Brittany doesn’t let life get her down

11-year-old lives the most of every day

by Ken Luchterhand

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“Fun,” “energetic” and “smart” are some words that describe 11-year-old Brittany Zebrowsky.

“Friendly,” “talented,” “witty” and “optimistic” are some more words to describe her.

No where in her being are the words “afraid,” “sad” or “fearful.”

That was most evident Saturday as Brittany and her family took part in the United Special Sportsmen Alliance’s third annual Outdoor Water Sport Event at the organization’s headquarters 15 miles east of Black River Falls just off Highway 54 on Shotwell Road.

At the event, she went from one activity to the next, taking her fishing, horseback riding, riding the Jet Ski and whatever challenge came her way.

But Brittany’s love for life hasn’t always been full of fun. She’s seen days when life was more harsh than most people have ever experienced.

When Brittany was 5, she was diagnosed with a brain tumor. She and her family live in Hartland, Wis.

“I was in the hospital a lot. I had a lot of problems,” she

Brittany Zebrowsky (above, photo at center) enjoyed the day with her new friends, Jeff and Lori Peterson (at right) during the United Special Sportsmen Alliance’s third annual Outdoor Water Sport Event, held at 7864 Shotwell Road, Pittsville. Her parents, Christian and Tiffany (at left),

ing a good time,” she said.

met some great people and we all had a great time.”

Jeff and Lori Peterson live near the site of the USS event and are neighbors of Brigid O’Donohue, founder of the organization. Last year, Lori and her daughter, Amanda, helped with the event. But unfortunately, Amanda died in a tragic car accident in March.

Lori and Jeff decided to help this year, not only to honor their daughter, but to be involved and to help other children. The couple was matched up with Brittany by O’Donohue, so the family could get to know each other and support each other through the trials and tribulations of life.

Brittany and her new friends spent a lot of time fishing, which turned a little mischievous at times, with Brittany throwing underwater plants on Jeff.

“We were having good laughs - definitely,” Jeff said.

“It’s been hard (dealing with her death). But this has been rewarding. We plan to continue helping with it. Anything to pass the time and being with good kids like Brittany.”

Christian and Tiffany, Brittanys parents, have struggled through their daughter’s medical problems and treatments, but the experience has strengthened their faith in God.

“It has been trying. We’ve spent a lot of time in and out of hospitals,” Christian said.

“It has been hard to spend time with all our children.”

The biggest worry during the experience has been