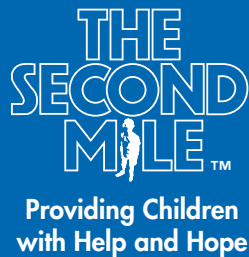


Mission Statement

The Second Mile challenges young people to achieve their potential as individuals and community members by providing opportunities for them to develop positive life skills and self-esteem as well as by providing education and support for parents and professionals addressing the needs of youth.



Spring 2008
Milestones
www.thesecondmile.org

What I Remember, What I Have Seen, and What I Hope You Know

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The official registration and financial information of The Second Mile™ may be obtained from the PA Department of State by calling toll-free within PA, 1-800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.

Let's start with what I remember: I remember being packed and ready to go a full week before leaving for camp.

I remember the faces of my amazing counselors (although their names escape me). I remember meeting Jerry Sandusky (even though I didn't really know who he was then). I remember getting in trouble for staying up late talking with my roommate. I remember feeling that it was silly to have to write down goals, but feeling so proud when I actually achieved them. I remember miniature golf, swimming, games, and feeling all grown up because we got to eat in the university dining commons. *What I don't remember is feeling like an outsider because I wasn't – I was treated just like every other camper.*

Compare this with my life during the rest of the year, where years of the free-lunch program at school and other financial assistance programs put a very distinct line between the rest of my friends and me. In elementary school, I stopped going to my friends' birthday parties because I couldn't stand to show up without a gift, empty-handed. I failed to recognize that my parents simply couldn't afford these "necessities" (as I viewed them), and I was a little bitter at being different.

That was why camp was so perfect: we were all from very different backgrounds, but for that one week, we were just kids. I may have been the quiet, chubby tomboy during the school year, but that week at camp allowed me to escape that persona and open up a little. I went to camp for two years, and while those two years didn't directly shape who I became as a person, my Challenge experience certainly provided the change of pace and escape that was needed to allow me to figure myself out. The Second Mile instilled in me the belief that even though I may not have had all the advantages of other kids my age, it did not mean that I should lead a life vastly different from them. I was a kid...at camp... and I was having a great time.

Ironically, I didn't fully appreciate the impact The Second Mile had on my life until fairly recently. As a double major in Marketing and Psychology at Penn State, I needed to find a summer internship. I began to look for Communication internships in the State College area, and The Second Mile made its way to my list. It had been at least ten years since I had been a camper, but while writing the inquiry email, an incredible number of memories came flooding back.

What I Remember, What I Have Seen, and What I Hope You Know continued on next page



Reflections from the Founder

In past columns I've shared the obstacles that our lack of facility raises as well as the opportunities that The Second Mile Center for Excellence will provide. We appreciate those of you who have responded to those columns by contacting us about becoming part of the Campaign. I've been humbled by your generosity: not only have you embraced the importance of maintaining your annual support so that we can continue to serve all of the youngsters for whom The Second Mile is "stability," but you also are digging deeper to make the future of Second Mile children brighter by contributing toward a facility, a "home" for Second Mile kids, and an endowment dedicated to maintaining our commitment to them.

Thanks to your support and that of other volunteers and donors, we are moving forward. We now have teams of volunteers across Pennsylvania: the Southeast Region/Greater Philadelphia area; the Southcentral Region – the Capitol area and Berks, Lancaster, and York Counties; and the Central Region, in which the Centre County team is active and a Blair County team is forming, as is a team in the Pittsburgh area. Along with Regional Chairs Ric Struthers, Greg Elinsky, and Steve Gothard (Southeast), Eddie Dunklebarger (Southcentral), and Tom Songer (Central), Campaign Chair Chuck Pearson and I thank each team's membership for their enthusiasm and involvement. We also are excited about Kyle Brady and Craig Fayak joining the team in a leadership capacity.

Where has this activity taken us so far? We're closer to the goal line. We plan to begin preparing the acreage this summer so that, when we've reached our goal, we're ready to build. What do we need to get to that goal? The continued enthusiasm of our current Campaign team members as they ask for support, additional team members to expand our reach, and generous Second Mile supporters, willing to continue to give for Second Mile kids today *and* tomorrow. In a word, we need YOU!

Jerry Sandusky

What I Remember, What I Have Seen, and What I Hope You Know continued from cover

For the nine months that I have been here, I have seen nothing but smiles from every person in The Second Mile office. I have seen staff members frantically trying to find rides to and from camp for dozens of kids. I have seen foster children and their families eager to see Cirque du Soleil as part of a Foster Family Support Activity. I have seen fellow interns learn how to "boondoggle" (another thing to add to the "What I remember list"). I have seen the development staff gear up as each special event approaches. *I have seen dozens of letters written by kids, teens, and parents expressing their gratitude to the amazing people who work here, to our volunteers, and to donors. Most importantly, I have seen every employee here put their heart and soul into helping children.*

I love every aspect of my work here. *Not only did The Second Mile impact my life when I was 10, but it is doing so again at age 21.* I had always thought my path was in the corporate world, but after seeing and experiencing how

The Second Mile has impacted the lives of so many kids (including me) and after witnessing how much the people here love their jobs *I now believe that working for a non-profit is what I'm meant to do.* I may not be able to give back to the community in the same manner that The Second Mile has helped me, but I hope to give something back nonetheless.

So, I hope you know that whatever you have done to help this organization has not gone unnoticed. *I hope you know that behind my thanks and appreciation are the voices of all the past, present, and future Second Mile participants.* I hope you know that personally witnessing the dedication and commitment from the same people who helped me years ago has been an incredibly rewarding experience. *Lastly, I hope you know that by supporting The Second Mile, every single volunteer, donor, staff member, and sponsor has impacted the lives of thousands of children. And we, the children, thank you.*



Lead article author Jessie Greger, once a Challenge participant, is now a Second Mile Children's Fund Scholarship recipient and works part-time at The Second Mile while she completes her Penn State degree. She works primarily in communications, including

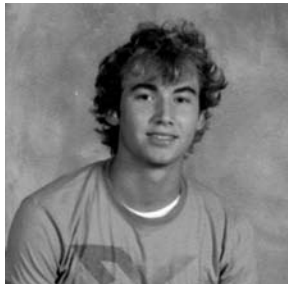


assisting with the writing, compilation, and editing of this Milestones.

Jessie, in her 1996 Challenge tee shirt, and today

Miles Ahead

Past Second Milers: Where Are They Now?



Brian Jackson

Then

Brian attended The Second Mile Challenge Program. He is also a recipient of a Second Mile scholarship for his post-graduate studies.

Fondest Memory

My fondest memory from camp was that I attended with one of my best friends from my hometown. It was the first chance that we had to live "on our own." The whole experience at camp that summer was great.

The Second Mile's Impact

The Challenge Program taught me always to reach out to others. Being in a new place, I learned the importance of making friends and being a friend.

Now

Brian has a year left at Harrisburg Area Community College. In his free time, he writes and performs his own acoustic pop music as a solo act.



Lucero Benites

Then

Lucero participated in The Second Mile's Leadership Institute. As a result, she and her team started a group in her high school that provided a study-buddy and a tour guide to incoming immigrants who only spoke Spanish.

Fondest Memory

My group and I felt a great sense of pride in starting a new club for incoming Spanish-speaking students and helping them with their English fluency, and we enjoyed meeting many new people through our project and the Institute.

The Second Mile's Impact

The Second Mile impacted my life in my communication skills – overcoming being too shy to talk and being comfortable using English, even if it wasn't perfect at the time. I challenged myself to be open to people and not to be shy because of my language barrier.

Now

Lucero will graduate in May from Millersville University. She is currently interning at WLCH 91.3, a Spanish language radio station in Lancaster.



Thoughts from the President

In this election year and in this primary season, campaign news is ubiquitous. Pick up a newspaper, and there are candidates on page one. Turn on the television, and there's a debate, a campaign ad, or a political prognosticator declaring who will win this "red state" or that "blue state." Acrimony is often in the air, both within parties and between parties.

This environment is one of the reasons why founding Board Members chose *not* to rely on government funds in establishing The Second Mile and why current Board Members maintain that philosophy. We want to operate free of the "red state-blue state" mentality and focus on the "State of the Child." Government funding streams change with the political tides. One year, funds are focused on drug use; the next, runaways; the following, teen pregnancy. But The Second Mile wants to address what children need and are experiencing now – not what's "hot." Often, funding for a "hot" issue arrives long after those in the field have recognized a problem, and even more often, government funding evaporates before the work is done or involves so much "red tape" that providers spend time completing forms that would be better spent working directly with children.

The Second Mile's independence from government funds is something that *only* can happen because of your ongoing commitment. It is *your support* that allows us to review "cutting edge" research and to work directly with parents, school personnel, community agencies, and volunteers to identify and be responsive to emerging and ongoing issues. *Your gifts* make it possible to develop programs based on what children need today, rather than what's politic or "popular." *Your donations* allow us to engage only in paperwork and assessment that is necessary and enhances programs, ensuring that our programs are effective *and* efficient. Finally, and most significantly, *you are the reason we can maintain our commitment to Second Mile children and teens based upon their needs, not upon "fashion."* For young people used to broken promises, *you are* stability. *You are hope.*

Miles To Go

The Second Mile's Northeast and Northwest Regions

UPS staff member
and Second Mile
volunteer stands
before a truck loaded
with the Winter
edition of Nittany Lion
Tips as we prepare
to deliver to 1575
counselors statewide.



With offices in the Central, Southcentral, and Southeast regions and an active group of volunteers in the Southwest, it's easier to see the impact of The Second Mile in those areas than it might be across Pennsylvania's northern tier. However, [with thousands of children from the Northeast and Northwest regions participating in The Second Mile, this organization is making sure that no Pennsylvania region goes unserved.](#)

[More than 75 children from these two regions attended The Second Mile's Challenge Program this past summer.](#) Given the longer distances from these regions to the camp sites in either central or southeastern Pennsylvania, travel arrangements take more consideration. Thankfully, counselors in these regions go "the extra mile" to ensure that the children they work with can experience the support of the Summer Challenge Program. [Two of these counselors, Pat Melpolder from the Northwest Region and Kim Salerno from the Northeast Region, have each earned recognition as The Second Mile's Professional Partner of the Month.](#) In May of 2007, Melpolder, an elementary school counselor at Union City Elementary School in Erie County, was recognized for her impact on the children she serves.

"The multiple round-trips Pat makes from Erie County to get her kids to and from the program (and to register them) in State College are examples of her incredible commitment and sacrifice for children."

—Marc McCann, *The Second Mile*

Kim Salerno received recognition in August of 2007 for her commitment to the children of Lackawanna County in the Northeast region. Having worked for the EOTC for ten years, she has made a positive impact on many children and

families, and she sees The Second Mile as a partner in helping her have that impact.

"One of the things I love about Kim is her unending devotion to children. She has a belief in them as a group and a belief in them as individuals, and in every decision that she makes regarding children, she's thoughtful and ethical about how to best serve them."

—Elaine Donley, *Community Development Manager, EOTC Family Center*

These two regions also sent six teams to [The Second Mile Leadership Institute.](#) This four-day conference teaches high-school sophomores skills in team-building, communication, project development and community service. [Students from Delaware Valley High School, a team from the Northeast Region, developed a project action plan that included plans to hold a carnival to promote HIV/AIDS awareness and raise funds for HIV/AIDS research.](#) [Keystone High School, a team from the Northwest Region, developed the idea for a Student Blog through the school's website for their project action plan.](#) This blog would be a resource for students to obtain help with homework and information about social functions, as well as answer general questions. Delaware Valley, Keystone, and the other teams in attendance are now implementing their plans with the newfound skills honed at the Leadership Institute.

In addition to participation in Leadership and Challenge, [thousands of students from these regions participated in the Nittany Lion Tips Program and learned how to combat bullying with our PEAK Program.](#) [More than 750 family members attended foster family activities, and 19 received Children's Fund awards.](#) [All across the Commonwealth, your gifts help The Second Mile help kids!](#)

Special Events Calendar 2008

March 2

Clearfield Chapter Sports Banquet
Clearfield, PA

March 14

Lancaster Chapter Spring Celebration
Lancaster, PA

March 28

The KPMG Celebration of Excellence
Hershey, PA

March 28

The Second Mile Reverse Drawing
Altoona, PA

April 19

Clearfield Chapter Monte Carlo Night
Clearfield, PA

April 25

The Second Mile Art Auction
State College, PA

May 5

Lehigh Valley Chapter
Celebrity Banquet
Allentown, PA

May 9

Sandy Kranich Golf Benefit
York, PA

May 14

Berks County Kickoff For Kids
Reading, PA

May 16

Clinton County Sports Night
Lock Haven, PA

June 3

Pitt vs. Penn State Golf Challenge
Pittsburgh, PA

June 9

Chester County Second Mile Golf Classic
Downingtown, PA

June 19-21

Second Mile Golf Classic
State College, PA

September TBD

Universal Media Second Mile
Celebrity Golf Classic
Hershey, PA

September 21

Lancaster Chapter Divas of Jazz Concert
Lancaster, PA

October TBD

Southeast PA Celebration of Excellence
King of Prussia, PA

November 21

The Second Mile Mercedes Benz
Reverse Drawing
State College, PA

Checking the Mileage

The Second Mile Children's Fund

By Erin E. Reid, M.Ed., The Pennsylvania State University

Established in 1987, The Children's Fund is one of The Second Mile's three community-based programs. The program offers support in three distinct ways – by providing grants for children's unmet needs, offering scholarships to Second Mile program graduates, and recognizing community service through awards to high school seniors.

Grants - Children's Fund Grants provide children and youth up to age 18 with a resource to meet needs that are not met by other government or nonprofit programs. The Second Mile staff works directly with school counselors and other youth service professionals to identify such needs. Needs met in the past through Children's Fund Grants have included musical instrument repairs, recreational center fees, shoes, school yearbooks, and even money toward the purchase of a tombstone for a young girl whose mother had died. In addition, some in-kind donations are distributed through this program, such as donations of new winter coats or of fiction books.

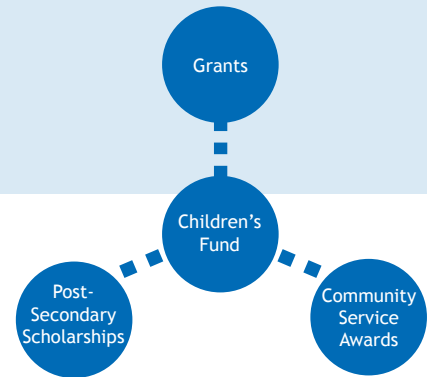
Here is what a few referral sources had to say about grants made for their clients' needs:

"I would like to thank you for your generous donation to a family on my caseload. Your donation was used for a family to pay initiation fees for a family pass at the YMCA. Circumstances for their family have been difficult since mom found out that she has cancer. Your donation has enabled them to get out of the house and participate in activities that were previously impossible."
—A youth service professional from Centre County

"Thank you very much for the money from the Children's Fund to help outfit a couple of kids for summer activities! The bathing suit recipient was very pleased to shop with me and excited to find one she really liked."
—A school counselor from Blair County

Post-Secondary Scholarships - The second arm of The Children's Fund provides post-secondary scholarship support to former Second Mile program participants from all programs, including the Challenge Program, the Friend Program, the Friend Fitness Program, and The Leadership Institute. Scholarships are awarded to students on the basis of financial need, program participation, and promise, and monies granted may be used towards payment of tuition or towards other school-related expenses at any accredited post-secondary institution. Scholarships are awarded in the amounts of \$500 and \$1,000 per student and paid in two increments over the course of the school year.

Figure 1: The three prongs of The Children's Fund.



Here are some thoughts about the program shared by scholarship recipients:

"Your scholarship was awarded to me when I needed it the most. I did not have enough money to pay the rest of my tuition bill to be able to register for the following semester. Before I received the scholarship, I was really upset. I thought I had to quit school for a semester and then go back to school again after I earned more money. This scholarship lets me keep working toward my most desired dream."
—A former Leadership Institute participant and current scholarship recipient from Chester County

"This money means more to me than anyone will ever know. I am now the first person in my family to attend college and plan on becoming an elementary teacher. Since I have to pay for whatever my grants, etc., do not cover, this money from The Second Mile helps tremendously."
—A former Challenge Program participant and current scholarship recipient from Westmoreland County

"This scholarship will help with the book costs for the upcoming spring semester. Furthermore, the money will reduce some of the economic hardships I have encountered and [help] me focus more on my education. However, there is something more valuable than money – I have received the extra push, the extra encouragement to go on, and the opportunity to pursue my dream in the future."
—A former Leadership Institute participant and current scholarship recipient from Philadelphia County

Community Service Awards - The third aspect of The Children's Fund, The Second Mile Community Service Awards, honor graduating high school seniors who have demonstrated exemplary levels of commitment to community service. Students are nominated by their high school counselors in areas in which The Second Mile has organized Chapters or Affiliates. Each nominated student receives a certificate and a savings bond. From among the nominees, regional winners are chosen, and these students receive a \$1000, \$750, or \$500 savings bond. Last fiscal year, The Second Mile recognized 71 high school seniors for their exemplary community service.

Here is a quote from one of the award winners:

"I want to thank you for choosing me as one of The Second Mile Community Service Award recipients. I hope to continue my service work not only at home, but at college as well."
—A Community Service Award recipient from Lancaster County

Miles of Smiles



What a Winter!

The smiles on these faces show the joy of being part of the Friend, Friend Fitness, and Challenge Programs throughout the year!

