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Hole in the Wall Staffer Runs the Distance for Children



Hole in the Wall Gang Camp staff member Peter McBride finishes the Leadville Trail 100-mile Run in under 25 hours, while raising funds to send seriously ill children to Camp.

New Haven, CT – August 25, 2010 – This past weekend August 21 and 22, Hole in the Wall Gang Camp staff member Peter McBride, age 24, was one of only a handful of runners to finish the Leadville Trail 100-mile Run in Leadville, Colorado in under 25 hours, earning him the coveted “Plato Grande,” a giant gold belt buckle. But that’s not the only benefit to come from his achievement. Running for Team Hole in the Wall, McBride raised more than \$12,000 in funds to support seriously ill children for The Hole in the Wall Gang Camp started 20+ years ago by Paul Newman.

Just before the gun went off at 4 AM,” says McBride, “the race director repeated his mantra, ‘You’re better than you think you are. You can do more than you think you can.’ As I began running, I realized that’s exactly what we teach the seriously ill kids at The Hole in the Wall

Gang Camp. Growing up with cancer, hemophilia, or any other disease doesn't mean a child's spirit can't thrive. That's what Camp is all about."

McBride, vegan, marathon runner (for 5 years) and employee of The Hole in the Wall Gang Camp (for 3 years) says that his experience as a Hole in the Wall Camp counselor and staff member changed his life. "I've always loved the sport, but running for The Hole in the Wall Gang Camp adds a whole new realm of possibility," says McBride. "Now, your race is about more than getting a free t-shirt and finisher's medal...five children are going to have the time of their lives next summer, and it's a great honor to provide that opportunity." A native of New Castle, Delaware, McBride is a resident of New Haven, Connecticut where he works in the Camp's development office.

The so-called "Race Across the Sky" takes place in Leadville, Colorado and consists of a grueling 50-mile course up and down a mountain and back again in the midst of the Colorado Rockies. The course is so tough that about half the participants never make it to the finish line. The lowest elevation point is 9,200 feet, with the high point at Hope Pass at 12,600 feet, with time cut offs all along the course. McBride came in 33rd out of more than 800 participants and completed the 100-mile run in 22 hours, 51 seconds with a pace of 13:42. McBride explains, "When I made it through the first 50 miles in just over nine hours, I knew I was well ahead of pace and had my work cut out for me on the return trip. The pace slowed in the second half, but I just focused on moving toward the finish line at whatever speed my legs would allow."

Founded by Leadville resident and miner Ken Chlouber, the Leadville Trail 100-mile Run was started 29 years ago as a way to bring in visitors to the region during a period of economic downturn. In the beginning, there was just one foot race. 45 racers lined up at the starting line

for the inaugural run; only ten runners finished. More than 800 runners lined up to start this year's Leadville Trail 100, with only 376 making it to the end to cross the finish line.

Started in 1988 by Paul Newman, The Hole in the Wall Gang Camp is a nonprofit, residential summer camp and year-round center in Ashford, Connecticut serving children and their families coping with cancer, sickle cell anemia and other serious illnesses and conditions. Each year, Camp programs provide services to more than 15,000 children. All of the Camp's services are provided free of charge. For more information, see www.holeinthewallgang.org.

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