

Hallelujah Moment from the USA

"Happy Birthday, Caleb!"

By Jodi L. Cataldo

November 28, 2008



Caleb (on left with arm in cast) and his AIDS Walk Team.
Photo supplied by Steven Smith.

Caleb didn't ask for a new bicycle or even a trip to the local Chuck E. Cheese to celebrate his tenth birthday. No, Caleb decided to organize a team for the AIDS Walk in Albany, New York. There was no other party. He and four friends celebrated Caleb's birthday by raising sponsorships in the amount of \$742.05 and walking to support the Schenectady Damien Center (a place of support for people infected and affected by HIV/AIDS in Schenectady, New York) and other AIDS-care organizations.

The organizers of the walk presented a smiling Caleb Smith, top fundraiser under the age of 18, with a birthday cake and a joyous round of "Happy Birthday."

A year earlier, Caleb participated in an AIDS Walk for the first time and loved the diversity of the persons present

there. This child's heart was moved with compassion, and he wanted to make a difference himself...even at the tender age of nine. Caleb is making a world of difference and serves as an example to children everywhere.

According to UNAIDS, approximately 40 million people worldwide are infected with HIV, and 2.1 million died with AIDS in 2007—330,000 of those deaths were children under the age of 15.

"All individuals living with HIV and AIDS should be treated with dignity and respect.... We urge the church to be actively involved in the prevention of the spread of AIDS by providing educational opportunities to the congregation and the community."

(United Methodist Social Principles ¶ 162.S)

Ways to Support this Ministry

You can support ministry for those affected by HIV/AIDS by sharing your gifts through The Advance or by designated giving through your local church:

[982345](#) — United Methodist Global AIDS Fund (UMCOR)

For more information about the United Methodist Global AIDS Fund, please visit the following websites:

<http://new.gbqm-umc.org/umcor/work/health/hivaids/aids-fund/> and <http://www.umglobalaidsfund.org/>



Hallelujah Moments

Celebrations of United Methodist mission from the Mission Education program area of the General Board of Global Ministries
<http://gbqm-umc.org/me/>

connecting the church
in mission

