Central Wisconsin charity touches Texas

On September 4-5, 2004, the Pittsville based dream wish charity United Special Sportsman Alliance (U.S.S.A.) organized and conducted an outdoor event for six critically ill and disabled children and their families in Nixon, Texas. Nixon lies approximately 50 miles southeast of San Antonio, Texas and in many ways is a mirror image of our hometown Pittsville which is over 1,500 miles to the north!

The event took place on Scott Trammell’s ranch, and included pan fish fishing, horseback riding, and a real “Texas Style” barbeque. The Nixon volunteer fire department brought out a back-up engine, and let the kids have a “hands on” demonstration of pumping large quantities of water.

Earlier in the morning, before the Texas sun began to toast the landscape, several adventurous kids participated in a Wild Boar hunt with dogs. A wild boar is as big as they are dangerous, and can reach weights in excess of 450 pounds. They also have a liking for farm crops, and we can easily imagine the damage caused by a pack of these huge beasts to a grain field. Bringing in these kids to help hunt the boar, is both exciting for the child, and a relief to the farmer. That particular morning was very hot, and temperatures soon soared into the mid 90’s. Few warm blooded animals like to move around much when it gets that hot, and as it turned out, these “well tallowd” boar were no exception.

The event was a real success, and some of the kids will be trying “round two” in their quest for a trophy boar. On the trip back to Wisconsin, Brigid O’Donoghue, USSA President and Founder, addressed a Texas Deer Association meeting in San Antonio. Our southern friends were quick to jump on board, and a commitment to over $300,000 worth of deer, boar and turkey hunts accompanied her back to Pittsville from the ranchers and outfitters. A stop at Methodist Children’s Cancer Hospital in San Antonio was also productive, and some eager young sportsmen and women are looking forward to a hunt of a lifetime.

O’Donoghue attends many of the hunts and fishing trips herself. She is a hunter, angler and conservationist, and believes the outdoors is a place where the sick and disabled can find inner peace. She also believes that preserving our natural resources is one of the highest callings we have “as a society of caring people.”

If you know of a terminal or disabled child that would like to attend an outdoor event or you’d like to make a donation to the United Special Sportsmen Alliance, contact them at 1-800-518-8019 or e-mail them at biotec@tds.net. You can also check United Special Sportsman Alliance’s web site at www.childswish.com.