

# One Man's 2,000 Mile Appalachian Trail Charity Journey turns into 12,450 Miles! Celebrating 15 Years of Walking for Sunshine!

CINCINNATI, Ohio, July 11, 2012 (SEND2PRESS NEWSWIRE) – What began as a solo Appalachian Trail (AT) adventure with bears, bugs, and blisters, has become an annual fundraising source for Sunshine, a home for the developmentally disabled in Maumee, Ohio. When author and speaker Jeff Alt embarked on his AT journey to raise funds for Sunshine, he didn't know that his journey would spark the creation of an annual event.

Alt's brother Aaron, who was born with Cerebral Palsy, is a Sunshine resident. During Alt's inaugural AT journey, supporters in Toledo walked in solidarity with Jeff, marking the first annual event. The event has now grown to over 400 walkers and runners netting over \$225,000 for Sunshine. Alt's story is told in an award winning book, "A Walk for Sunshine" (ISBN: 978-0-9679482-3-2) and was released as an audio book on June 5, 2012.

Alt's original walk, combined with everyone who has walked, run or rolled for Sunshine brings a grand total of 12,450 miles traversed. This proves that when you put one foot in front of the other, you get a lot of steps in the right direction.

Alt inspires audiences with stories from "A Walk for Sunshine" – including humorous and hair raising animal encounters of sleeping with a skunk, being charged by a bear, eating lunch next to a rattlesnake and more. You learn how he ate a large pizza as a snack, a dozen donuts before breakfast; and still lost 30 pounds.

Alt shares hiking tips and profound lessons he learned from his journey such as:

- \* Why everyone should go after their dreams now!
- \* How humor can help you overcome adversity.
- \* How celebrating the simple things can get you through tough situations.
- \* Why we should introduce kids to the outdoors at the youngest of ages because computers are replacing the backyard and childhood obesity is becoming a national epidemic.

"On September 8, we will celebrate 15 years of walking for Sunshine. Alt continues to help host this family oriented Walk, 5K Run & Roll. All proceeds are used to help fund programs and services for the people served at Sunshine," says Alt. Information: <http://www.sunshine.org/2012/03/2458/> .

Jeff Alt is a member of the Outdoor Writers Association of America. His tips and adventures have been featured on Discovery Channel.com, ESPN, Hallmark Channel, NPR; in the Chicago Tribune, Cleveland Plain Dealer and the AP.

Alt's book, "A Walk for Sunshine" (9/09; \$15.95 paperback; ISBN: 978-0-9679482-3-2; <http://www.jeffalt.com/>) has received several awards and the Kindle edition hit the best-selling charts in January, 2012.

"A Walk for Sunshine" was just released in audio (6/12; \$19.99; ISBN: 978-1469240954; Brilliance Audio).

More information: <http://jeffalt.com/media.asp> .

News issued by: Jeff Alt



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