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CHAMP CAMP ANNOUNCES MOVE TO BRADFORD WOODS IN CENTRAL INDIANA
Locally based nonprofit moves week-long camp closer to donors, home

Indianapolis, IN, April 18, 2011 – CHAMP Camp, a weeklong camp for children who have tracheostomies and require respiratory assistance, announced today it will be moving its summer camp from Recreation Unlimited in Ohio to Bradford Woods in Central Indiana.

In need of facilities that cater to physical and health challenges of children, CHAMP Camp founders selected Recreation Unlimited in Ohio 18 years ago as the best facility to provide the CHAMP Camp experience. Over the years, Recreation Unlimited has serviced CHAMP Camp by providing a safe environment for campers to participate in sports and recreation activities. However, the distance between Recreation Unlimited and CHAMP Camp headquarters in Indianapolis posed challenges for the organization to grow and continue providing optimal service to campers, counselors and families.

"The last 18 years spent at Recreation Unlimited was a safe and enjoyable experience that our camper families have come to trust," said Scott Beaty, president of the board of directors of CHAMP Camp. "As CHAMP Camp embarks on the next 20 years of service, we are looking to not only provide the best week of camp for respiratory dependent children, but also to grow the organization to be able to reach more families throughout the country."

In an effort to grow the organization while ensuring the camp experience would continue to evolve and remain safe for respiratory dependent children, CHAMP Camp set out to find a camp location closer to home. Because CHAMP Camp provides a weeklong camp for children with tracheotomies who need respiratory assistance, including the use of ventilators, safety, reliability and convenience were key to the search for a new location.

"Our campers have unique physical and health needs that require state of the art camping facilities that most camps do not require," added Beaty. In fact, CHAMP Camp recruits 2.5 volunteer staff members for each camper (over 60% are medical professionals) attending camp to ensure a safe and fun experience for all. With the help of these doctors, nurses and therapists, Camp can provide a typical overnight and outdoor camping experience these children may not otherwise be able to experience in their lifetime.

"We didn't have to look too far. Bradford Woods served as the home of CHAMP Camp's second year of camp and we had always hoped to come back," added Beaty. After conducting a weekend retreat last fall and several meetings with Bradford Woods staff to review facilities, safety and overall camp experience, CHAMP Camp decided to come home to Central Indiana.

Bradford Woods is a national and international leader in universal design ensuring all products and environments can be usable by all people, to the greatest extent possible, without adaptation or specialized design. At Bradford Woods CHAMP Campers will be able to experience several learning and therapeutic activities including horse riding, switchback trails, universal high ropes course, climbing tower, and Olympic sized pool to name a few.

“CHAMP Camp is a perfect fit for Bradford Woods and we are excited to provide the best camp yet for campers, counselors and families this year,” said Shay Dawson, Director of Bradford Woods. “Our program directors are trained in recreational therapy practices with advanced degrees and are certified therapeutic recreation specialist and our staff includes a range of students from the medical field such as med students, therapeutic recreation, occupational therapy, physical therapy, child life, art therapy, social work, pre-med, music therapy, and nursing.”

Bradford Woods hosts a variety of camps during the summer and is regarded as the best residential camping facility in the Midwest for youth and adults with disabilities and specific medical needs. Bradford Woods provides unique programming that is rarely found anywhere else in the country.

“Bradford Woods’ programming is an excellent fit for the unique camp experience that CHAMP Camp provides,” said Beaty. “And it’s nice to be able to have Camp in our own backyard. We are hopeful the move will attract more campers, counselors and donors with our new site at Bradford Woods.”

Over the years, CHAMP Camp has struggled to provide optimal exposure of the organization to existing and potential donors. “We have donors all over the country with a large group located close to our headquarters in Central Indiana. Camp in the past was held in a remote area of Ohio which provided limited access for our donors, families and potential volunteers to visit and experience the camp we put on each year,” added Beaty.

Bradford Woods is centrally located to not only donors and potential donors, but also is easily accessible 30 minutes from Indianapolis making the location easy to get to for families, volunteers, donors and staff alike.

For more information about CHAMP Camp call (317) 679.1860 or go to: www.ChampCamp.org. For more information about Bradford Woods go to www.indiana.edu/~bradwood