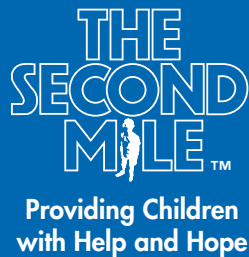


Mission Statement

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.



Summer 2010
Milestones
www.thesecondmile.org

Maintaining the Challenge Throughout the Year

State Office

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Southcentral Regional Office

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Central Regional Office

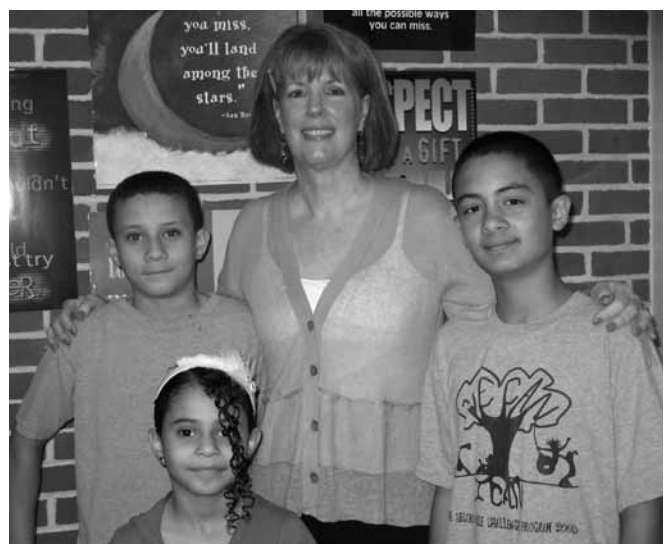
1402 S. Atherton Street
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The official registration and financial information of The Second Mile™ may be obtained from the PA Department of State by calling toll-free within PA, 1-800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.

The recipe for a typical camp week usually includes campers and counselors plus arts and crafts, hiking, swimming, talent shows, and sing-alongs. For The Second Mile Challenge Program camp week, we add to that mix skill-building sessions, team-building initiatives, and community service projects. **At the end of the week, campers leave with the knowledge that they can earn their way back to the Challenge Program next summer and new skills to make that possible.**

This is the story of how The Second Mile and our campers' referring school counselors support our campers' efforts throughout the year. One of the first things that Second Mile permanent staff and our summer staff do at the end of each camp week is debrief about each camper. For each camper, the staff considers what the camper's strengths are and what are skill areas we need to continue to build? For returning campers, what growth have we witnessed or what regression might we need to address? What academic, behavioral, and community service goals has the camper chosen to earn his or her return trip? In addition to sharing those goals with the child's guardian and referring school counselor, what other specific observations



Beth Patterson with her students.

and recommendations would be helpful to share? Are there any additional issues that the camper needs to address before returning to camp and what supports can we help put in place to help the camper address those issues?

The Second Mile's permanent staff leaves the meeting with a plan of action for each camper - contact with parents, contact with the school, arranging for additional services in the school or community. We may be helping to arrange for free or reduced breakfast and lunch at school or sharing literacy issues that the camper

Maintaining the Challenge Throughout the Year continued on next page

Stories from Staff

"How Can I Help?"



Recently, my five year old granddaughter asked me what I wanted to be when I grow up. One of the pleasures of young grandchildren is that, for them, you are just "Nana," and they have no sense that your retirement is just months away.

Her question started me thinking about all of the people that I have met and what they have done to make an impact on my life during the last 30 years during my work at a private school and for The Second Mile.

Our Second Mile volunteers have given their time, talents, creativity and enthusiasm to

- pick up a children for Challenge camp who have trash bags full of wet clothing - or only one change of clothes - and stop en route to purchase new clothes and bedding;
- prepare lunches and host picnics for foster and camper families;
- give freely of their time and talents to help make a special fund-raising event a successful one;
- look beyond the celebrity guest to focus on the importance of raising money for the children; or
- help assemble invitations and gift bags for Second Mile kids, pick up supplies and auction items, and support events.

During my tenure at The Second Mile, I have worked with hundreds of volunteers who always ask me how they can help. I would like to thank all of you for your tireless dedication to The Second Mile and to all of the children we serve. You have been an inspiration for me and great mentors. When I retire, I look forward to following your example by becoming a dedicated volunteer.

Nancy Jones

Nancy Jones, who will retire from The Second Mile this June, has been Director of Development in The Second Mile's Southcentral Office for the past nine years. While we will miss her daily contribution to our staff, we celebrate having her expertise as a future volunteer and the additional time she will have with her grandchildren.

Maintaining the Challenge Throughout the Year continued from cover

had been disguising in the larger classroom or connecting a camper to the equipment he lacks to play a sport. [Then we stay in contact throughout the year - with camper, guardian, and school counselor each month.](#) Last year, Second Mile permanent staff made 7,292 phone or written contacts with school counselors and 9,069 with campers and their guardians. [Those contacts include discussions about goals, updates on progress, referrals for issues, follow-ups on those referrals, recommendations for parents, and celebrations of achievements.](#) [Additionally, we held 31 mid-year activities](#) for campers and made 1,301* in person contacts at those events (*some campers attended more than one activity). This academic year, a core group of our summer staff also provided additional year-round encouragement by contacting campers who attended their camp week on a monthly basis.

[The Second Mile's year-round support is reinforced by the school professionals who refer the youngsters to the Challenge Program.](#) [As Instructional Support Teacher Beth Patterson shares,](#) ["The Second Mile Challenge Program helps me build my relationships with the children I refer.](#) I pick them up at the end of the camp week, and they come home tired, but brimming with stories to tell. They talk about how they are going to achieve the goals they set during the camp week and about what they learned about settling differences with words, not fists. [Once the school year begins, we continue to talk all year long about camp experiences, their goals, and when camp starts again.](#) They know when it's time for me to start making recommendations for a

return trip for the campers who have met their goals, and they peer around my desk and ask me, "Did you send in my application yet?"

[Beth terms connecting with The Second Mile a "defining moment" in her professional life, providing her with an important new opportunity for students whom she always knew had to do a lot of "heavy lifting."](#) The deeper relationship with her students that resulted has reinforced that awareness: "When I drove second grader Laura home after camp, the trash was on the curb and the house was empty. When I asked Laura what might be going on, she said, 'I think they moved.' And they had. Somehow, we reunited her with her mom, but it was an ordeal. For the children I work with, The Second Mile *is* the constant in their lives." She continues, "My students may come to school weighed down with the knowledge that their only meals will be at school or that a family member is in jail for drugs or abuse. No one asks how their day went, checks their backpacks, or reads to them. Many of my kids are responsible for younger siblings and for completing chores well beyond their years. School is tough but home is tougher."

Beth concludes, ["My kids are creative, wonderful, and funny. They need and want to be successful, and The Second Mile gives them that chance to spread their wings and try things they have never tried before. They deserve a week of 'You are awesome; I know you can do it, and I believe in you.'](#) [Second Mile gives them that week and then reinforces that message, together with the teachers and counselors who refer the campers, year-round, and that *is* indeed life-changing."](#)

Miles Ahead

Past Second Milers: Where Are They Now?



Gami Sanchez

Then

Gami participated in the Friend Fitness Program from eighth grade through tenth grade, meeting with his mentor twice weekly to work on fitness and academic goals.

Fondest Memory

"This program taught me how to work hard - both in workouts and in meeting other goals. I was referred to the Program because my father was ill and I didn't have anyone to guide me, so it was great to connect with a mentor who filled that role."

The Second Mile's Impact

"I was at an age and in a situation where I didn't have anything to focus on. Friend Fitness provided me direction. I developed an interest in sports and in being more active and I focused on the goals I set with my mentor."

Now

Gami has been a service advisor at Dix Honda since 2005. He enjoys interacting with customers (and they with him) and appreciates that he and his coworkers are a tight knit group.



Nicole Wert

Then

Nicole was a Challenge participant attending from fifth grade through eighth grade.

Fondest Memory

"My fondest memory of The Second Mile is from the SMILE Program where we made our camp outside and slept outdoors for the week. I had never done anything like that before, and it was really neat to work together to figure out how to make our shelter work."

The Second Mile's Impact

"The Second Mile helped me overcome my shyness. I learned how to meet new people."

Now

Nicole attends Allegheny College of Maryland and is studying to be a dental hygienist. While her studies keep her busy, she continues to enjoy the outdoors, as she did as a camper in The Second Mile's SMILE Program. She expects to begin her career as a hygienist in 2012.



Thoughts from the President

More than 400 students and faculty members representing 62 high schools attended The Second Mile Leadership Institute in March - our largest Institute ever. While this overwhelming interest by Pennsylvania high schools was certainly gratifying, what was equally gratifying was witnessing the tremendous participation by a diverse group of volunteers during the Institute.

More than 60 individuals took time from their busy schedules to serve as Leadership Institute facilitators, working alongside each high school team as the team worked on its business plan for its chosen project. Numbered among this group were State and Regional Board Members, former Second Mile staff members, business and community leaders, a participant in our first Institute now working on his MBA, and numerous agents from our lead sponsor, State Farm. Additionally, still more volunteers supervised team-building initiatives and activities while others shared their expertise during personal development seminars. Faculty from Rutgers and Penn State as well as area collegians offered their expertise as presenters and mentors during key leadership development seminars.

When I say that volunteers are the lifeblood of The Second Mile, those are certainly not empty words: clearly, we cannot reach the number of young people that we do without these facilitators and volunteers at Leadership, our mentors in Friend and Friend Fitness, corporate volunteers and underwriters at the Challenge Program, Special Events Committee members, and our Board leaders to name but a few important roles.

I am indebted to our volunteers and our donors for working together with us to provide the tools and the opportunities so that Second Mile children can build successful futures.

Miles To Go

Creating Bright Futures



The Second Mile's Challenge Program is a collaborative program between school counselors and The Second Mile's programming staff. School counselors, and other youth service professionals, initially refer camp youngsters between the ages of 8 and 12 who are dealing with challenging personal circumstances and are in need of extra support.

Campers come from rural, suburban, and urban communities in all regions of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. They always face one (and typically more) of a variety of challenging circumstances, such as parents' divorce; death or illness of a family member; financial hardship; familial substance abuse, neglect, or incarceration; academic deficits; or difficulties with peer interactions and socialization.

Our Challenge Program meets the needs of these youth through three distinctly different residential programs. As a new participant in the program, youth participate in the camper program, residing in a cabin or dorm; experiencing a curriculum that includes training in goal-setting, decision making, and peer and adult relations; and enjoying recreational activities such as swimming and arts and crafts. As part of the camp week, campers set an academic and behavioral goal for the upcoming school year and plan a community service project to be completed at home sometime in the next year. Once they are members of The Second Mile camper family, campers who make significant progress on those goals earn their way back to camp the following year.

After mastering the early curriculum, older, returning campers have the opportunity to attend a more advanced camp program—SMILE (Second Mile Intensive Learning Experience), an outdoor, adventure-based program, which continues to promote personal challenge and success. SMILE

campers are then invited to participate in a capstone camp experience, the Leaders Program, during which they benefit from leadership and career training.

Much more than a week of "fun in the sun" for children whose families could not afford a camp experience, participants benefit not only from the skills training received at camp but also from year-round follow-up from The Second Mile staff, which comes in many forms—visits, letters, cards, phone calls, meetings, special activities and coordinated outreach with school and community professionals. With this year-round support and the opportunity to earn ongoing program participation, these young people learn self-reliance, rather than continue patterns of helplessness. They learn that their behaviors determine whether or not they will receive a return invitation to camp, no matter what the challenges and difficulties encountered at home. When campers discover that their behaviors are what make a difference, they begin to live optimistically. The optimism learned and skills acquired lead to more successful futures.

Private sector support is critical to The Second Mile's ability to offer this opportunity to the needy young people identified by our network of referring professionals. Many individual donors reach out to the young people by providing a Camp Angel Scholarship of \$500. We are also blessed by both businesses and individuals who generously underwrite an entire camp session. In addition to providing these significant gifts of treasure, these corporate partners also offer the time and talents of their staffs to volunteer during their camp sessions and beyond. Please join us in continuing to provide an opportunity for at risk youth to grow and move beyond their unfortunate circumstances. Be an Angel—send a kid to camp!

The PA EITC Program

Three Cheers to Our Corporate Supporters

The Second Mile has earned the designation "Educational Improvement Organization" for the ways in which our programs promote school success for Pennsylvania students. As a result, we are eligible recipients of Pennsylvania's Educational Tax Credit (EITC) Program, a way that businesses can make their tax dollars work for Second Mile kids. This program gives an approved business a tax credit equal to 75%-90% of its contributions to an approved non-profit organization. Businesses that would like to support The Second Mile through this program must apply to participate on July 1 and designate their donation for an educational improvement organization (EIO). If you would like to join our roster of corporate supporters participating in the EITC Program by completing a very short form and submitting it on July 1, Second Mile staff in any of our offices would be happy to provide you the form (and even submit it for you on July 1) or you can go to www.newpa.com/eitc for the EIO form you need to submit on July 1 to participate.

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Miles of Smiles

Scenes From Our Friend and Friend Fitness Mentoring Programs Across the Commonwealth

▶ Lancaster County Friend



◀ Southeast Region Friend

▶ Clinton County Friend

▼ Centre Friend Fitness



◀ Lehigh County Friend

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