

Kaleidoscope

changing . . . adapting . . . growing



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Kaleidoscope

changing... adapting ... growing

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Spina Bifida Association of Western Pennsylvania

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“Spina Bifida Association of Western PA”

and mailed to: Spina Bifida Association of Western PA,

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Our Mission

The Spina Bifida Association of Western Pennsylvania is committed to improving the quality of life for people with Spina Bifida and their families by providing a continuum of support services, education and advocacy.

Executive Committee

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Gatehouse Residents Hired by Easter Seals to work at local DMV

Two of our current Gatehouse residents were recently hired through Easter Seals to work at the Allison Park Driver's License Center as Greeters. Marissa Courtney and Travis (TJ) Wheeler were chosen from several candidates for the job. As Greeters, they are responsible for greeting all customers as they enter, and directing them to which area of the building they need to go to for their specific needs. They share the position and each work about 20 hours per week. Congratulations on your new jobs!

"I like my job a lot. It has shown me that I can be useful in the community."



Marissa Courtney

Marissa Courtney is from Cranberry Township, PA. She has lived at the Gatehouse since May of 2013. She is a 2009 graduate of Seneca Valley High School in Zelienople, PA. Marissa is learning to live independently while keeping a job while at the Gatehouse. She enjoys attending FireFly retreats and camps, working out at the local YMCA and hanging out with her friends. Marissa says, "I like

my job a lot. It has shown me that I can be useful in the community."

TJ Wheeler is from York, PA. He moved into the Gatehouse in October 2013. He is a 2013 graduate of York Suburban High School in York, PA. TJ is learning to live independently while living at the Gatehouse. TJ enjoys sports, hanging with friends and going out to eat. He says, "this job is a great start and I am enjoying it"



Travis (TJ) Wheeler

New Board Members



Christine Shambach

is the newest Spina Bifida Association of Western Pennsylvania (SBAWP) Board member. Christine was elected as a Director in July 2014 and has

recently been appointed to the SBAWP Finance Subcommittee. Christine is currently employed as Managing Director & Head of Liquidity Management Group for The PNC Financial Services Group, Inc.

Christine graduated with honors with a Bachelor of Science and Masters in Chemical Engineering from Carnegie Mellon University. She holds an MBA from Duke University's Fuqua School of Business. Christine leads PNC's overall Basel III liquidity compliance efforts and its continued enhancements of its liquidity infrastructure and reporting capabilities. Prior to joining Liquidity Management, Christine was a member of the Mergers and Acquisitions team where she was responsible for leading the execution of PNC's acquisition and divestiture transactions as well as other strategic projects. Previously, Christine was a member of Citi's Mergers and Acquisitions team within its Global Corporate and Investment Bank and Goldman Sachs's Relative Value (Merger Arbitrage) Sales and Trading team. Christine's past professional experience took her from Virginia to the United Kingdom London to New York and finally to Pittsburgh.

Outside of the office, Christine and her husband Mike are learning the ropes as new parents to son, Colton, who has been doing his best to keep them on their toes! Christine also enjoys combining outdoor activities and travel whether it be scuba diving in the Caribbean or salmon fishing and hiking in Alaska.

Christine's 15 years of experience as a finance and strategy executive is a welcome addition to the professional and personal gifts and abilities of the current SBAWP board members.



Todd Hipwell

is the newest member of the SBAWP Housing, Inc Board of Directors. (SBAWP Housing, Inc is a SBAWP nonrelated nonprofit that is responsible for overseeing the

Fithian House in Wexford where 14 young adults with spina bifida reside.) Todd was elected as a Director in December 2014. Todd is currently employed as Vice President – Tax & Payroll at Dick's Sporting Goods, Inc. in Pittsburgh. Todd previously held the positions of Director-Tax & Treasury Services and Manager of Tax & Risk Management at Dick's Sporting Goods.

Todd attended Dick's Sporting Goods Executive Leadership Program in Moon Township in 2005. Prior to that, Todd received a Bachelor's degree in Accounting from Miami University in Oxford, Ohio and a Master's degree in Taxation from Robert Morris University in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Todd's past work experience includes State Tax Manager at Bayer Corporation, Inc in Pittsburgh; Supervising State Tax Senior at Arthur Andersen LLP in Pittsburgh and Senior Tax Analyst at General Electric Company in Fort Myers, Florida.

Todd is married to Alisha and they have three boys, Owen (17), Ben (15) and Nate (12). Outside of the office, Todd enjoys reading, softball, running and watching his boys play soccer, baseball, track and cross country. Todd has lived in Bradfordwoods for most of his life and even worked a summer as a camp counselor for children with disabilities at the Camp Variety for Spina Bifida in Wexford.

Todd's 24 years of experience in tax management is a welcome addition to the professional and personal gifts and abilities of the current SBAWP, Housing, Inc. board members.

Purse Bash

Throughout history, women from all walks of life have engaged in socially minded work at the grassroots level to ensure community survival and success. It is with this spirit of engagement and philanthropy that the SBAWP has reintroduced Girlfriends for Good, an annual female friendly benefit event in support of children and young adults with spina bifida!

On Saturday, November 8, 2014 at the Adams Ridge Community Center in Mars, PA, Girlfriends for Good came together for a Purse Bash. The Purse Bash provided attendees the chance to win designer purses and accessories every 5 minutes. The benefit included sangria's, heavy hours d'oeuvres, vendors, and auction items.

We had so much fun at this ladies only event that we are going to do it again this year. Stay tuned to our website at www.sbawp.org for next year's event details.

History has shown, the more women we can engage, the more powerful the impact! ***Gentlemen, please consider purchasing tickets to this year's benefit for the special lady in your life and her best friend.***

We look forward to seeing you on Saturday, November 7, for our next Purse Bash and we thank you for all that you do in support of your community and the SBAWP!



Fall Retreat Re-Cap

This past fall was a lot of fun. We went on a hay-ride and saw places we don't normally see. We played a good game of baseball, learned information about unique wildlife, and dressed up for Halloween. Who can forget all of the art and cooking activities we did as well? It's always nice to share good times with friends, making memories that'll last forever. We can't wait to see what the spring retreats have in store!





Summer Camp Dates

Youth and Teen Camp July 3-10th, 2015
Adult Camp July 11th-18th, 2015

2015 Summer Camp Wish List

- Spray Sunblock
- Clear Hand Soap
- Disposable Plates/Bowls (Large and Small)
- Paper Towels
- Garbage Bags
- Zip Lock Bags (Sandwich, Quart, and Gallon)
- Personal Unscented Wipes
- Cleaning Wipes (Lysol)
- Disposable Tablecloths
- Gift Cards (Michaels, JoAnn Fabrics, Pat Catan's, Wal-Mart, Lowes/Home Depot)

Any donation, large or small, is sincerely appreciated.



Light up a Life! Support SBAWP in the Highmark Walk for a Healthy Community

What if we could come together even one day a year to show the power of connections? The Highmark Walk for a Healthy Community allows us to do just that- to show the power a group of people can be in supporting a cause and creating connections with each other. The Highmark Walk for a Healthy Community is an annual event for the SBAWP and **you are very important** in helping make this event a success. The event is a 5K Walk from the North Shore to downtown Pittsburgh (or one-mile Fun Walk).

SBAWP is one of 75 organizations participating in this year's Highmark Walk, which will take place on Saturday, May 16th at Stage AE on Pittsburgh's North Shore. Registration begins at 7:45 a.m. and the Walk is at 9 a.m.

100% of the money we raise comes back to SBAWP because Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield underwrites all the cost of the event.

There are lots of ways you can support SBAWP in the Highmark Walk. Just follow this link: <http://hcf.convio.net/sbawp> and then:

- **Register to sign up to participate in the Walk (5K or One Mile Fun Walk).**
- **Register as a virtual walker if you are unable to walk "in person."**
- **Create or join a team (you must register as an individual or virtual walker first).**
- **Create your page - customize with a photo and a story, if you'd like!**
- **Send an email directly from your page to family, friends or coworkers to donate on your behalf.**
- **Consider making a small donation to your page to kick off your fundraising.**
- **Search for Participants or Teams to support an individual or team in the Walk.**
- **Donate to make a donation directly to SBAWP.**
- **Hold a fundraiser to support an individual or team in the Walk.**

The key to making your team or page successful is to **ask**. Remind your friends and family that you are walking for a reason: to help make a difference in the lives of an individual with spina bifida and/or related disabilities.

If you have any questions, or need help registering or making a donation, call 724-934-9600.

When people connect-great things happen. At the Highmark Walk, our connections are not only powerful and inspirational, but help raise funds to support individuals living with spina bifida in our community. Please join us for this year's walk on May 16th and help us give everyone a chance to glow!



Highmark is an Independent Licensee of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association

Are you ready for Summer? We sure are! Last year's Summer Festival was a **BLAST** and we are expecting this year's to be **EVEN BETTER!**

Plans are underway for the SBAWP Seventh Annual Summer Festival presented by Seubert and Associates to be held on Saturday, August 15, 2015 at Blueberry Hill Park in Franklin Park from 1 p.m. to 8 p.m. This family friendly summer event will feature games and activities for all ages, live music, and great food. Tickets are only \$10 (children 5 and under are free), and all proceeds benefit SBAWP.

This year's festival will have something for everyone, including bounce houses, games, arts and crafts, sports, games, bingo and the ever-popular eurobungy. Festival-goers will be able to buy a chance to win great auction baskets and prizes.

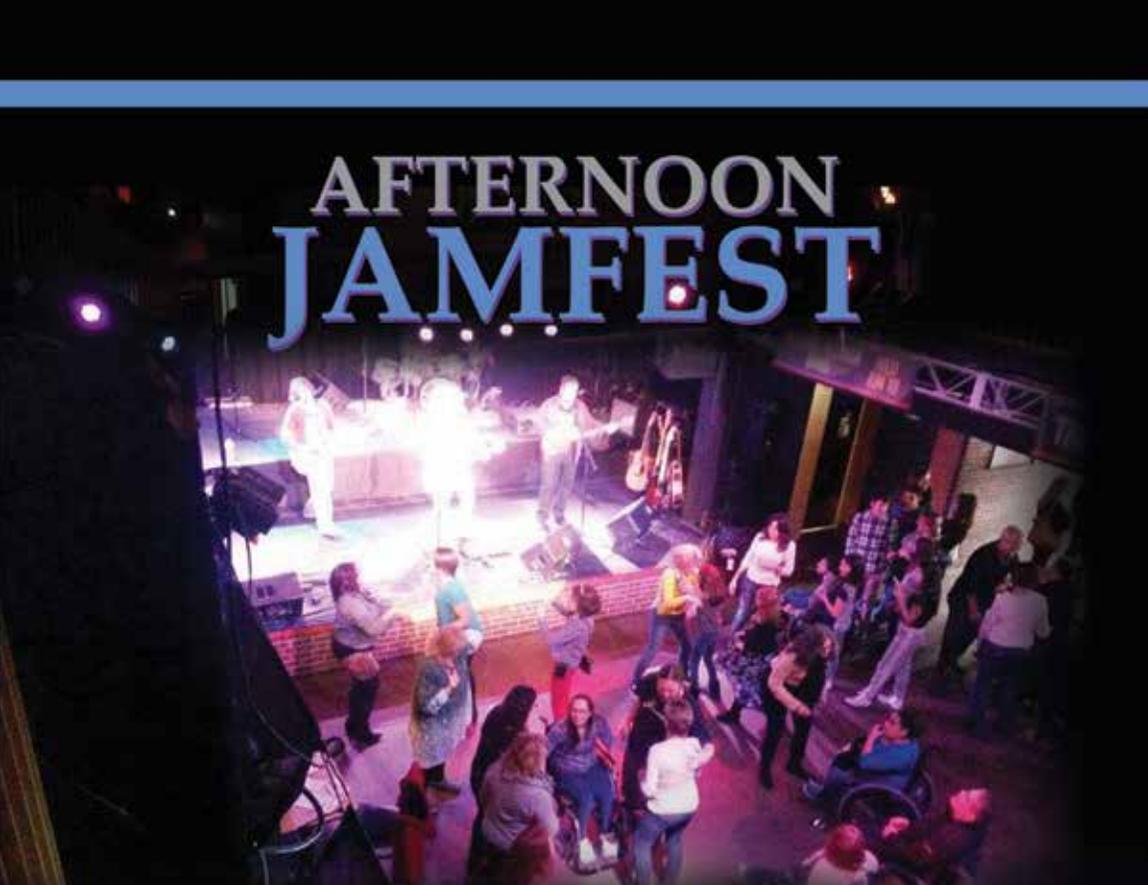
Live music will fill the air throughout the Festival again this year. Stay tuned to our website to see what bands will be playing at this year's event.

This is a festival you won't want to miss, so mark your calendars for the 2015 Summer Festival now!

We are still looking for Corporate Sponsors, Kids activity hosts, donation of auction items and prizes, and volunteers. For more information about attending or to get involved in the Festival, please contact Rebecca Crim at 724-934-9600 or rccrim@sbawp.org.



AFTERNOON JAMFEST



Great MUSIC, Great Friends, Great Food, Great prizes, and a GREAT Time was had by all at the 2nd Annual JamFest. Saturday, March 7th, the Association, Government Cheese, Man And the Arena, and Jergel's Rhythm Grille presented the 2nd Annual Afternoon JamFest. Last year's event was so much fun we just had to do it again. The event raised a little over \$11,000 to support the many great programs and services offered by the Association. The event could not have been successful without the support of the bands, SBAWP board, staff and families, sponsors, and the Jergel's staff.

The music for the event was generously provided by Government Cheese and The Man And The Arena. Government Cheese band members, Corey Logo (guitar), Ted Dunham (guitar and keys), Kevin Sprinkle (drums), and Rich Rodemoyer (bass) comprise the four member band and are some of the greatest guys you will ever meet. The band plays classic rock and hits from the '80s and '90s — including

the era's most popular dance tunes. Their fan base and gigs are primarily in Mercer County but they are always happy to find supporters in other areas and they hope to record some original 80's feel music in the near future. Check out their Facebook page for their schedule and venues-we promise you won't be disappointed!



Government Cheese

Man and The Arena, comprised of Keith Quinn (guitarist/vocalist), Adam Meyers (vocalist/guitarist), Trevor Oliver (bassist), and Jake Locke (drummer) filled the afternoon with an eclectic mix of harmonies and melodies. The music of Man And The Arena involves hints of several genres such as reggae, punk, and rock. They have been known to keep crowds moving with their upbeat reggae feel. Within their clever lyrics, anyone can find a song of their own to relate to and find comfort in. Check out their Facebook page for their schedule- this is a group of some fine young fellows you will want to see in action.



Man and the Arena

Thanks again to all who came out to the make the event such a huge success, We could not have done it without you and hope to see at our next JamFest!



Thank you to our Sponsors of Afternoon JamFest!



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Our Mission

That men and women may work in safety and that they, their families, and their communities may live in health throughout the world.

Embracing Change and Encouraging Innovation

MSA is an organization fully committed to protecting the health and safety of our customers, and we spend countless hours developing, testing, and evaluating our products to ensure we achieve our goals. Our company was founded in 1914 from humble beginnings and has grown to include more than 5,000 employees across the world, protecting workers in more than 140 countries. But we've never forgotten who we are, or who we work for: our customers. Their satisfaction and safety are our top goals, every day.

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THANK YOU!



Because of your gracious and generous giving, the Spina Bifida Association of Western PA has made **BIG** changes in the lives of hundreds of families and individuals with spina bifida. Your support has enabled children and young adults to **gain strength and joy** from their **friendships**, their **jobs**, their **health**, and their **lives**.



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Calendar of Events

April, 2015

10-12 FireFly Adult Retreat - Family Retreat Center

May, 2015

9-10 FireFly Youth & Teen Mother's Day Retreat - Family Retreat Center

16 Highmark Walk for a Healthy Community - Stage AE, North Shore, Pittsburgh, PA

June, 2015

30 Kennywood Outing

July, 2015

3-10 FireFly Youth and Teen Summer Camp - Family Retreat Center

6, 8, 9 BluePrints Mini Camp - Family Retreat Center

11-17 FireFly Adult Summer Camp - Family Retreat Center

20 Boilermakers 27th Annual Golf Tournament

August, 2015

15 7th Annual Summer Festival Blueberry Hill Park - Franklin Park, PA

HIGHMARK.



WALK FOR A HEALTHY COMMUNITY

Highmark is an Independent Licensee of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association

SBAWP is one of 75 organizations participating in this year's Highmark Walk, which will take place on Saturday, May 16th at Stage AE on Pittsburgh's North Shore.

Registration begins at 7:45 a.m. and the Walk is at 9 a.m.



SAVE THE DATE



Spina Bifida Association of Western Pennsylvania

August 15, 2015
7th Annual
Summer Festival
Blueberry Hill Park
Franklin Park, PA



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