

February 24, 2012

Dear Billy Mock Foundation,

On behalf of the coaches, parents, Brandywine Youth Club and most importantly the *Spirit* cheerleaders, I would like to thank you for your generous support this year. Your donation provided the team with tee-shirts, pom-poms, crop tops, bloomers, signs, medals and trophies. These items went far to make our 2011-12 season special.

We began our practices in September. This year we were delighted to add two new members to our team and hope to reach out to even more this year. In addition to our eleven cheerleaders, I worked with five superb coaches, one of whom is my daughter, Emily, the founder of *Spirit*. These girls range from 8th grade to freshmen year in college; all of whom worked their schedules around Spirit practice. When we determined in December that we could use a little more coaching assistance, several BYC cheerleaders answered the call, and we added two more 7th grade girls to our coaching group. Our coaching team has not only had a positive effect on our cheerleaders, but they themselves have benefitted from learning and growing as young women by working alongside of each other and through the positive relationships formed with the kids.

Our first public event was in the fall. *Spirit* cheered with the Garnet Valley cheerleaders at a home football game. It was our third year doing so and once again, everyone had a wonderful time.

After working hard to learn our routine, we performed at two competitions this year: Garnet Valley Cheer Challenge in January and Chi Cheer Classic in February. As always, the team received a warm welcome and a standing ovation for their performance. Compassion fills the gymnasium and everyone comes together to support these very special kids. The excitement, pride and joy on their faces is the best reward of all. *Spirit* is a team name we certainly live up too.

Our last performance to date was at West Chester University. This event was possible due to the interest of one of our coach's professors at West Chester University, whom first heard of *Spirit* after our coach had mentioned them during a class discussion. After attending one of our practices, she invited our team to perform for college students who are interested in working with children with special needs. We arranged it for February, so that they could show off this year's routine. The visit was a huge success. The girls performed football cheers, showed off some stunts, performed the routine and then participated in a discussion session. Parents were able to share information with the college students, and perhaps the most rewarding part was how many of our cheerleaders stood up and spoke to the audience of 30-40 adults themselves. Having known most of these girls for three years, I can say that seeing them have the confidence to stand up and speak was a highlight of the season.

Thank you again for your sponsorship and for helping these wonderful children to have an opportunity to shine.

Sincerely,

Beth Uniacke