

Community Involvement

KICKBALL CLASSIC



Jason, Gene (& Chelsea), **Nicole, Thad, Greg** (& Ruthie), Girard, **Yoon, Debbie, Ben, Kim & Jeff** (not pictured here) had a beautiful day in the sun reverting back to childhood while playing kickball for charity. We played three fun games before being bounced out of the running. All of our sore muscles were endured for the benefit of raising funds for Meet the Wilderness, a character-building, local adventure education program for disadvantaged and at-risk youth. Great thanks are due to **Paul** for organizing breakfast for all!

The Marilyn Klein memorial "Lovin' Livin' Luau" was a big success, grossing 13K, Thanks in large part to the efforts of the Sonnenalp team of volunteers. **Susan Brower**, her husband **Darren**, **Lucinda Hanle**, and **Debbie Weber** did a fantastic job of setting up tables and decorating for the occasion. The Sonnenalp donated the use of table linens (Thank you **Hollie & Andreas**) and made a contribution to the silent auction, as did **Debbie**. **Chris & Tara Haymond** were on hand during the event running food, bussing tables and then taking things down. One hundred percent of the net proceeds from the Luau will go directly to individuals with breast cancer for self-care in the form of lymphatic drainage massage, professional hair consultation, and many more options. Tara would like to thank everyone who lent a hand at the event and at the hotel.



Kris Johnson spent a day on Cougar Trail helping the Forest Service with a Trail Action Group (TAG) trail restoration project. He cleared rocks, built steps and created rock bars to divert water runoff. There are no more scheduled TAG dates in September but if anyone is interested in doing some trail work TAG always has some small projects in mind that could be accomplished by a few hands working together. If this interests you, please call Kris in Fine Gardens at 612-618-2482 and he will organize the date.

"First Descents strives to become the leader in innovative camps supporting young adults with cancer. Using kayaking, extreme sports and professional athletes, First Descents offers young adults with cancer outdoor experiences that will forever change their lives.

Several Sonnenalp employees volunteered their time this month as "camp cooks" for some of the most amazing young adults that I have ever met. I must admit that I went into this volunteer opportunity with some hesitation. Most of us think of Cancer as a frightening and very sad disease. These young adults see their disease as a harsh reality that they have chosen to fight with all of their energy. And energy is the exact word that I would use to define the evening up at the Sweetwater camp. The campers exuded such positive energy in everything that they said or did. Gratitude was expressed to all of the Sonnenalp cooks throughout the evening. We were even invited to sit in on their end of camp discussions and to watch their video highlights of the week. As we drove back to Vail, I couldn't help but think about how much these young adults had just taught us regarding life and how to live it. Here we were volunteering to help them, when in return I feel they helped all of us open our eyes. As several of the campers said that night, "Don't sweat the small stuff in life." Special thanks to Sonnenalp Purchasing and to Mr. and Mrs. Faessler for their gracious donation to the camp." -by Nicole Baur

