



July 30, 2008

WELCOME TO SPLORE'S MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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[FINAL HARVEST MOON AUCTION](#)

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[SPLORE CALENDAR](#)

ACTIVE PEOPLE IN AN ACTIVE FRIENDLY WORLD

Last month I reflected that growth represents maturity, challenge, accumulation of knowledge, and shift in perspective. A recent shift in perspective relates to SPLORE's Harvest Moon Benefit Auction. With a recent vote from the Board of Trustees, this year's Harvest Moon Benefit Auction, on September 27, will be our last.

Why retire the benefit auction? The non-profit sector nationally, and in Utah, has grown tremendously. A recent article in the Chronicle of Philanthropy specifically discusses the demise of charity fund-raising auctions. Due to explosive growth in the non-profit sector, auction attendance and solicitation for corporate sponsors has become a tremendous challenge. To meet this challenge, SPLORE now devotes five months of staff time and spends more than \$15,000 to assure auction success. Furthermore, in an effort to increase "high-wealth participation" we have lost sight of the opportunity to celebrate the many participants, volunteers, staff, donors, corporate, and foundation sponsors that promote the "Magic of SPLORE".

So here is this year's call-to-action: We want you to make SPLORE's last Harvest Moon Benefit Auction the best we have ever had. This year's theme, *Active People in an Active, Friendly World*, represents what SPLORE does everyday - assure that our participants, family members, and friends have the opportunity to be active without barriers.

Be active and be apart of history and attend SPLORE's final benefit auction on September 27, 2008!

Cheers!

John Librett

John Librett, Ph.D., M.P.H.
Executive Director



SPLORE & EXPANDING BORDERS

SPLORE is headquartered in Salt Lake, but our reach is affecting people way beyond the I-15 corridor. In 2008, SPLORE opened a new office in Ogden, and has helped people from across the Nation, as well as individuals around the world, enjoy "The Magic of SPLORE."

In July, families with individuals affected with Friedreich's Ataxia joined SPLORE on a five-day Ruby/Horsethief/Westwater Canyon trip. Friedreich's Ataxia (FA) is a very rare and incurable neurodegenerative disorder. Families with FA have created a tight-knit community through support groups on the Internet, but many these families met for the first time on the SPLORE rafting trip. The families came from Colorado, Washington, Arizona, Ohio and New York. To learn more about the FA Families rafting trip, please check out their [Blog](#) which is filled with a lot of wonderful pictures.

Also in July, the Executive Director of [Camphill Soltane](#), a residential facility that provides "continuing education and personal pathways of discovery for young adults with developmental disabilities," visited SPLORE to learn about our operations and facilitation of adaptive recreation programs for people with disabilities and special needs.

July also marked the opening of SPLORE's new office in Ogden. SPLORE has teamed-up with Jeff Lowe and [Ogden Climbing Parks](#) (OCP) to provide accessible rock climbing activities to people with disabilities in Davis County. The Pioneer Adult Rehab Center (PARC) was the first participant; they went climbing with SPLORE and OCP at Hill Air Force Base's climbing wall.

This winter, a visitor from New Zealand will be observing SPLORE to learn about adaptive recreation and SPLORE's Experience Your Abilities programs. Bridget Meyer is with [Sport Otago](#), part of the [Halberg Trust](#) in New Zealand. Stay tuned to future newsletters to learn more about Bridget's visit.

[CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE ABOUT SPLORE PROGRAMS](#)

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT: KATHY KELLY

Kathy Kelly has been a SPLORE volunteer for several years and she has been an asset to the organization since she started.

Kathy first started volunteering for the rafting program as a volunteer guide; lending her guiding skills and even her personal raft to SPLORE and our participants. Kathy always brings a great smile and sense of community to every trip.

This past year Kathy has even volunteered to help train new SPLORE staff and volunteers during the volunteer rafting training trip. When she's not rafting, Kathy works for Versera, a performance counseling group and this past Winter, Kathy donated her expertise to SPLORE for a staff accountability workshop.

From SPLORE, our participants and the community: Thank You Kathy, for all that you do! We are incredibly fortunate to have you as part of the team.

Are you wondering what other volunteer opportunities are available? Please check our on-line [calendar](#) and look for activities that state "Program Volunteers Needed."

[LEARN MORE ABOUT VOLUNTEERING WITH SPLORE](#)





HARVEST MOON AUCTION TO HAVE ITS FINAL SWAN SONG

After many years of success, SPLORE's Annual Harvest Moon Benefit Auction will come to an end this Fall.

2008 marks the 26th year for the auction and, even though it's the Auction's "Swan Song," we plan on going out with a bang! This year's theme is: *Active People in an*

Active, Friendly World, and we want past and present volunteers, donors, participants, staff and the rest of the SPLORE family to join in the celebration. This year's auction will feature a concert with The Disgusting Brothers, a Silent & Live Auction, Balloons, a Jail, local celebrity table hosts and emcees Mick & Allen from KBER radio.

All of the funds raised from the auction will benefit SPLORE's Active Living Scholarship Program, helping to make the outdoors accessible to all.

"But the Auction is like a SPLORE reunion," you may say, "when am I going to see everyone if this is the last auction?" There should be no worries as SPLORE plans to have annual end-of-season parties to celebrate our accomplishments, participants that embody the "Spirit of SPLORE," outstanding volunteers, and the community.

To learn more about the final Harvest Moon Benefit Auction, please visit:

<http://www.splore.org/auction.html>

RAISING THE BAR

Autism Speaks Foundation:

SPLORE is happy to announce that we recently received a \$24,885 grant from the Autism Speaks Foundation. This money will go towards providing year-round Rock On! programs, a rock climbing program for kids with autism. The grant will also allow SPLORE to do a comprehensive research study on the benefits of rock climbing on kids with Autism.



AUTISM SPEAKS™
It's time to listen.

U of U Department of Parks, Recreation & Tourism:

\$15,000 has been given to SPLORE from the U of U Dept. of PR&T to help SPLORE develop the "Excels Academy," an eight-week internship and vocational management program for youth at risk and teens with high-functioning disabilities.

Learn more about SPLORE's Excels Academy next month!

Good Search

Looking for an easy and *FREE* way to donate to SPLORE? Use the search engine www.goodsearch.com - powered by Yahoo!, and designate SPLORE as your chosen charity. Every time you use the Good Search search engine, you earn money for SPLORE!

Fox 13 News and Matt Sampson:

Matt Sampson, a photojournalist with Fox 13 News, recently did a "Through the Lens" piece on SPLORE and Rock On! To see the clip, please click [here](#).

SAVE THE DATE! SPLORE CALENDAR

There are always exciting things happening around SPLORE. Here is a list of some things to come. As always, please check our [Calendar](#) for a list of programs, special events and trainings.

August 9: Open enrollment rock climbing program for *ALL* ability levels

August 16-17: Open enrollment rock climbing, camping and hiking program for people who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing

August 23: Open enrollment canoeing program for *ALL* ability levels

September 27: The Annual Harvest Moon Benefit Auction At the Downtown Hilton Hotel
Contact Heather Whitesides at (801) 484-4128 x 9 for more information

Check our [Calendar](#) for a list of programs, special events and trainings.



BE OPEN.
Because some visionaries are blind.
Because some communicators are deaf.
Because some movers and shakers are paralyzed.
Because the only true disability is a mind stuck in the closed position.

Thank you for reading SPLORE's Monthly Email Newsletter! Your support, involvement, and connection to SPLORE is important to us. If you have any questions, comments or concerns, please visit our website www.splore.org or contact us at (801) 484-4128 or info@splore.org

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