



Excerpts from the Davenport Diary

We maintain a reflection book in our home in Davenport, Florida. This book contains the thoughts of our sailors that spend a week away in Florida. Peruse the attached pages that are a sampling of some of our sailors' stories. We will update these pages on a monthly basis. Should you have any comments about these stories or are interested in helping to maintain the monthly update, please contact us at info@crossingthefinishline.org

"Just knowing that people like you care enough to run this program puts life in perspective. You tend to look inward when something like cancer happens, but this trip and everyone's generosity really makes you appreciate this community of caring." **Matthew, age 34, traveled to Davenport, FL, with his wife and 3 children in April, 2004.**

"My wife and I talked at length about the kindness bestowed upon us from total strangers. We are stressing to our children the generosity and the purpose of the vacation and hoping when they are old enough to understand it will have the same meaning as it does to us." **Joe, age 40, traveled to Davenport, FL, with his wife and three daughters aged 12, 8, and 10 in June, 2004.**

"My children went through a tough year. My 7 year old grew up quickly by doing more things by herself that I could not and saw that I was really sick, and asking if I was going to die. Having this retreat was a way to tell her 'I'm OK!' and that I'm cancer-free. She had time to be a kid again." **Darielle, age 34, traveled to Sea Isle City in June, 2004, with her daughter and her sister.**

"I finally got a chance to relax. I tried to leave my problems back home, even though it's tough, because you still realize why you're there. We all got to get away. We went to somewhere where we couldn't afford to go (accommodations were unbelievable!), which helped in easing our minds...I realized that there are people who really care and want to help others. People that don't look for something in return...I also see that there are others worse off than me...I will have faith and continue to live day-by-day. What we were given touched us so much. Words cannot express. **Lynette, age 42, traveled to Sea Isle City, NJ, in July, 2004, with her husband and son**



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