



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Keeping Paul Newman's Dream Alive in Ashford, Connecticut

15th annual Hole in the Wall Gang Camp Walkathon takes place October 17 from 1pm to 5pm at the Camp in Ashford.

Ashford, Conn. – September 16, 2010 – Participants in the Hole in the Wall Gang Camp Walkathon on Sunday, October 17 will be doing more than wearing out shoe-leather. Each year, for more than a decade, their efforts have raised thousands of dollars to put smiles on the faces of some of the most deserving children on the planet. This year's 15th annual Walkathon will be no different. The annual Walkathon is one of the few times when the public can visit this private camp that seldom opens its doors to those other than the children it serves and their families – out of respect for the privacy of its campers.

"The Hole in the Wall Gang Camp Walkathon is held rain or shine," says Committee Chair Cindy Lehmann, who took over this year from longtime organizer and Camp friend Bill Hahn. "Over the years, we've walked the main Camp road on sunny days, rainy days and even in a snowstorm!" Each year anywhere from 200 to 300 walkers participate.

It's a great pleasure when we can open Camp's doors to our neighbors so that they can get a better sense of what Camp is about, while, at the same time, helping the children at the heart of our mission," says Chief Executive Officer James Canton. The funds raised by the event go directly to support the Camp's programs for seriously ill youngsters.

Founded in Ashford, Connecticut by Paul Newman more than 20 years ago, The Hole in the Wall Gang Camp serves more than 15,000 children each year. At the Camp, children with illnesses like cancer, sickle cell anemia, HIV/AIDS and hemophilia find healing and camaraderie. As one Hole in the Wall camper puts it, "I love it here. Sometimes you think being so sick gives you limits, but here you can try anything."

In addition to its signature summer camp program and the Hospital Outreach Program, the Camp offers year-round family programming, camper reunions, parent respite weekends and

caregiver retreats. All of the camp's services are provided free of charge, thanks to the generosity of many donors and friends.

For more information and pledge sheets, contact Cindy Lehmann, Walkathon Committee Chair at 860-684-4796.

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