

2011 FAITH WALK FOR CHARITY TO BENEFIT CHILDREN IN NEED WITH DIABETES

PROVIDENCE, RI--Summer camp can be a life-changing experience for children a time to explore, test boundaries and build relationships with people you might never encounter in your daily life. If you're a child living with diabetes, however, the options for summer camp are few and often very expensive. For families struggling to provide the basics, the prospect of summer camp may feel out of reach. Camp Surefire offers all children, regardless of need, the opportunity to learn, grow and become confident as they face the challenge of growing up with diabetes.

In Rhode Island, only one camp exists specifically for children and teens with diabetes: Camp Surefire. This year, Camp Surefire has been selected as the beneficiary of the Faith Walk for Charity's annual walk, which will take place Sunday, Oct. 2, at 2 p.m. in Colt State Park, Bristol.

About Faith Walk for Charity

Faith Walk for Charity is a Rhode Island-based nonprofit organization that invites individuals from all religious traditions to walk one mile together and raise money in support of a common goal. Clergy and lay people from faith groups such as Jewish, Catholic, Muslim, Baptist, Episcopal, and Quaker/Society of Friends have participated in the event, which has raised more than \$100,000 since its inception in 2006. Each year, this interfaith group selects a secular, charitable organization to support. "The more we learned about Camp Surefire, the more our appreciation grew for its challenging and important mission," says co-founder Chris Fay. Camp Surefire goes to great efforts to be accessible to children from economically challenged households. Faith Walk for Charity hopes to significantly increase funding available for camperships.

About Camp Surefire

Founded in 1998, Camp Surefire offers a full staff of doctors, nurses, counselors and nutritionists to ensure that campers are safe while they're having fun just being kids -- forming friendships, learning from peers and counselors and discovering newfound independence. Their one-week camp, currently located on the University of Rhode Island's Alton Jones Campus, is among the most affordable in New England at \$500 per session for full-pay campers. While all campers benefit from subsidized tuition, roughly half of the campers receive additional camperships, without which they would be unable to attend. Operating on a shoestring budget, the generous voluntarism of health care professionals and other supporters makes Camp Surefire happen. In recent years, their enrollment has swelled to 80 campers per session, and the camp has recently added a leadership program for teens. Camp Surefire has set its sights on adding a winter session to fulfill the increasing need for its program and provide a continuing support for the children it serves. For more information on Camp Surefire, visit www.campsurefire.org.

How to Join the Faith Walk for Charity

Faith Walk for Charity grows each year as people from all faith invite their local faith-based communities to participate. Individuals, businesses and families also support the walk by participating or by making a contribution if they are unable to attend. To spread the word among your own community, visit www.faithwalkforcharity.org to download registration forms and information. There is no charge to participate in the walk; however, donations are encouraged, and every penny raised will go directly to Camp Surefire, as the Faith Walk for Charity is a volunteer organization with zero operating budget.

Recent beneficiaries have included Crossroads-RI, the Rhode Island Community Food Bank, the Rhode Island Coalition Against Domestic Violence, Amos House, and the Rhode Island Free Clinic.

Registration forms and/or donations can be mailed in advance to Faith Walk for Charity, 95 Chestnut Street, Suite 500, Providence, RI 02903. You may also register and make a donation on the day of the walk. Walkers may participate as individuals or as part of a team representing a specific faith community, organization or company. If you would like additional registration forms for your place of worship, workplace or social organization, please email faithwalkforcharity@gmail.com.