



WALH

Quarterly

Editor: S.T. Uhlman

The Wolfmeyer Edition - Summer 2010

Wolfey Has Left The Building...

Of all the things I have ever had to do in my life, there is one thing that I could truly go without doing ever again. You might think it's something like going to the dentist for root canal or some other medical procedure that's equally nasty, but that doesn't come close to that one thing. It grabs you and shakes you and leaves an empty spot that never really gets filled. Choosing to share my life with people who have muscular dystrophy has forced me to go through it too many times already, but of course, here I am having to do it again. I wouldn't trade all the great memories for anything in the world, but that doesn't make it any easier to say goodbye to a friend.

We all lost a wonderful friend when Gregg Wolfmeyer passed away on March 16 of this year. As a member of WALH, there were none better. Gregg loved the organization and summer camp with a passion few could match. There was almost nothing short of full body traction that would keep Gregg from making it to camp every year. Whether it was serving as Treasurer on the Board of Directors for more years than I can count or just coming to camp and trying to win the 500 trophy with "the umbrella gambit", Gregg was always an integral part of WALH.

I sit here writing this and I just can't believe I've known him for somewhere around 25 years! A lot of memories come with all of those years. There was the road trip to a Brewer game in Minnesota, riding with Gregg and Jean through what seemed like gale-force winds in the middle of a thunderstorm. There were all of those late late nights staring at him across a poker table, looking for the telltale sign that he was bluffing. I found out the hard way too many times that he wasn't. As a matter of fact, I think I paid for his garage door opener! Then there was that time at the place up north when Gregg almost took an involuntary swim in Pine Lake. The look on his face was priceless when we helped him off that pier.

We all have memories like that. Little moments in Gregg's life that we are lucky enough to have been a part of. We hold those memories dear and keep them for the times when we get together as friends and it's kind of like he's there with us...playing cards and watching the Packer game.

See you at camp buddy. We'll keep a spot open for you at the poker table..



Gregg Wolfmeyer
October 13, 1959 - March 16, 2010

My dear friends at WALH:

I'm going to put down on paper some thoughts about Gregg Wolfmeyer. I was in no shape to speak in front of everyone at the memorial service. Now that some time has passed and the rawness of his death has eased, perhaps this will be the tribute I wasn't able to voice at that time.



I've always disliked the term "significant other." It fails to even come close to describing my 20-year relationship with Gregg. It's just so... I don't know...ordinary? Not sure if that's the right word. Doesn't matter. It's just a label. I prefer "husband" even though we weren't legally married. To me, "husband" denotes love, commitment, trust and respect. We referred to each other as husband and wife, as did our close friends and family. Of course there were other endearments as well. "Sweetie", "jerk", "hon", and my all-time favorite, "dink" come to mind. Gregg was a complicated man and all of these were appropriate, at different times of course.

Believe it or not it was 1990 when I first laid eyes on Gregg – at Summerfest. That was the year Tom Downs recruited me to be a caregiver at camp and that's when I really got to know the man. Our first date was a couple weeks later – at A la Carte at the Zoo. I was a goner. We moved in together the following summer to an apartment in the Village of Wauwatosa. A couple years later we bought our house in Franklin and that's been our home ever since.

Time and space will not allow me to list all the memories I have. There were good times and bad times but we managed through it all, as a husband and wife should. Our lives changed forever in 1997 when this courageous man had three operations all at the same time; rods and hardware in his back due to scoliosis, a tracheostomy and a g-tube. He made it through the surgery that time but I couldn't care for him myself anymore. Independent nurses to the rescue! Some were good, some were bad and some became members of our family. I'll say it one more time – thank you for taking such good care of him and staying with him through the times he was so angry at life. We couldn't have stayed together if it wasn't for you.

I also want to thank all my friends at WALH for the kindness and generosity you showed me and Gregg's family after he passed. The flowers you sent were outrageously beautiful. I can't tell you how touched I was by your kind words and encouragement. It truly helped me through the most difficult days of my life. Special thanks to Gregg's mom, Jan Wolfmeyer, Cindy Leu, Ted Alexander, Jim Coyne, Tom Downs, Steve Vicenzi and Gregg's best bud, Jeff "Biff" Martinkoski, who, through their grief, found the courage to share special memories at the memorial service. I will be forever grateful for that.

Some of you when you think of Gregg will remember him as a sports junkie, especially football and NASCAR, or perhaps a music lover (blues rules), a dog rescuer, an environmentalist, a hippie, a romantic (okay – maybe that's just me), a left wing Democrat. They all describe Gregg to one degree or another. I will forever remember him as simply my husband.

*See you at camp,
Jean Wiza*

Summer Camp 2010

Just a quick reminder that WALH Summer Camp 2010 is just around the corner! Camp will take place on August 1-6 at good ole' Easter Seals Camp Wawbeek in Wisconsin Dells. We've got a fantastic week full of great activities planned, so I hope you got your application in on time! The week's theme is "Decades", so make sure you give some thought to all of those things that made the 50's, 60's, 70's and 80's memorable and pack accordingly. For all of those family members who may be interested, our WALH memorial service and the presentation of the June Price Spirit Award will be on Wednesday, August 4th at 7pm. You're welcome to attend! If you have any last-minute questions about camp or would like to help out in some way, give our venerable camp coordinator, Tom Downs, a call at 262-472-0895. Oh yeah - Don't forget to take a look at the WALH Summer Camp sponsorship flyer in this issue of the Quarterly! It's a great way to show your support for our organization and a wonderful way to help us out!

Raise Money For W.A.L.H With The Pick 'N Save Fundraiser

Everyone needs to remember the Pick 'N' Save Advantage We Care Program! WALH has an identification number that allows us to benefit from the program, but we all need to use it! If you haven't already done so, here's how you do it. All you have to do is go to the service counter at your favorite Pick 'N' Save and tell them that you would like the following number added to your Advantage Saver's Club card. The number is: **942970**. With that done, each time you present your card at the check out, a percentage of every dollar you spend at Pick 'N' Save will go to WALH. It's just that simple! Remember, though, that the greater the number of people we can get to sign up for this, the larger the amount of donation that comes to our organization. So be sure to get all of your friends and family members to join in and be a part of this excellent fund raising opportunity!

WALH Board Of Directors Nominations

If you are interested in putting the time and effort in to making WALH a successful and viable organization well into the future then please let us know! Nominations for the WALH Board of Directors are open from now until July 15th. Write a short paragraph including any past contributions you have made to WALH, as well as what you feel you can contribute to the future of the organization and email it to kimmynelson11@yahoo.com. Please consider serving as a board member. It's a step you won't regret!

Car-A-Funda Is Coming!

Mark your calendars so you don't forget to attend one of the best events of the summer! Fondy Vintage Auto Club's annual Car-A-Funda Car Show to benefit W.A.L.H. is just around the corner. This day of hot rods, hot rocks and hot dogs will be Sunday, July 25th, from 8am to 4pm at Fond Du Lac's Lakeside Park, on the north end of Main Street. They'll have food and refreshments, raffles, music by The Fabulous Fifties Rock 'N Roll Party and, to top that all of, a park **full** of classic vintage cars!! What could be better?!?! There is no entry fee for show cars and only \$2 for spectators. All proceeds go to "With A Little Help...", Inc.. For more information, call 920-923-1478.

Editor's note: I would like to encourage all members and friends of "With A Little Help...", Inc. to make every effort to attend this great event. Every single member of Fondy Vintage Auto Club and everyone who helps to put this show on are fantastic people and deserve every bit of appreciation we can give them. I can't begin to thank them for their tireless efforts every year. Please come out to the show on July 25th and show your appreciation for what they do to make summer camp a reality.

Don't Forget!

No matter what the time of year, we all have to make purchases. Whether it's sunscreen and swim fins for the summer vacation or the special rum fruitcake for old Aunt Bessy's Christmas gift, there's always something you need to pick up. When you're ready to make those purchases, please keep in mind that you can help raise money for W.A.L.H while you shop! All you have to do is shop online through GoodShop.com. There are hundreds of stores to choose from, including most of the popular ones we all shop at regularly. Best Buy, Target, Walmart, Kohl's, Barnes & Noble, Gap and Old Navy just to name a few. Many stores offer special discounts and coupons when you use GoodShop.com. You can also select the in-store pick-up option if you don't want to pay shipping costs and W.A.L.H will still get credit. Just be sure to designate "With a Little Help" (Franklin, WI) as your charity so we will get credit for all of your purchases. And of course, if you haven't done so already, make GoodSearch.com your homepage and select "With a Little Help" as your charity so that every time you do an online search it will help raise money for W.A.L.H. Please pass this on to your friends, family and co-workers as well. The more people who search and shop, the more money W.A.L.H. raises!! Thanks for your support!



Wine And Beer Tasting Event Rescheduled

O.K., before I go any further I'm going to clear this up since I understand there were a few people out there who had suspicions as to what an oenophile is. It's nothing bad or evil. According to Webster's Dictionary an oenophile is simply a lover or connoisseur of wine. Now that we have that taken care of, on to the important news about the WALH Beer and Wine Tasting Event. Circumstances forced the event to be postponed to a later date, and now we have confirmed that date! The new date for this special evening is Friday, September 10th, 2010. We hope you can join us at Will-O-Way Grant, 207 Lake Drive, South Milwaukee from 6:30pm to 9:30pm for a relaxed evening of wine and beer tasting along with some great appetizers to cleanse your palate. And don't forget that there will be a silent auction and raffle prizes too! Mark your calendars so you're sure not to miss this event! Ticket prices are as follows: if you plan on taking part in the wine/beer tasting, tickets are \$20 in advance and \$25 at the door. If you won't be drinking, they'll be \$10 in advance and \$15 at the door. For tickets and other information, contact Erica at ericky1834@yahoo.com. So come on out on September 10th. Give us a little help and have a great evening while you're at it! See you there!

Positively W.A.L.H.

Sometimes during the normal day to day operation of our lives, a special acknowledgement needs to be made for those who do a great job without expecting anything in return. With that in mind, the WALH Board of Directors would like to give a special thank-you to Tom Ciufu. For some time now, Tom has taken it upon himself to manage the organization's website, walk.org, and he's made it into an excellent source of information as well as a great draw for prospective members. All of the skill and work he's put into the site has not gone unnoticed and it is very much appreciated. Thank you Tom!!

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

"With A Little Help...", Inc.
P.O. Box 320243
Franklin, WI 53132
(414) 571-0234



“With A Little Help...”, Inc.

WALH Summer Camp Sponsorship

“With A Little Help...”, Inc. is a non-profit organization that’s mission is to expand recreational activities for adults with muscular dystrophy. One of our major events each year is our Summer Camp which takes place on a beautiful camp site in the Wisconsin Dells. You can help make WALH Summer Camp possible by helping to sponsor a camper. A day at camp means so much to a person with muscular dystrophy. It is a day without boundaries. They can take hikes on accessible trails, swim in an accessible pool, or just spend time with friends who can relate to their problems or concerns. Your tax deductible donation is greatly appreciated.

Sponsoring a camper for a day costs only \$52!

Donor Name: _____

Phone: _____

Address: _____

Email Address: _____

*Please send me an electronic copy of the WALH Newsletter YES NO

YES! I would like to sponsor a camper for a day!

\$52/day x _____ days = _____

YES! I would like to sponsor a camper for the entire week of camp!

\$364/week x _____ campers = _____

YES! I would like to make a tax-deductible donation in another denomination to help support WALH’s mission!

Amount: \$10 \$50 \$100
 \$20 \$75 Other

Checks should be made payable to “With A Little Help” and mailed to:
“With A Little Help” - PO Box 320243, Franklin, WI 53132

Please contact (414) 571-0234 with questions.