying Camp.



Draggins Car Club - An Extraordinary Camp Partner

The Draggins Car Club has been supporting Camp Easter Seal for 50 years and has donated approximately one and a half million dollars toward various capital expenditures such as the Sports Centre, Aquatic Centre and several fully equipped cabins. They were inspired by the first camper to swim at the opening ceremonies for the new Aquatic Centre who remarked, "you said it would be nice but you didn't say it would be heaven".

Each year club members are invited to spend a weekend at camp. This allows them to examine the facilities and generate ideas about another project. Next on their fundraising list is to build one more fully accessible and equipped cabin. Plans have already begun for construction.



Easter Seals™ Donation Form

Yes, I would like to support Easter Seals™ Children with a gift of:

☐ \$25 ☐ \$35 ☐ \$50 ☐ I prefer to give \$ _____

Name _____

Address _____

City/Town _____ Postal Code _____

E-mail Address _____

Payment Information

☐ I have enclosed a cheque payable to: Easter Seals™ Saskatchewan

☐ Please charge my: ☐ VISA ☐ MasterCard ☐ American Express

Credit No. _____

Expiry Date _____

Signature _____

PLEASE MAIL TO:

Easter Seals™ Saskatchewan
2310 Louise Avenue,
Saskatoon, SK S7J 2C7

We do not sell or trade our names. Your information is kept confidential. Tax receipts will be issued for donations of \$10 or more.

Charitable Registration
#10795 RR0001.

Additional Gift Giving Options
Online - Please visit www.abilitiescouncil.sk.ca
and click on Make a Donation

Telephone - Please call us at 306-374-4448

Adaptive Technology

For people living with varying abilities, Adaptive Technology can provide a gateway into a new world full of possibilities and innovative ways to interact with the world.

"The goal is to provide quality of life for clients and as much independence as possible."

Reg Bartsch
Electronic Technologist

Reg Bartsch works with clients to find the right adaptive technology, expanding

opportunities for independence which result in a richer, easier life experience.

Tablets and other touchpad devices paired with small speakers are available to assist as communication tools. There are also tools which enable control of communication devices and computers through blinking and eye movements. Also available are sip-and-puff devices which navigate a computer keypad by responding to breath inhalations and exhalations.

Reg collaborates with community partners including schools to select the ideal equipment for clients. Other services available through Adaptive Technology include assessment, equipment set-up, equipment repair, equipment modifications and consultations. Pre-testing different types of equipment is another service offered in order to ensure the needs of clients are met.

Inaugural Boston Pizza Day for Camp Easter Seal

Boston Pizza patrons were hungry to make a difference!



Sitting: A group of Yorkton students out for lunch to support Boston Pizza Day for Camp Easter Seal

On June 26th, Boston Pizza Restaurants and BP Lounges raised \$42,846 to help send Saskatchewan kids to Camp Easter Seal.

Jim Treliving of CBC's Dragons' Den and Chairman of Boston Pizza International presented the cheque on behalf of the Saskatchewan Boston Pizza Franchisees and the Boston Pizza Foundation to the Saskatchewan Abilities Council. "Thanks to the generosity of our patrons and the hard work of our stores and staff, we're giving a lot of kids facing daily challenges the opportunity to experience summer camp", he remarked.

At a cost of \$1,500 per camper per week, community support for this program is essential. All Boston Pizza restaurants and lounges in Saskatchewan donated 10% of sales made that day for Camp Easter Seal through the Boston Pizza Foundation.

Next year we will be celebrating the 60th anniversary of Camp Easter Seal. Stay tuned for details in 2014!