

The View



Spring 2010

Chosen Vision, Inc

Our Mission:

Chosen Vision is committed to enabling developmentally disabled adults to live in a safe, secure, Christian environment

Let's Go Red Wings !!!!!!!!!!!!!

The night of January 30th was a bitter cold night in Detroit, but the hearts of the girls of Chosen Vision were filled with warmth and excitement as they headed out for their first ever Detroit Red Wing game. Through the generosity of some friends of Chosen Vision, the girls were able to take in the game in the comfort and luxury of a Joe Louis arena suite.

the evening by beating the Nashville Predators 4-2. In addition to the residents that attended, there was room for plenty of staff, so Joanne, Lacy and their husbands, along with Miya, Julie and Lisa,

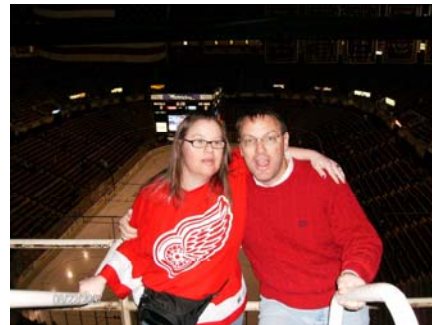


home. We went straight to bed and slept in the next day. We still talk about how much fun we had that night as a family, and that's what we are, one big family."

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While the girls feasted on Chicken Tenders, meatballs, pizza, chips and dip, drinks, and dessert, from their seats high above the ice, the Red Wings took care of their part of



all made a night of it, assisting the girls with transportation to and from the game, as well as finding their way through the halls of Joe Louis Arena.

Many Thanks go out to all who made this evening possible, including the staff at Joe Lois Arena who welcomed our group and helped to make it a very special evening for everyone who participated.



"We all had fun, and the Red Wings won," Amy Russell said. "We are all happy to be together as one big happy family. We were all tired when we got back



This year's Annual Banquet Special Guest Kristen Haglund, Miss America 2008

It is with tremendous joy and excitement that we announce Kirsten Haglund, Miss America 2008, as our guest speaker and entertainer for the Chosen Vision 8th Annual Banquet and Silent Auction on Saturday, October 16, 2010 at the Country Club of Lansing. If you haven't done so already, mark your calendars now so you don't miss out on what promises to be a very special evening.

Kirsten will not only motivate us through the spoken word but will also entertain us with her magnificent singing voice. With passion and poise beyond her years, it was Kirsten's rendition of "*Somewhere Over the Rainbow*" that won over the judges at the 2008 Miss America Contest and launched her on the way to becoming one of the youngest Miss America's ever at only 19 years of age.

Kirsten is a native Michigander, having grown up in Farmington Hills, Michigan. She overcame her own battle with an eating disorder, and in an effort to de-stigmatize the illness and increase dialogue in the fashion and beauty industry, made it her "Platform"

when competing in the Miss America Program. Hardly a typical 'pageant girl,' Kirsten won her local competition on her first try. Her authenticity, desire for scholarship, and sincere passion to educate and raise awareness for eating disorders qualified her in the judge's eyes to compete for Miss Michigan. The youngest competitor at both the state and national levels, Kirsten in one and half short years was crowned Miss America 2008.

In a role far removed from "college student," Kirsten embraced the hectic travel schedule, speaking tour, and numerous duties that define Miss America at the age of 19. The position gave her the chance to address national audiences about body-image and self-esteem on Entertainment Tonight, EXTRA, Fox News, CNN, interviews with the New York Times, People Magazine, and speaking engagements at Harvard University and on Capitol Hill. In addition, came the opportunity to travel, perform, and engage

people from all walks of life. The unceasing student, Kirsten made her Year-of-Service one where she strived to learn and grow as an



artist and as an individual with each appearance.

This year's banquet will be one to remember and an evening you don't want to miss. Please mark your calendars for October 16th which promises to be an evening of fun and inspiration all for the benefit of the wonderful ladies of Chosen Vision.

Mark your calendar

**October 16, 2010
Chosen Vision will
be hosting our 8th
Annual Banquet and
Silent Auction at the
Country Club of
Lansing.**

Play Ball

An inspirational story written by a Father of a disabled son.

Everyone can play

At a fundraising dinner for an American school that serves learning disabled children, the father of one of the students delivered a speech that would never be forgotten by all who attended. After extolling the school and its dedicated staff, he offered a question:

"When not interfered with by outside influences, everything nature does is done with perfection. Yet my son, Shay, cannot learn things as other children do. He cannot understand things as other children do. Where is the natural order of things in my son?" The audience was stilled by the query.

The father continued. "I believe, that when a child like Shay, physically and mentally handicapped comes into the world, an opportunity to realize true human nature presents itself, and it comes, in the way other people treat that child." Then he told the following story:

Shay and his father had walked past a park where some boys Shay knew were playing baseball. Shay asked, "Do you think they'll let me play?" Shay's father knew that most of the boys would not want someone like Shay on their team, but the father also understood that if his son were allowed to play, it would give him a much-needed sense of belonging and some confidence to be accepted by others in spite of his handicaps.

Shay's father approached one of the boys on the field and

asked if Shay could play, not expecting much. The boy looked around for guidance and said, "We're losing by six runs and the game is in the eighth inning. I guess he can be on our team and we'll try to put him in to bat in the ninth inning."

Shay struggled over to the team's bench put on a team shirt with a broad smile and his Father had a small tear in his eye and warmth in his heart. The boys saw the father's joy at his son being accepted. In the bottom of the eighth inning, Shay's team scored a few runs but was still behind by three. In the top of the ninth inning, Shay put on a glove and played in the right field.

Even though no hits came his way, he was obviously ecstatic just to be in the game and on the field, grinning from ear to ear as his father waved to him from the stands. In the bottom of the ninth inning, Shay's team scored again. Now, with two outs and the bases loaded, the potential winning run was on base and Shay was scheduled to be next at bat.

At this juncture, do they let Shay bat and give away their chance to win the game? Surprisingly, Shay was given the bat. Everyone knew that a hit was all but impossible because Shay didn't even know how to hold the bat properly, much less connect with the ball.

However, as Shay stepped up to the plate, the pitcher, recognizing the other team put-

ting winning aside for this moment in Shay's life, moved in a few steps to lob the ball in softly so Shay could at least be able to make contact. The first pitch came and Shay swung clumsily and missed. The pitcher again took a few steps forward to toss the ball softly towards Shay. As the pitch came in, Shay swung at the ball and hit a slow ground ball right back to the pitcher. The game would now be over, but the pitcher picked up the soft grounder and could have easily thrown the ball to the first baseman. Shay would have been out and that would have been the end of the game.

Instead, the pitcher threw the ball right over the head of the first baseman, out of reach of all team mates. Everyone from the stands and both teams started yelling, "Shay, run to first! Run to first!" Never in his life had Shay ever run that far but made it to first base. He scampered down the baseline, wide-eyed and startled.

Everyone yelled, "Run to second, run to second!" Catching his breath, Shay awkwardly ran towards second, gleaming and struggling to make it to second base. By the time Shay rounded towards second base, the right fielder had the ball, the smallest guy on their team, who had a chance to be the hero for his team for the first time. He could have thrown the ball to the second baseman for the tag, but he understood the pitcher's intentions and he too intentionally

threw the ball high and far over the third-baseman's head. Shay ran toward third base deliriously as the runners ahead of him circled the bases toward home.

All were screaming, "Shay, Shay, Shay, all the Way Shay" Shay reached third base, the opposing shortstop ran to help him and turned him in the direction of third base, and shouted, "Run to third! Shay, run to third" As Shay rounded third, the boys from both teams and those watching were on their feet were screaming, "Shay, run home! Shay ran to home, stepped on the plate, and was cheered as the hero who hit the "grand slam" and won the game for his team.

That day, said the father softly with tears now rolling down his face, the boys from both teams helped bring a piece of true love and humanity into this world. Shay didn't make it to another summer and died that winter, having never forgotten being the hero and making his father so happy and coming home and seeing his mother tearfully embrace her little hero of the day!





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Chairman's Corner

Pentecost is the great festival that marks the birth of the Christian church by the power of the Holy Spirit. Ten days after Jesus ascended into heaven, the twelve apostles, Jesus' mother and family, and many other of His disciples gathered together in Jerusalem for the Jewish harvest festival. While they were indoors praying, a sound like that of a rushing wind filled the house and tongues of fire descended and rested over each of their heads. This was the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on human flesh promised by God through the prophet Joel (Joel 2:28-29). The disciples were suddenly empowered to proclaim the gospel of the risen Christ. They went out into the streets of Jerusalem and began preaching to the crowds gathered for the festival. Not only did the disciples preach with boldness

and vigor, but by a miracle of the Holy Spirit they spoke in the native languages of the people present, many who had come from all corners of the Roman Empire. This created a sensation. The apostle Peter seized the moment and addressed the crowd, preaching to them about Jesus' death and resurrection for the forgiveness of sins. The result was that three thousand converts were baptized that day. You can read the Biblical account of Pentecost in Acts 2: 1-41).

Chosen Vision is a Christian home and every effort is made to recognize and celebrate the holy days of the Christian liturgical year. This year Pentecost is celebrated on Sunday May 23 and our ladies will undoubtedly learn about Pentecost through their prayer meetings and

conversations. I have always thought of the gentle love and compassion of our staff and the contributions of time, leadership and resources by our board and friends as a manifestation of the power of the Holy Spirit. By the Grace of God, the Holy Spirit can empower us to be witnesses for the Faith as were Christ's disciples 2000 years ago.

Kalmin Smith, Ph.D.
Chairman of the Board

