

# Where there's a Will there's a way

## Resident competes in Triathlon to support Brooks' World Travels

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Like many residents, David Will remembers Brooks Singer fondly.

"The Singers were one of the first families we met when we moved to Marshfield six years ago," David recalled. "Our families just built a close bond over the years."

David had a particularly close connection with Brooks. He remembered how Brooks would always stop by his home on Prospect Avenue on his way to the Marshfield Hills General Store, and thought about the positive influence he used to have on David's two young children, Zac, 6, and Sam, 3.

"He was just a great kid," David said. "It's amazing to talk to people and see how many people knew him and remember him. I miss getting to know him better."

He's not alone. It may be nearly three years since Brooks tragically passed away in his sleep following a trip to Peru with his father, David, but residents have not forgotten the young man many have come to remember as a shining star.

At Marshfield High School Brooks' spirit lives on through Brooks' World Travels, a program that over the past two years has sent an estimated 50 Marshfield High School students overseas to England. This year's group of students recently returned to England for one week in May.

It's a fitting tribute for Brooks, who frequently traveled with his father, David to far off countries such as Egypt, Portugal and China among others.

"It's a prayer that his legacy and his life touches as many people as possible," David Singer said during a memorial held for Brooks in April. "It really makes the world a better place."

Of course, traveling is expensive, and Marshfield High School has held many fundraising events to knock down the cost of the trip for students. Students sell Christmas trees each winter, host raffles and have



PHOTO COURTESY OF DAVID WILL

David Will recently took part in the Lake Placid Ironman Triathlon in memory of his friend, Brooks Singer and to support the Brooks World Travels program at MHS.

even hosted open mic nights at the high school to help support the trips.

David, however, had his own special way of both honoring Brooks and supporting the World Travels Program. On July 16, David participated in the Lake Placid Ironman Triathlon, including a 24-mile swim, a 112-mile bike race and a 26.2-mile marathon run.

While he's a seasoned marathon runner, having finished 20 races to date, David said the triathlon was a first. Finishing the race in just under 14 hours, David raised \$2,500 for the Brooks World Travels program through pledges from friends and family.

"I'd never done anything like this before," he said. "Training for it was enormously time consuming, not only for myself but also for my family. My wife had to come to grips with the fact that I'd be training for up to 10 hours a day."

But the hard work paid off, as David finished the swim portion in one hour and 33 minutes, the bicycle portion in 7-1/2 hours, and the marathon in about five

hours. While he didn't set any records, he said he was happy to have participated.

"The goal for me was just to finish," David said. "I didn't care about the time or how I placed. I leaped through the finish line and I was just ecstatic."

Finishing a triathlon is no easy feat, even for someone more athletically inclined as David. But he's quick to admit that while he put in the time and energy in training for the event, he couldn't have done it without the help of a friend.

"It was very personal to me," he said. "With Brooks having passed, it really pushed me to find life and experience it as much as I can."

With one triathlon under his belt, David says he's ready to go at it again and improve his times the second time around. He said he hopes to compete again in 2008.

"I have a lot of things on my checklist, but I'll definitely go back again for the Ironman," he said. "Having done it once, I have to do it again."