

CAMP MICHITANKI



MICHIGAN TRANSPLANT KIDS

September 4, 2012

Dear Edward,

Thank you for participating in the Camp Michitanki Leader-In-Training (LIT) Program these past 2 years. The LIT program is designed for the older camper aged 16-17 years old who is motivated to think outside of the box and strives to be a strong leader. Our goal for your participation was to expose the LITs to an adult solid organ transplant recipient who is a positive role model and who has successfully transitioned to the adult care realm.

In 2011, you and Taffarro provided the LITs with an overall presentation of the YNOTT? Foundation's mission, goals and values. The presentation began formally and then ended very informally with a rousing game of football. Along the way, you and Taffarro shared your life experience pertaining to both the successes and the struggles with your diagnoses and the subsequent life changes that occurred. I know that the LITs benefited from this based on their recounts of that day through the rest of the week. PLUS, they wore the YNOTT? bracelets constantly. A few of them wore them to camp the following year. I wondered if they ever took them off.

This past year, the LIT goal for your participation was to expand on the previous year and delve a bit more in to the shared experience of living with a solid organ transplant and then translate that to life as an adult with a full-balanced life complete with a job, social, and family life—all to be scheduled around post-transplant care (medications, healthcare follow up, etc).

As far as the YNOTT? Foundation's program, your communication of your programs mission and goals is spot on. We appreciate how passionate you are! The LITs appreciate you, your program and what it does and what it can do for assisting kids stay on the right path while waiting for their organs, promoting organ donation, and most importantly for showing them that life as an adult with a solid organ transplant can be successful and fun.

As you and your team have a tremendous rapport already with our LITs, my only suggestion for future involvement with our program, is to be more "campy" and less formal. At camp, we are all about role modeling, educating, maturing, sharing life experiences, and having fun in a safe camp environment.

I think that the LITs, the LIT staff and the YNOTT? Foundation staff all benefit equally from their time together!

I am looking forward to next year.

Go Go LIT,

Mary (Meg) Zamberlan, RN, MS, CCTN, CPNP  
Leader In Training Director  
Camp Michitanki