

Big Shots Resident Camp



June 19, 2009

Media Advisory

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Photo Opportunities

Call DYS office at 419.887.8739

Dates: Monday, June 22nd
Location: Camp Libbey
Defiance, Ohio

Diabetes Youth Services brings Olympic athlete, Joe Eldridge, who has type 1 diabetes, to this year's "Big Shots Resident Camp" for kids age 10-15 who have Type 1 diabetes.

Toledo, Ohio: June 19, 2008 – For the 16th year, Diabetes Youth Services is holding a 6 day resident camp for 10- to 15-year-old children struggling with type 1 diabetes. **Big Shots Resident Camp will be held at Camp Libbey in Defiance, Ohio during the week of June 21-26, 2009.** On **Monday, June 22nd from 7-8 PM**, the **Olympic bicyclist, Joe Eldridge** will speak to the campers. Sanofi-Aventis is the sponsor bringing Mr. Eldridge to our camp.

Team Type 1 co-founder Joe Eldridge will be the first to tell our kids at camp that dreams can come true. Being diagnosed with type 1 diabetes at the age of 10 didn't stop him from competing as a striker on elite junior soccer teams that traveled the country and still making time to be the placekicker on his high school football team.

Those sports gave way to competing in triathlons where he realized his passion for bicycling. Not long after taking up cycling, Eldridge met Phil Southerland, who raced for the University of Georgia, and together, they laid the groundwork for Team Type 1. Both have an unwavering passion for cycling, and a common goal to use their bikes as a means of inspiring others. "This is going to give us a lot of opportunities to get the team's message out there," said Eldridge.

The teenage years are tough enough even when they don't have diabetes! Big Shots Resident Camp, which is staffed by experienced diabetes educators and physicians, helps teens fine-tune their self-treatment, and teaches them the skills needed to confidently deal with this chronic disease as they mature. And the teens still participate in all the activities that characterize any other camp, like horseback riding, ropes course, and of course, swimming.

Diabetes Youth Services is an independent nonprofit organization that provides educational and supportive services for young people with diabetes, their families, schools, and communities throughout Northwest Ohio and Southeast Michigan. For information on Diabetes Youth Services' Resident and Day camps and other programs for children who have diabetes, visit www.dys4kids.org.

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