

News Release



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DYS Hot Shots Programs See Record Registrations

Scholarship Requests Increase, But Offset In Part By Crystal Bowersox T-shirt Sales

Toledo, Ohio, July 20, 2010 – There will be a full house for the 2010 edition of Diabetes Youth Services' (DYS) Little Shots Day Camp, scheduled to run July 26 - 30 at Olander Park, Sylvania. According to Susan Harms, DYS executive director, this year's camp, which is open to 6 to 9 year olds with Type 1 diabetes, is the largest in several years.

"Both the Little Shots Day Camp and Big Shots Resident Camp (last June) are full this year," said Susan Harms, DYS executive director. "This year, 40 percent of campers are requesting scholarship for financial assistance, up from 25 percent. Thanks to the support from Trinity United Church in Elliston, and the Crystal Bowersox t-shirts they sold during the American Idol competition, we have been able to accommodate much of the increase in need and get more kids to camp. But the need for financial assistance is still great." Bowersox, who participated in the Big Shots Camp several years ago, designated that all proceeds from the t-shirt sales go to DYS.

DYS offers the camps as a way to teach diabetes management skills in a setting that allows youths to meet others with similar challenges. The Little Shots Day Camp combines educational sessions with recreational activities, games and arts and crafts, all to promote confidence and teach the techniques necessary for the kids to manage their diabetes. Campers often build friendships that last a lifetime.

"Educational outreach, such as these camps, is the centerpiece of service we provide children in the area," Harms said. "We rely on community support for these programs, and our Sweet Success gala is our primary fundraiser each year. We're thrilled that we can continue to provide these programs to help children manage their diabetes." This year's Sweet Success Gala is Nov. 5.

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Diabetes Youth Services is a local, independent non-profit organization that provides educational and supportive services for youth with diabetes, their families, their schools, and communities throughout NW Ohio and SE Michigan. Services are sustained through individual, foundation, and corporate charitable contributions. All programs are staffed by certified diabetes educators. For more information about DYS and its programs, visit www.dys4kids.org or call 419-887-8739.

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