



Rainbow Bridge

Message From “Grammy”

Hello Everyone,

Hope this finds you all doing as well as possible, and enjoying the summer. We’ve been on the “rather warm” side this week, especially, but I’d far rather have it hot than cold and wet — just MY personal preference.

I know I have really been slipping on my duties with Wishes and Rainbows, and it is suffering dearly because of it. However, the other officers and I have made a vow to get working, and get Wishes and Rainbows where it should be — helping others. The first task at hand is to get back to the newsletters. I understand that people want to know what is going on with the organizations they support — after all, it’s your money, and you have the right to know where it is going, and what it’s doing. We are very proud of what we do, and we want you to know.

So, here’s to information. Hope you enjoy reading the “Rainbow Bridge”

On a personal note, as many of you know, I had yet another spinal fusion in Nov., 2010. I am so pleased to let you all know that I am once again looking at peoples faces, and not just their shoes.

I found a wonderful, blessed surgeon, and he managed to take an unbelievable mess, and straighten me up. I’m not quite as tall as I use to be, and the pain levels haven’t changed a whole lot, but to walk up-right again is a blessing I thank God for every day.

Thank you all for all the thoughts and prayers.

Wishing you Rainbows,
Sharon / Grammy

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Walk for Chiari Honoring Wishes and Rainbows !!!!

“The Chiari People of PA” are sponsoring a walk for Chiari Awareness, and have chosen Wishes and Rainbows as the organization to support this year.

Registration is at 9:00am at the barn. Walk begins at 10:00am starting at the bridge. Free water and Sturgis pretzels will be furnished at the half-way point.

“MAKING WISHES AND RAINBOWS COME TRUE” will be held Saturday, Sept. 17, 2011 at Gring’s Mill Recreation Park in Wyomissing, PA.



Special points of interest:

- ♦ Walk benefiting Wishes and Rainbows in PA
- ♦ Chiarian meets Lady Antebellum — their music helps her seizures subside.

“MAKING WISHES AND RAINBOWS COME TRUE” (Walk, cont.)

A raffle will be held at 2:30pm. There will also be alternative therapy stands — Aromatherapy Plus will be there with products available to purchase, acupuncture, East West Massages with free massages available.

There will also be a CM / SM info table, face painting for the kids, and “message” balloons will be released at the start of the walk.

Wishes and Rainbows will also have a table set up with information, and awareness items will be available for purchase.



Fun for everyone — and awareness for Chiari and Syringomyelia.

They are also encouraging walk teams with pledges. There is no charge for registration, but they are encouraging donations of whatever you can afford. The team raising the most money in pledges will receive a prize.

There will be T-shirts available, and a baked-goods stand. Hot dogs and Clover Farms drink stand is also available for \$1.00

We want to encourage anyone that can make it to join us at Gring’s Mill Recreation Park in Wyomissing, PA on Saturday, Sept. 17, 2011.

For more information, or to pre-register, contact Renee Tobias at 610-777-4699

New Vice-President for W & R

It takes a very special person to do volunteer work, especially to the extent our volunteers do. Most of us have Chiari and / or Syringomyelia, or have a family member that does. So we know that in spite of how we feel, we still have to be there for others when they ask for help.

Paula Crammer held the position of Director of Fundraising and Grant Writing for over a year, and has now agreed to accept the position as **Vice-President**. She has had many, many challenges in the past 6 months or so, both physically and emotionally. And yet she has never let her personal challenges interfere with her du-

ties and obligations as an officer.

Paula has always “jumped right in there”, researching other assistance possibilities for applicants, and has helped them get the forms and information they might need to apply.

She is very committed to helping others in any way possible. She has definitely been a big asset to Wishes and Rainbows.

W & R Looking for Volunteers.

Wishes and Rainbows is always looking for volunteers, especially those who can help with fundraising.

Fundraising is a real challenge, especially these days with the economy the way it is. But, that also means there is even more demand for fundraising, as even that many more people are in need of financial assistance.

We need grant writers, or even someone familiar with searching out grants, and knowledge of filing for grants. Volunteer — kind of a funny word. There is no finan-

cial compensation, but the rewards of the work far outweigh any pay you could receive. You get to meet wonderful people, and you get to help others in dire need of help — nothing is more fulfilling than that.

If you are interested in helping Wishes and Rainbows, please send your resume to:

Sharon Greenwell

6217 Elanor Ct.

Floyds Knobs, IN 47119

Or Fax to 812.903.0189

Wishes and Rainbows has New Secretary.

We also have a new Secretary, Sherry Martin. Sherry has actually been our secretary for several months, but since this is our first newsletter for quite some time, you are just now hearing about it. Here's a little "tid-bit" on Sherry, in her own words

I was diagnosed in spring 1999 with Chiari Malformation when my daughter was only 8. As a single mom, the diagnosis was terrifying. There was NO information about Chiari back then. Decompression November 1, 1999, was pretty successful. Plenty of people in my family had arthritis, scoliosis, and other osteo issues. But no one had ever heard of Chiari. When I started having neurological issues again in 2010, I started surfing the web trying to self-diagnose since every doctor told me "lose weight, you'll feel better." That's when I found W&R and Chiari International. I was shocked that there was an online group and a charity devoted to Chiari. I cannot tell you how wonderful it was to realize that I wasn't alone. I volunteered to help with W&R to give back in some small way. If my personal experience can help even one person - patient or family member - then what I have suffered through was not an affliction, but a blessing. I am now married (my husband is disabled due to major spinal problems so understands a little about my issues). My daughter is now in the Army National Guard, a bartender, and waitress. My family has always been there to support me. I have been blessed!

Please welcome Sherry to our Wishes and Rainbows "family".

Meet Amanda Rittenhouse and Lady Antebellum

Amanda Rittenhouse, 3 years old, has Chiari Malformation 1 and Seizures. When Amanda encounters seizures her mother, Jodi Kersting plays Lady Antebellum songs that Amanda enjoys. It helps bring her out of her seizures. Kersting contacted Lady Antebellum and received passes for Amanda to meet Lady Antebellum in person in Houston, TX.



Donors !!!!!

Without your help, we wouldn't be able to help those in need. Thank you for your donations.

Year to date:

Bonnie Scholting of Omaha, NE

Debbie and Sam Finney of Prospect, KY

Jeff and Joanne Sammons

Igive.com Holdings LLC

Mary Kay Fundraiser / Julie Reed

AT&T United Way

NFG

Mission Fish



In order to make it easier for you to make a donation to Wishes and Rainbows, please retain this portion of the newsletter, fill it out, and send it, with your donation to:

**Wishes and Rainbows
1410 Airport Lake Rd
McMinnville, TN 37110**

Please accept my donation, in the amount of \$ _____

Name _____

Address _____

Thank You !!!!!



Holding Hope for a Better Tomorrow

Your Donations at Work

The economy has really taken a toll on our donations. Well, that and the fact that I just haven't been doing my job.

But, Wishes and Rainbows is turning over a new leaf, and we are going to get it back up and helping more and more people.

Thank you to all of you that have continued to support Wishes and Rainbows. We sincerely appreciate your help.

From January through today, we have helped a total of 5 families. Three with travel and lodging, getting to specialists for treatment, one with medi-

cal bills that weren't covered by insurance, and one with personal expenses due to loss of income because of illness.

When possible, assistance goes directly to the institution the request is being made for. This way, we know the money goes where it's needed and intended.

Thank you, again, for your continued support. And, have a safe and wonderful summer.