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September 2009

Digital Double H

Volume 1, Number 3

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Staff and Volunteer Links

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[Double H Year-round Staff](#)

[Ranch Blog](#)

Contact Us

www.doublehbranch.org

97 Hidden Valley Rd
Lake Luzerne, NY 12846

(518)-696-5676 phone

(518)-696-4528 fax

Employment & Program Questions

[Jacqui – Director of Operations](#)

[Kate – Camp Program Director](#)

[John –Assistant Director of Operations](#)

[Chris \(Pezz\) – Program Associate](#)

Be it, Believe it, Summer 17 is in the books!

What an amazing summer 2009 was! We saw the Chicago Boyz return, We "HEARD" some great world music hits, and shared so many great camp moments! Throughout each session, despite the challenges faced, you the staff and volunteers came together and delivered an amazing program full of inspiration and helped our kids believe in the magic of Double H. Thank you for another wonderful summer in the woods. We love you.

On the road again...we just can't wait!



The Double H key team will be gassing up the minivans and hitting the highways in search of incredible, energetic staff and volunteers for 2010 (*or as Kate insists "O-Ten".*) If you know of anyone that you think would make a great staff member or volunteer, let us know and we can schedule time to meet with them when our tour stop comes to your town! We will notify you of potential visits in the coming weeks.

How You Can Help

- Post printed materials on campus or in your community
- Host the key team at your school for an information session
- Encourage your friends to visit the website www.doublehbranch.org or to call 518-696-5676 X223 to apply for 2009
- Bring a friend with you to volunteer for a weekend program. Make it happen by contacting Abby Pinney at volunteer@doublehbranch.org or at X241
- Create a fundraiser at your school that names Double H as the recipient of the proceeds. Contact Kim Checchia in development for further details at kchecchia@doublehbranch.org or by dialing x239

Happy Trails, Phil

Our very own Phil Mance is relocating to the sunshine state with his wife Jennifer. He has served us well spearheading projects to improve the buildings and grounds of Double H over the past several years. He will be on staff until November, when his responsibilities will shift to our new Facilities Manager, Conrad Fleischmann with support from Don Ranck and the rest of the team. Good luck to you and Jennifer in Florida, Phil!

Employment Application Questions

[Heather – Office
Manager](#)

Volunteer Questions

[Abby – Volunteer
Coordinator](#)

Medical Questions

[Emo – Nursing Director](#)

Admissions Questions

[Tara – Admissions
Director](#)

[Caroline – Admissions
Coordinator](#)

For More Information

www.doublehranch.org
97 Hidden Valley Rd
Lake Luzerne, NY 12846
(518)-696-5676 phone
(518)-696-4528 fax

Calling All Alumni

If you are a former staff member who is interested in aiding the ranch by assisting with fundraising, awareness and other opportunities that support our mission, please contact John Lefner at x223 or by email at jlefner@doublehranch.org for more information.

Dear Abby

This past summer brought us the newest addition to the operations team here at the ranch. Abby Pinney just completed her first season as Volunteer Coordinator, managing the largest volunteer group in Double H history!

And now, a few words from HH's very own Abby.

My name is Abby Pinney, I am originally from Connecticut and am relocating from Boston. I have been a part of the Association of Hole in the Wall Camps for the past 16 years. I have been blessed to have been a part of camp in so many ways, from being a sibling camper, leader in training, counselor, volunteer, and unit leader at Hole in the Wall in Connecticut to a counselor and nanny here at Double H. I feel as though I have found my niche here as the Volunteer Coordinator.

Before I had the amazing opportunity of joining our great operations team here at the ranch, I was working on getting my degree in Sociology from the University of Connecticut. I also spent three years in Middle School working as both an Assistant Teacher and a Behavioral Counselor at a therapeutic/behavioral private day school in Boston. I am thrilled to be doing full time what I have always wanted to do since I first stepped foot on camp 16 years ago, giving back. Camp is a magical place full of absolutely stunning campers, and if I can be a small part of finding just the right people to help create that magic and to encourage them to give of themselves, then my mission is fulfilled. Thank you for welcoming me with open arms. I am incredibly excited to do this great work. Happy Fall!



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Mark Your Calendar

Fall Program Weekends

Rosie's Love Round-Up – 9/11 – 9/13

Rosie's Love Memorial – 9/18 - 9/20

Cindy's Comfort Camp – 10/2 – 10/4

Bravehearts – 10/9 – 10/12

Bleeding Disorders – 10/16 – 10/18

Spina Bifida – 10/23 – 10/25

Please contact Volunteer Coordinator Abby Pinney to RSVP at volunteer@doublehranch.org or at x241.

Love to ski? Love to snowboard? Love Double H? Prove it!

The Double H Ranch Adaptive Winter Sports Program wants you to share your winter sports talents as an instructor for our amazing winter sports enthusiasts (many of which are your beloved summer campers!) Now you might be saying to yourself, "sure I can shred the slopes with the best of 'em, but how do I get involved with this whole thing?" Well my friends, it's easy.

Step 1: Take a deep breath. Teaching kids to ski and snowboard is not as scary as it sounds. Many of your summer camp cronies are winter sports volunteers. It's awesome.

Step 2: Visit www.doublehranch.org and read about the program, click the link for the application and fill it out.

Step 3: Attend the trainings led by our qualified and talented team.

Step 4: Change a child's life (and your own by the way) by getting them hooked on the magic of winter sports.

Now, who's in?

If you are, contact Abby Pinney, Volunteer Coordinator at x241 or by email at volunteer@doublehranch.org

One Sweet Summer

By Chris "Chocolate" Guidarelli

When I think of my first year as a counselor, the only word I can think of is amazing. I expected to have a fun summer as a camp counselor, yet it was more than I can even describe. From my first week at Double H, I knew that I was at a place that was magical. It didn't hit me how magical until the end of the summer, and the journey to get there was perfect.

The first week when the campers arrived was the most memorable week of my life, seeing things that I have never seen before. Looking into the lives of children that have a life much harder than I could ever imagine was, at first, extremely hard for me to comprehend. It was difficult for me to see the medical problems that these kids had to go through.

Yet as my summer progressed I started to see what camp did for all these incredible campers. I started to see that is literally the week that they look forward to all year. I remember a first year camper who cried the whole first day saying he did not want to be here. By the next morning when I woke him up, he shot out of bed and screamed at the top of his lungs "I love it here!" My summer was filled with moments like that one; the campers kept showing me how much camp affected their lives in such a positive way.

I walked a fifteen year old camper to his bus on the last day, sat next to him and gave him a hug. He turned toward me crying, and said "I don't want to go home; I don't want to leave." This is when it hit me that this is truly where magic happens for these kids. Most of these children go in and out of the hospital, depending on the week, and this is a time in their lives where they can forget all that and have a great time. They simply do not want to leave. Neither did I.

Leaving camp at the end of the summer was extremely hard, knowing that I won't be back for quite a while. I think of camp almost everyday and all of the amazing memories I have, and the close friendships I made with everyone there. I already count down the days until next summer.