

# Camp combines fun, friendship for disabled

By Mike Latona  
Staff writer

RUSH — It was a week filled with swimming, obstacle courses, athletic competition, arts and crafts workshops, cookouts, campfires, dancing and cabin lodging. Everything you'd expect in summer camp.

And it mattered little — if at all — that these particular campers are all afflicted with neuromuscular diseases.

Handicaps notwithstanding, approximately 70 children enjoyed summer to the hilt during the Muscular Dystrophy Association's annual Summer Camp, held Aug. 17-22 at the Rochester Rotary Sunshine Camp.

The week brought together youths ages 6 through 20 — not only from the Rochester area, but also from the Finger Lakes, Syracuse, Binghamton, Buffalo and Albany vicinities.

All of the campers have muscular dystrophy or related diseases; many participants are confined to wheelchairs. The Sunshine Camp program is one of 95 conducted nationwide by the Muscular Dystrophy Association.

"I believe that there are only 77 (facilities) in the country for people with muscular dystrophy, and this is one of them," said Nancy Hossenlopp, Sunshine Camp's director for summer programs.

Hossenlopp said that camps for muscular dystrophy patients must be wheelchair-accessible and equipped with a properly trained staff.

Mark Goodemote, district director of MDA's Greater Rochester/Finger Lakes Chapter, said MDA works to portray clients in everyday situations.

"The kids live very normal lives. I don't think a lot of people understand that they conduct normal daily lives," Goodemote remarked.



Erik Kunkel/Photo Intern  
Counselor Beth Davis (right) helps MDA camper Adam Fogle line up a putt on the seventh hole of the camp's miniature golf course.

The MDA camp is offered to participants free of charge. Goodemote said campers have "an open invitation" to come back as many times as they'd like.

MDA and the Rochester Rotary Club jointly underwrite camper costs. Sunshine Camp, which is operated by the Rotary, hosts other non-profit groups during the summer as well.

Eight-year-old Adam Fogle, a Canandaigua resident, was attending summer camp for the first time. His favorite part, he said, was "working on computers."

Chris Rimmel, 15, on the other hand, has now attended nine consecutive camps. The Marion, Wayne County, resident said he looks forward to renewing acquaintances each year.

"I don't see a lot of these kids other than here," said Rimmel.

Because the youths' get-togethers are so infrequent, the final day of camp is usually a fairly emotional event.

"They build very strong relationships, and this is the one chance they have to renew those relationships," Goodemote noted. "So there are a lot of tears shed when it ends."

"They get to talk and share things that not everybody understands," Goodemote added.

Campers were assisted during the week by 45 paid Sunshine Camp summer employees and about 15 volunteer workers. Most of these assistants are of college age.

Hossenlopp noted that the workers often derive as much satisfaction out of Summer Camp as the campers themselves.

"It's an excellent experience for the workers. They make great friends and learn about people with disabilities," said Hossenlopp.

## Community work effort to unite 1,000 volunteers

ROCHESTER — Students, faculty and staff from the University of Rochester will come together Friday, Sept. 4, for the annual Wilson Day.

Held each year just before the start of fall semester, Wilson Day unites approximately 1,000 volunteers who work on various community projects in the Rochester area.

This year, volunteers will work from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on such projects as constructing homes for low-income families; indoor and outdoor painting; graffiti removal and neighborhood cleanup; conducting a barbecue for hospitalized children; making children's puppets and miniature playhouses; and reconstructing a patio area at a nursing home.

Wilson Day is named for the Joseph C. Wilson family, whose members have been major benefactors of the UR and the Rochester community.

## YOUTH BRIEFS



### Telethon workers needed

ROCHESTER — Volunteers are needed for WHEC TV-10's broadcast of the annual Jerry Lewis Labor Day Telethon.

The 22-hour show, which raises funds for the Muscular Dystrophy Association, will air from 9 p.m. on Sunday, Sept. 6, until 7 p.m. on Monday, Sept. 7.

To volunteer, call MDA's Rochester/Finger Lakes Chapter at 716/424-6560.

### Buffalo mall seeks choirs for Christmas competition

Buffalo's Thruway Mall is seeking choral groups for its Christmas Choir Competition.

Open to community, high school and church choirs, the competition will take place from 5-9 p.m. on the evenings of Dec. 1, 8, 15 and 22. The top three competitors will receive prizes of \$500, \$250 and \$100, respectively.

For details, call John Percy or Connie Hodick at 716/896-4812.

### Nazareth receives bequests

ROCHESTER — Nazareth Academy recently received two bequests totaling \$110,000.

A \$67,000 gift from the estate of the late Helen W. McManus, a 1923 alumna, will be used for scholarships. A \$43,000 grant from the estate of the late Louis J. Mitchell was used to purchase new computer equipment.

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Last month's winner: **Brian Bauer** of Rochester correctly identified **Sean Connery** as the actor who played the Soviet submarine captain in the *Hunt for Red October*.

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