



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®  
FOR HEALTHY LIVING  
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

## My Y Story

### Karen Blank and grandson Vincent

#### Mountain Mist Pathfinders Camp

Last summer for the first time ever, my grandson was able to go to summer camp. He went to the Mountain Mist Pathfinders camp for children with Type I diabetes. Camp scholarships helped me to send him for two weeks.

It was a wonderful experience for him to be able to go to camp and socialize with other kids, especially kids with diabetes. He used to get picked on at school a lot for having diabetes. At Pathfinders Camp he was with kids that were like him. One day when I picked him up he said "Grandma, I am not alone." This gave me goosebumps and a joyful tear in my eyes.



He learned a lot from them including new technology he could use to more easily monitor his sugars and administer insulin. After camp I got him a phone. This new technology has improved his care and he can take care of his diabetes discreetly when he is at school.

I used to get daily phone calls from his school about his sugar. When he was at camp under the care of RNs they knew exactly what to do and I did not receive daily calls. I was in heaven because I knew he was in good hands.

At his end-of-the-year school conference they recommended that he do something over the summer that would be good for his socialization. This camp really helped him with that. He made friends and is still friends with the other campers and texts with them. He is looking forward to coming back again.

There aren't enough words to describe how wonderful this camp is or how thankful we are to everyone who made Pathfinders possible. I drove one hour each way to bring him there and will gladly do it again. We made thank you cards and sent messages to Carolyn Daniels, the Connecticut Lions Club, camp staff and volunteers. Your efforts help families and children make this dream camp a reality. You make dreams come true.

MERIDEN-NEW BRITAIN-BERLIN YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION, INC.

**MERIDEN YMCA**  
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[www.meridenymca.org](http://www.meridenymca.org)

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We could not end the summer without saying THANK you for the wonderful opportunity and scholarship provided to Vincent who attended his second year at Pathfinders Camp.

This year Vincent was a CIT- counselor in training. As such he followed leaders in the camp including Jacob who is awesome, honestly, they ALL are awesome. Vincent came home from camp discussing what he learned and taking actions that included humility and leadership. He has grown and matured so much this summer with the help of summer camp. There was a time not so long ago we never thought he could attend camp as a Type 1 diabetic however because of you (Carolyn Daniels at the YMCA), the Connecticut Lions Club, Dr. Demirci, and the volunteer nurses, a village makes it all possible.

From the bottom of our hearts, I thank everyone who is a part of the Mountain Mist Pathfinders Camp.

You all make dreams come true.

Truly,

Karen Blank (guardian/grandmother)  
Vincent Ukanowicz (camper)

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