



May 15, 2015

Dear,

On behalf of our family and the Jason William Hunt Foundation (JWHF) I hope this letter finds you well and that you are enjoying 2015. April 20, 2015 marks the second anniversary of the publication of *Walking With Jason*. We wish to thank all who contributed to our success in helping kids learn to believe in themselves.

The enclosed photo shows myself promoting our mission while joined by [clock-wise from upper left] Nicky Wood¹ of The Outside Perspective at the AEE Conference, Chattanooga, TN; Richard Louv², world famous author of *The Last Child in the Woods* and *The Nature Principle* at the OBH Wilderness Symposium, Park City, UT; Anasazi Wilderness field staff preparing to rotate to the wilderness; 4) our branch library's Local Author Panel³. While I do not know the stone man sculpture's history it is appropriate we should find it the day I spent in Arizona's Tonto National Forest with the Anasazi staff and crews. As Deuteronomy 32:13 speaks of God turning stone into honey and rock into oil so too the wilderness takes youth whose lives and hearts have been harden, who have created shells to protect themselves from the chaos attacking them and transforms them into the honey and oil of a better life. Let me give you an example of such change.

A grandparent requested help for his 15 year old grandson. Diagnosed with ODD, Oppositional Defiant Disorder, Sam did not exhibit positive behaviors which forced a change of schools. He suffered from abandonment by three key males in his past, witnessed three years of domestic violence from his mom's ex-husband, bullied his siblings, was disrespectful to his grandparents and his single-parent mom (who works two jobs), and was defiant to all rules and authority figures. He faced risks to addiction and mental disease through heredity on both sides of his family. At the end of his wilderness expedition he wrote: *I am using the tools I have learned, putting them to use in the real world. Overall the experience gave me amazing energy that will carry me through the rest of my life. Thank you.*

These transformational experiences are what the wilderness does best.

With program cost of \$400 - \$600 a day minimum and average stays of 60 days or longer a concerned parents(s) can face a \$37,000 expense easily. By partnering with the programs themselves and collaborating with other foundations Jason's foundation has been able to provide help beyond the value of our own dollars.

This year we are announcing a donor recognition program called Friends of the Foundation. Prior to 2009 the foundation never ran an appeal letter campaign. Yet, folks donated, of their own volition. Then, in 2009-10 we ran an email campaign for help with my Appalachian Trail hike costs. Last year we created this letter campaign which was well received. The Founders Level will recognize those who donated in the early years. Those donating since 2009 will be placed in one of two levels. The Sustaining Level recognizes contributions less than \$500.00 annually. The Partners Level recognizes larger contributions. This recognition program indicates the importance of your support as the foundation could not help others without your help.

We are once again asking for your help:

- 1) To our Friends of the Foundation we ask that you donate as you have in the past (see history below). You may use the envelope provided.
- 2) If your company allows for matching funds contributions please consider the foundation.
- 3) For the internet savvy there are additional ways to help: JWHF earns cash when you designate the foundation as your chosen charity: a) when on-line searching use Goodsearch.com. JWHF earns \$0.01 per search; b) when on-line shopping – please use Giving Assistant (<https://givingassistant.org/>). When you sign up you will be asked how to split the earnings – some in cash back to you and some to JWHF. It is a 5% rebate but they work with AmazonSmile for as much as a 5.5% rebate and you may sign in directly with AmazonSmile as well.
- 4) Save the date – June 11th – and join us at Latitudes Café & Bistro, Anderson Towne Center, for our first Happy Hour Benefit. More details to follow.

Finally, on behalf of the family and the foundation let me, in advance, thank you for your support and assistance. To paraphrase a 2013 Open Sky alumnus: You are amazing people and we will be forever grateful.

Sincerely,

John F. Hunt
Executive Director

P.S. It has been suggested that we include a current scholarship recipient's picture in our presentation. The foundation has deep concerns on several levels and will not engage in that practice. We hope you concur.

Enclosures

Footnotes

1. You met Nicky as a Course Director at The Wilderness School in *Walking With Jason*.
2. Richard Louv is a world famous author whose books created today's get outdoors movement. He is a friend of the JWHF, looked at the cover and said "my son is named Jason." Small World!
3. At the table on the right is Vicki Watkins, a poet whose works reflect her life of severe child abuse in a dysfunctional family. Vicki's poem "Loving Me" is on the website's Mission page - <http://www.jwhf.org/Webpages/mission.html> Vicki and I are collaborating on her autobiography.

**Friends of the Foundation – Founders Level
Sustaining Level
Partners Level**