



EXPEDITION

Winter, 2011

Your Donations Help Make Us A Success!

Because the internet allows the Foundation to be accessed worldwide, we are pleased that many wonderful organizations that share our mission are able to apply for grant money. This year we awarded over \$42,000 to applicants from coast to coast.

We never would have known about **Sauvie Island Center** in Portland, OR if they hadn't found the Kate Svitek Memorial Foundation website. With the help of a \$1,500 grant from the Foundation, Sauvie Island Center's Grow Lunch Garden served nearly 1,000 children from Title I schools in low income neighborhoods. Many of the children have never visited a farm. They toured the farm, explored the compost pile, tasted vegetables from the fields and learned about the role insects, birds and animals play in the larger food web. In the Spring, they planted seeds and in the Fall they harvested the crops. One class of fourth graders planted chard and turnips and later made chard and turnip quesadillas - a big hit!

Green Valleys Association is another agency that found the Foundation through the website. Founded in 1964, GVA oversees 155 square miles of all five of Chester County's northern and eastern Schuylkill River watersheds. These five watersheds and their tributaries serve as the drinking water for more than 150,000 residents and run through some of the most important and productive fish, bird, amphibian, and other wildlife habitat in northern Chester County. A gift of \$1,000 helped sponsor guest speakers during the Summer Nature Day Camp program. Some of the speakers included a local farm presenting a beekeeping demonstration, an animal expert with live local animals, another with live exotic animals and a park ranger to teach the children shelter building and outdoor skills.

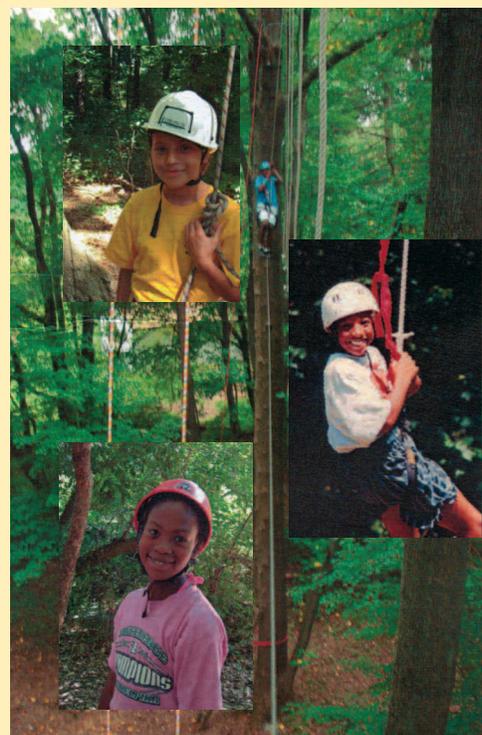
College Settlement Camp is located in Horsham, PA and serves 512 children, aged 8-12 during 4 two-week summer overnight camp sessions. Approximately 80% of the campers come from homes that fall below the poverty level. The Kate Svitek Memorial Foundation gave a gift of \$5,000 which helped the camp maintain and improve their high level ropes courses. The participation of campers on the high ropes course resulted in their developing increased self-esteem, problem solving abilities and communication skills. Kate loved the high ropes course when she attended day camp and sleep away camps. She would have been proud to see the children at College Settlement.



Students at Sauvie Island Center in Portland, OR



Students at Green Valleys Association in Chester County, PA



Students at College Settlement Camp in Horsham, PA

Message From Ellen and Frank

Whenever I sit down to write this message, the first thing I do is read all the past newsletters and I fill up with pride.

As I look through the past eight issues, I realize there is a recurring theme. Our fundraisers have all been major successes because of the careful planning and execution of our volunteers and the fantastic support of you – our generous attendees and contributors.

Each year our ad book features testimonials from students who have benefitted from our scholarships and thank you letters from directors of programs who received grant money.

We have successfully run eight golf outings that have raised over \$375,000. Our ad books have contributed \$586,000 toward our scholarship and grant funds. I am so proud that our scholarship and grant program has grown and each year we are able to serve so many more young people.

This February 9th will be nine years since Kate's accident. Thank goodness we have the Foundation to keep Kate's name alive and her dreams fulfilled. We are very grateful for all of your support.

Please take the time to read the "Getting to Know Kate" column written by her friend Deb Harris. I can't believe the Halls, Harris', Weisbeins and Svitek's sent 4 teenage girls off to Arizona to live near a ranger station by themselves... what were we thinking????



(for Frank and Michael)

Name That Character Contest

In early November, the Kate Svitek Memorial Foundation offered an exciting once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to its supporters. The Foundation implemented an exclusive raffle for a chance to be a character in Richard North Patterson's book, *Fall From Grace* scheduled to be released in 2012. Ric is an internationally renowned New York Times Best-Selling Author. Since 1979, he has published 22 books including *Exile*, *The Race*, *The Spire* and *In the Name of Honor*. Ric married Kate's Aunt Nancy in 2008. Although he never met Kate, he has been a huge fan of the Foundation and was honored to support the Foundation in this creative and unique way.

The drawing was held on December 17th at 2:40 pm at the offices of Samson Wealth Management Group of Wells Fargo Advisors. Frank and Ellen Svitek witnessed the drawing of the winning ticket under the supervision of Mark Samson, a KSMF Founder and Chair of the Investment Committee. Congratulations to Jeanne DeSouza, the winner of the Name That Character Contest. Jeanne has chosen to name the character in memory of her uncle Phillip Wertz. The suspense is mounting as we eagerly await the upcoming publication of *Fall from Grace* to learn all about Phillip's character!

We would like to express our heartfelt gratitude to the 81 participants who raised \$6,800 which is earmarked for the North Carolina Outward Bound scholarship program at Community Academy of Philadelphia. Be sure to visit the website for upcoming events and grants of the KSMF and please remember Kate's dream by making a donation throughout the year as you wish to honor a special person or recognize a special occasion.

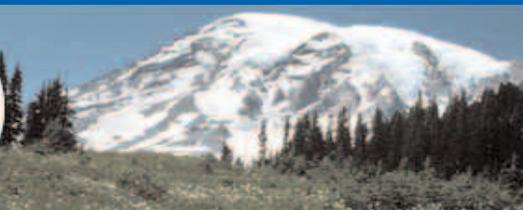


Mark Samson, Jeannine Whitfield, Frank and Ellen Svitek, Howard Sheckman and Sandy Archambault

KSMF Is GOING GREEN!!

Please help us save paper. If you would like to receive the newsletter electronically next year, please send us your email to: esvitek22@aol.com

Check out the new pictures for all of this year's great events!



Please take some time to visit our fabulous website! www.katesvitekmemorial.org

Wissahickon Charter School

Wissahickon Charter School is located in Germantown and serves 419 students from across the city of Philadelphia. Our mission is to provide a community of learning with an environmental focus that stimulates the child's intellectual, social and character development.

The 8th grade Outward Bound Kate Svitek Memorial Expedition trip is a culminating experience for our students. This is illustrated through the students' perseverance during the trip and reflection afterwards.

One student, Qudsiyyah, writes, "Thank you for providing me and my classmates with the opportunity to go on an Outward Bound expedition. It was a very valuable experience that I will never forget. On our expedition we had a wonderful time rock climbing, hiking on the Appalachian Trail and building relationships. We had hard times on the trip such as getting to camp late, not cooperating and dealing with the wilderness, but we got through it. We survived the trip and had fun. It was really cool to watch our group transform from a group of kids to a family. At the beginning, we had trouble cooperating and working together, but by the end, it was a piece of cake. I want to thank you for providing me with this wonderful opportunity."

Our students returned from the expedition with newfound confidence and skills. Some were surprised to learn that they can excel and even lead while doing something hard. This increases their motivation to persevere, learn and lead within the walls of the school as well.

Wissahickon Charter School students come back with greater personal confidence and increased ability to work as a team. They develop a deeper appreciation and respect for the natural world. They comment that they have learned a greater depth of compassion for their classmates when they are required to work together in a different environment.

We are so grateful to the Kate Svitek Memorial Foundation for providing truly transformational life experiences for Wissahickon Charter School students. Thank you!

Juanita Nyce,
Director of Development

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Svitek,

I really am grateful that you funded our 8th grade Outward Bound trip. We would have never been able to go on this trip without you. Even though most of the time I really didn't have any respect for the instructors, I still enjoyed myself. I learned that it's really important to respect nature by staying quiet, leaving the bugs alone and not climbing trees. Overall, I really had an awesome time and would definitely do it again.

Sincerely,
Milo Burton

Dear Mrs. and Mr. Svitek,

I honestly thought that this expedition would be work, work and more work. But by the second day, it was a lot more fun. I talked to people who I never got to talk to. The team work was one of our advantages. Hiking was a challenge with a huge heavy pack on my back but I somehow got through it. And at the end of the 5 day trip, I realized how strong my calf muscles were after I got home.

Sincerely,
Ryshad Peak

Dear Mrs. and Mr. Svitek,

Thank you for funding our 8th grade Outward Bound Expedition. The trip was a challenge but I overcame and I actually came back stronger and wiser. Literally, I came back with more muscle!! Something I learned was that you have to be patient and appreciate what you have at home. My favorite part of the trip was when we were in the tarp in the middle of the night and we had to do a lightning drill. All of the boys just came together and bonded as if we were brothers.

Sincerely,
Jamile Pines-Elliott

Dear Mrs. and Mr. Svitek,

Thank you for giving us an opportunity to explore the wilderness with Outward Bound. I came into this experience closed minded and wanting to go home but came out a leader. I learned a lot of things about myself and my classmates. Kay, Byeeeee!

Thanks
Symore McCallem

Dear Mrs. and Mr. Svitek

I would like to thank you for letting me participate and camp and hike on the Appalachian Trail. Something I learned about myself was that even though it was challenging, to always try new things even if you don't enjoy or like it. Something I learned about nature is that if you take a second and look around, you'll find it's very BEAUTIFUL! I'm not really a outdoors girl but it ws a experience I will NEVER forget! THANK YOU!

Sincerely,
Deja Roberts

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Svitek,

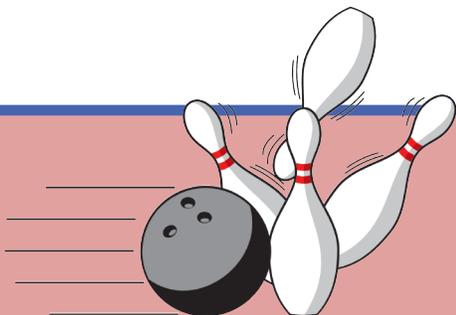
Thank you for funding my classes trip. Many of us enjoyed the trip and had fun. I also thank you because you gave me a chance to be outdoors and be more connected to nature. Also I think that I over came challenges and I'm proud.

Sincerely,
Omar Goode

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Svitek

Thank you for funding our Outward Bound trip. It was great. I learned that to be a good leader you have to include everyone which is really hard to do. The most challenging part is walking in a single file line. Thank you again for fundig our trip.

Sincerely
Josh Valentine



SAVE THE DATE!!!

September 24, 2011
North Bowl!!!

CAP Students Recall Their North Carolina Outward Bound Experiences



I am writing this letter to thank you for giving me the opportunity to be able to go to Outward Bound. NC Outward Bound was a wonderful and yet challenging experience. I can never express in words how much Outward Bound changed me or what it means to me. Outward Bound is not just something I did just to do, I realized I will never forget my journey. In doing this I learned a lot about myself. I also learned that I could do more than what I ever thought I could. Throughout my life I've had many hardships and tribulations and some that I thought I could never get over, but at NCOBS I did. During Outward Bound I was put in a group of six girls, including me and six guys, and at first they were just people to me, but through my course they became a family along with my three instructors, Lily Beth, John, and Rus. A lot of things happened during my 21-day course, I backpacked, rock climbed and canoed on the white waters. In truth, I learned slowly that those activities were more than just activities they were ways to help us grow and turn over a new leaf in our lives. In my group, we all grew in various ways especially me, I learned to trust. I also learned not to give up when things get hard that I have to push through because nothing is impossible unless you give up which then makes it impossible. I learned to appreciate the little things in life, because you never know when you won't have it anymore. I learned many things during my course, I learned about myself, how to deal with others when put into certain situations, but most importantly I learned that trying something new even when it's not a trend is something to experience. At first, when I heard about Outward Bound I was skeptical about it, but I couldn't be happier that I decided to take a chance and go on an amazing journey that I will never forget for years to come. Outward Bound is something that I will tell my grandchildren about and because of this, I am writing this thank you letter. If it wasn't for you giving me this opportunity I wouldn't have learned so much about myself and all the things I can now do, so thank you.

Sincerely,
Samantha Santana

... This was a whole new experience for me and I learned many new things and I made really good friends on course that I wish I could see now. We went through a lot, but we trusted and motivated the people who were struggling. I learned how to cook, tie tarps, hike for miles, climb natural mountains, and trust people I do not know. So, thank you Outward Bound for giving me an unforgettable two weeks and for teaching me a lot of new things.

Sincerely,
Mark Torres

...I cannot describe in words how the NC Outward Bound School has changed my life. This experience has changed my life for the better. I have never been so open-minded. I have gained lifelong friends all around the United States. I feel as if I am able to do anything now. I can walk for days after literally walking for a whole day straight. Running down a mountain in a lightning drill with a heavy pack on my back and my rain gear half off of my body. Counting the lightning under my tarp in the pouring rain with some of the nicest people I have ever met. Climbing mountains leaving my life in the hands of strangers. Learning how to make a "bear hang" and respect others for their differences and beliefs. I can only wish that I may one day rejoin the journey of my Outward Bound course. I can never repay you for what you two have given me, so I will give you my thanks and appreciation for the kindness you have shown a complete stranger. Because of you, I can now lead my life with confidence and certainty.

Thank you,
Alex Colon

...I am very appreciative that I had been chosen for the 14-day course in Outward Bound. It made me realize the wonderful things that I have in life and the things that I never had before. Before Outward Bound, I was the type of teenager that would just laugh at someone who would talk about mountain climbing or canoeing. Then I realized that I wanted to do that too and experience something that I never done before. When it was time to go I didn't want to come back home, I wanted to stay longer. Outward Bound has made me become a strong and wise person. I don't look at things the way I used to, I look at them as a reason in life. Ever since then I learned to never give up and keep on moving forward, because life moves on.

Sincerely,
Christina Nieves

... As the 21st day came, I felt rewarded and liked for the first time in my life. I accomplished something major. Each mountain that we climbed, each wall we climbed, and each day of paddling that went by made me feel closer to my crewmates. We had a bond that would have never occurred if it were not for this outstanding program. I feel as though going to Outward Bound made me a better person. I was always shy and afraid of meeting new people, but this experience has changed me. Once again, I just want to thank you so very much for allowing me to have this wonderful experience.

Sincerely,
Misael Santiago



Youth Environmental Stewardship Program Help Clean Up Philadelphia Parks

With the Foundation's generous support of \$4,500, this summer's youth were able to deepen their experience and appreciate the outdoors in new ways through a host of exciting experiential field trips.

The 2010 YES program enrolled 56 low/moderate-income youth at 7 different park and recreations sites across the city. Eight youth were based at each site, and were hired to complete projects in the areas of conservation, beautification, and advocacy. In addition to making landscape improvements at each site, youth participated in a holistic curriculum that included nutrition, wellness and leadership development. Program activities were designed to encourage the development of a deeper understanding of the interconnectedness between the natural environment, community and self.

The results of their work this year were truly impressive. Over 7,800 pounds of invasive plants were removed from park sites and almost 500 bags of trash were collected. Youth built trails, steps, water bars, a water bridge, 8 new flower beds and even helped build a cob oven. They spread 35 tons of mulch and expanded their work to include three community gardens, 2 urban farms, as well as an orchard and an arboretum. They also took their first ever yoga classes and enjoyed cooking, nutrition, and health awareness workshops.

Field trips were a crucial part of the program this year and brought the youth into new environments and provided them with new challenges. With the support of the Kate Svitek Memorial Foundation, PHS was able to offer six field trips this year.

During the first week, PHS partnered with Outward Bound to deliver a challenging team building ropes course. Since it is important that the YES teams figure out how to work together early on in the programs, youth engaged in a series of games and activities that pushed them to aspire to lead and collaborate in order to succeed. It was a fun and engaging day!

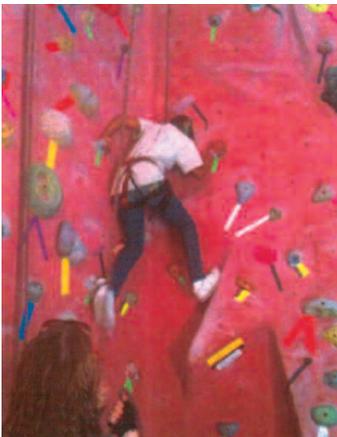
During the second week, the entire YES program went on a hike in one of Philadelphia's gems, Wissahickon Park. Each YES team had to navigate their own way based on a few clues and complete small challenges (such as putting together a tent) to finish the hike. Many of the youth had never been to Wissahickon Park or know anything about all of its resources. The day concluded with a luncheon and inspirational guest speakers.

Since a major part of the YES curriculum is trees and tree care, during the third week PHS's very own Tree Tender program managers led an educational interactive day about the importance of trees and how to maintain them. Held at Hunting Park, the day included a tree climbing demonstration led by Fairmount Park Arborists that a few of the YES youth were able to try out.

During the fourth week, in partnership with Urban Blazers, the YES participants went to Go Vertical, an indoor rock climbing gym. At first, many of the youth were hesitant to participate but by the end of the day, everyone had climbed at least once and most a handful of times. This is our most popular field trip and the youth always leave feeling confident and inspired.

During the fifth week, each group went on an "Instructors Choice Field Trip", tailored to the interests of the individual YES groups. The Hunting Park and Papa Playground teams went on a native tree tour at the Jenkins Arboretum. The Aubury Park team went to the Camden Aquarium. The Mander Playground team toured historical houses in Philadelphia Parks. The Ramp and Olney teams participated in a natural building workshop and built a cob oven in an urban farm in one day.

During the last week of the program, all of the YES teams gathered at PHS to give their presentations to an audience of peers, city officials, funders and supporters, including Ellen Svitek. This year, they came up with many creative ways to explain their YES experiences, including a game show, talk show and many videos.





Getting To Know Kate

Those who had the fortune to meet Kate all knew what a vivacious and unique person she was. Not only did her sparkling personality shine through, but her intelligence and understanding of her world were immediately evident. This section of the newsletter is being included to give those who did and didn't get to meet her a better understanding of what she stood for and the mark she had made on her world in the short time she lived.

A Taste of the Real World: Arizona Senior Project, 1997

In May of 1997, just before graduating from high school, four wide-eyed girls from the Philadelphia suburbs – Kate, Jess Weisbein, Amy Hall, and I – headed out to the White Mountains of Arizona for our month-long senior project.

Looking for something a little different from your average office internship, I remember sitting in the then-new G.A. computer room searching the Internet.



Kate's bus ride to the White Mountains in Arizona

Kate, Jess and I sat around the computer screen, waiting patiently while pages loaded. Having been told by our parents that hiking the AT was out of the question, we were looking for any semi-supervised outdoor opportunity, preferably based in a U.S. national park. Somehow, we stumbled across a man named Ed Collins, District Ranger of the National Forest Service for Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest. We exchanged a few

emails, and before we knew it, we were stepping off the plane in Phoenix and boarding a bus to the White Mountains. Glad to leave the dry 110-degree heat of Phoenix, Kate and I sat side-by-side as the bus climbed up into the more temperate mountain climate. Wearing her new brown leather cowboy hat, she has a big warm smile on her face. This is how I picture Kate. And since she wore this prized hat all month, it's the image you can use to think of her in Arizona in 1997.

We stayed in a two-bedroom staff house at the ranger station in Lakeside, Arizona – a small western town with a few strip malls, a Circle K (our favorite!), and surrounded by beautiful pine forests. It was our first time living on our own – without parents to cook us meals, tell us to do our homework, or to go to bed. Even then, we realized it was an invaluable opportunity to test out adulthood before heading off to college. We were a bit limited in our independence since we didn't have a car, but we made do. From the station, we walked to the nearby convenience store almost everyday. For any errands or activities beyond that, district ranger Ed Collins and his wife Sandy helped us out. Sandy drove us to the grocery store, took us to the movies, and had us over for dinner. But for the most part, Kate took charge of the household. She'd head the charge in making our grocery lists, adding items to the list that we never would have – like a whole turkey (but not butterball, never, ughk!). Roasting a turkey each week so that we had fresh turkey sandwiches for lunch, she taught us that the oven is not such a foreign, scary utility after all. Kate baked cookies for us, and if I

remember correctly, even packed our lunches from time to time.

But Kate wasn't just the house "mom," she was also a constant source of energy and entertainment. From motivating to trek further and further into town on foot (stretching our independence), to singing and dancing around the house in her underwear using the broom in her hand as a microphone, she set the tone for the household and encouraged us to push our limits.

For work, we'd wake up early, split up in teams of two, and head out with one of the national forest staff to tend to the area. Kate and I would often head out together, squeezed next to each other in the cab of the forest service pick-up truck. We helped clear trails, paint signs, and patrol recreation areas. It wasn't the most inspiring work (we felt underutilized, as all eager youth do), but we were happy to be outside and in the mountains, where we felt we belonged.

On the weekends came the serious work. Kate was committed to achieving the perfect base tan in preparation for the summer. We'd reserve the hottest hours of the day for sitting on the back porch of our house – Kate's homemade lemonade in hand. This is another image burned into my memory: Kate lying on the porch in her red bathing suit soaking up the rays as if the vitamin D gave her more energy and strength than the turkey and cookies.

Beyond her homemaking, her adventurous spirit, and her ability to be silly and wild, Kate had grace. Before leaving Arizona, it was Kate who felt the greatest responsibility to give the Collins' a creative, generous gift to show our appreciation for all that they did for us. She took that task so seriously, and ideas that were good enough for us were not good enough for her.

In recounting these stories – some of which I haven't thought about in such detail in a long time – I realize how much I learned from Kate during those formative years when the two of us were closest.

Kate's stories and lessons, and her warm, wild spirit are always with me.

With love,
Deb



Jessica Weisbein, Amy Hall, Deb Harris and Kate



Kate with Deb

A Fun Night At North Bowl Lounge 'N Lanes

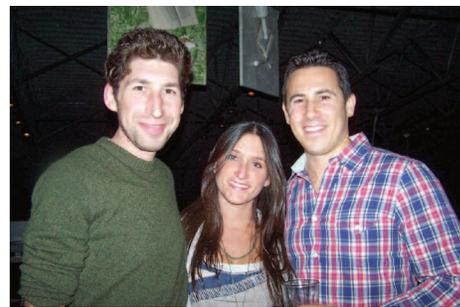
On Saturday October 16th, the Kate Svitek Memorial Foundation bowled into full gear with a fun-filled evening at North Bowl Lounge n' Lanes in the Northern Liberties section of Philadelphia. An impressive crowd attended the creative fundraising event which was "striking" and action paced. The retro setting sixties décor provided the perfect backdrop to the night and prompted some great memories for the older set whose attendance was enhanced by the record breaking number of twenty and thirty somethings. The supporters of KSMF were able to test their skills at bowling, air hockey, foosball and video games and to enjoy the great appetizers, dinner and chocolate fountain dessert. Guests intently focused on the numerous large screen TVs to watch a key Phillies playoff game. Happily, the strikes on the lanes were met with greater enthusiasm and fueled the energy and success of the evening. The silent auction and raffle items helped raise an extra \$2500 making the grand total for the event and ad book over \$65,000. Thanks to the many volunteers who helped make this event a fabulous new tradition. We hope you will practice your bowling skills in preparation for next year's event so that you will be "spared" from humiliation!



Jan Graf



Rob Weisbein, Angela Pappas, Amanda Rothenberger, Lauren Quaille, Jessica Brooks



Dave Krupp, Melissa Frost and Sam Wolf

2010 Insurance Industry Golf Team Challenge

For the ninth year in a row, golfers representing national and regional insurance companies and Philadelphia insurance brokers gathered for a day of fun and friendly competition. September 7th was a spectacular weather day as nineteen foursomes arrived at Commonwealth National Golf Club in Horsham.

Thanks to our generous corporate sponsors - Bank Direct Capital Finance, Belfor, Wilson Elser, Young Adjustment and Keenan Motors. Special thanks to our Gold Sponsors - Ace USA, Liberty Mutual, McIntyre Group, TRA and Travelers. Thanks to our Silver sponsors: Addis Group, CBIZ, Chubb, CNA, The Graham Co., Ironshore, Johnson Kendall & Johnson, KMRD Partners, McKee Risk, Philadelphia Insurance, Travelers National Property and US Liability.

After golf and a delicious dinner, the attendees heard Jamal Elliott, Co-CEO and Dean of Students from Wissahickon Charter School, tell how much the Kate Svitek Memorial Eighth Grade Outward Bound trip means to the school and the students. Their thank you notes can be read on page 3.

Many thanks to our volunteers at the registration table and hole watchers. This year over twenty six thousand dollars were raised to help support the scholarships and grants awarded by the Foundation.



Shaun Guinan,
Travelers National
Property



McKee Special Risks



Travelers Philadelphia

2010 WINNERS

1st Place Low Gross Young Adjustment
David Horowitz, Daryl Tunno, Gerry Griffin, Steve Jefferies

2nd Place Low Gross Travelers Insurance
Kirk Larsen, Dave Hill, John Cyb, Mark Citrone

3rd Place Low Gross U. S. Liability Insurance
Matt Weindel, John Carini, Patrick Ryder, Scott Wolpert

4th Place Low Gross CBIZ
Bob Bodkin, Chick Ciechanowski, Jeff Garrett, Peter Christian

1st Place Low Net Travelers National Property
Shaun Guinan, Tony DiValerio, Joe Muehlielsen, Eric Dezie

2nd Place Low Net Bank Direct Capital Finance
Derek Wall, Jack O'Hara, Ron Martin, Bill Garofalo

3rd Place Low Net McIntyre Group
Tony McIntyre, Tim Davis, Jim Walker, Luanne Funari

4th Place Low Net McKee Special Risks
Jeff Miller, Steve Krebs, Ed Andrescavage, Dominick Barbuto



1st Place Low Gross (Darryl Tunno,
Gerry Griffin, Steve Jefferies, David
Horowitz)

We would like to hear from you. Please consider a gift to the KSMF that will bring us one step closer to delivering on Kate's dream. We welcome suggestions or ideas regarding fundraising events or programming. Perhaps you have a unique outlook or proposal, a special contact in the environmental or wilderness field, or know of an organization or student in need of our support.



Minimum contribution is \$10.
Please notify us if the address given is a change of address

Enclosed is a contribution: In Memory of In Honor of

Name: _____

Please acknowledge to:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Donor's Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Please make checks payable and mail to *Kate Svitek Memorial Foundation*, P.O. Box 104, Ambler, PA 19002-0104.
Your contribution will be acknowledged to the recipient.

The *Kate Svitek Memorial Foundation* is a tax exempt organization under I.R.S. § 501(c)(3).
Contributions are tax deductible according to law.

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