

Greetings Sonshine Security Family!

Like many of you, the weeks immediately following Sonshine are flat out depressing. It's difficult to grasp that it will be a full year before we can do it all over again. It was an incredible year, the coldest ever overall, and many were clamoring to buy a security hoodie they said they'd NEVER need in July! Many amazing rookies jumped right in and learned the ropes very quickly. You took on some tough weather conditions and still managed to have a blast. I always enjoy seeing the rookies get that gleam in their eye as they realize how FUN working Sonshine Security really is! We saw many crew members return to working security this year. **Jordan Johnson, Bou Gazley, and Aric Bauman** only took a couple of years off while **Andy Frey** has been off the grid since 2001. But the award for the longest layoff goes to **Travis Johnson**. He worked Sonshine last in 1991 as a 16 year old kid from my old youth group, and now grown and with much more life experience....he's got that gleam in his eye again.

Time for stories! It's what makes Sonshine come alive for us every year! Thank you so much for filling me in on the details. As always there are some funny moments, some a bit inappropriate, and some that will lift your faith and spirit. Enjoy!

HM can be a very rough environment and sometimes the members of the pit crew get dinged around a bit. While Austrian Death Machine (great name for a band!) was playing and the crowd is having a ton of fun, **Lizzy Alexandr** tells Big T (**Travis Johnson**), "You wanna go have some fun?" Well Big T had been keeping a close eye for pit expansion to protect the sound board and he was way ready for a break! Big T's eyes got wide and his face lit up like a kid in a candy store and he replies with an eager "uh-huh!" He jumps into the pit and joins the other security and fans pushing and breaking one another. A little while later, the wall of death begins and the fans are split in two....but Big T just circles the open area making menacing faces and gestures. **Matthew Mika**, all of 165 lbs, decides to attack Big T by hurtling his body at him. After three solid head on collisions it was Big T who was nursing a very sore shoulder while Mika was ready to throw down again.

You never know what to expect in the trench any given night. On Friday during Tobymac, I'm up front assisting with the flow of people in the trench and enjoying the show. Towards the end I notice a young girl right in the corner looking very pale and rolling her eyes. As I take a closer look I notice she's cupping her hands under and around her mouth. When I step towards her and ask if she's alright I see a steady stream of vomit, yes the *chunky* kind, seeping through her fingers. I quickly get the Trench crew to pull her over the wall to EMS. That's when I see **Sam Jerome's** open purse resting on the platform right in front of where this girl had been standing! Sam had a bit of a panic as she looked and felt through her purse for the chunky puke. Much to her relief, it had missed her purse by inches!!

The trench was more than a bit congested when one of the County Sheriffs decided to check out the crowd up front for himself during Skillet on Thursday night. I'm very possessive of our ownership of the trench and I asked the sheriff to move to the side a few times. Eventually I had to actually put my hands on his chest and move him, something I don't think he was too pleased with. **Tracy Fuller** thought sure he was going to pull out the handcuffs for me! I was so preoccupied with keeping him out of the way that **John Cooper** of Skillet ran into BOTH of us when he jumped off the stage!

On Tuesday when **Kelly and Jason Lowe, Alyson McCoy, and Susie VL** got to Sonshine they immediately went to the MNDot tree line to set-up tents. They were all wearing previous year's security shirts, and enjoying trying to put tents up in the stiff breeze. Looking down the row they were keenly aware of a single tent about 150 feet south of where they were setting up that could NOT take their eyes off of them. They were studying our crew, and after about 40 minutes of sizing them up, they picked their tent up and moved it an additional 200 feet further south. Alyson and Kelly looked at each other and said, "We SO need to come back and check on them later, that was incredibly suspicious!" And sure enough, on Thursday, **Jason Lowe, Greg Nordin, Alyson McCoy** and a few other security crew were back rolling them and 2 other campsites out as a part of a 68 gram marijuana bust. I guess the morale of the story is, don't be suspicious in front of security!!

I heard August Burns Red needed a staple gun at HM to do some amp repairs. I radioed Main Stage and **Sheila Quiggle** responded. Needing a golf cart ride to HM, Nigel **Masters** and **Andy Sopher** gladly said they would take her over. She called shotgun and said she would be right back. Upon returning Sopher was still sitting up front. She insisted she had called shotgun but Sopher said she couldn't sit in the front seat because she didn't have a booster seat. After getting "the LOOK" (that I have seen many times) he quickly moved to the back. They stopped at the Office tent to check for a staple gun. When Sheila came back Sopher was standing by the front of the cart. Curious, she sat down and he quickly wrapped duct tape around her that he had attached to a center post in the seat claiming it was now safe to ride in front since she had a seatbelt. Richard Jennum, on seeing this quietly remarked, "She's not safe yet, you forgot the shoulder strap." She should have gotten a duct tape shoulder strap too! Finally arriving at HM Sheila wept out her woes to her magnificent pit crew. In total agreement they proclaimed retaliation! And so upon completion of the nights bands Lizzy called an unsuspecting Sopher over to HM to exact revenge. When he arrived (rather quickly I might add) and presented himself to Lizzy, he was quickly dispensed with. Handcuffs were applied, and duct tape was attached starting at his ankles. It was then wound up his body to his shoulders. She had him now! He was OK with this, figuring we didn't have any photographers nearby. How wrong he was!! The proof is on the Sonshine Photo CD.

It was fun to watch the “cell phone zombies”, as **Joe Olson** called them, wandering aimlessly around Sonshine, cell phone and charger in hand, with tired looks on their faces, trying to find a place to plug in. Some would just sit there with blank stares; others were poking at light poles hoping to find an outlet or something. Luckily for them the Civic Center installed outlets on the light poles the next day, and the charging station at HM.

Alyssa Riggs and Sandi Stark ran across a tent site overnight that was apparently too tired all weekend to get to any of the biffys. They found 20+ yellow fluid filled bottles at the site and Sandi instinctively took the whiff and sure enough...it was PEE. Nothing like a good sniff of urine to wake you up at night!

From **Janna Langer** - After turning one year older this spring and now being more than half way through my 30's, I have started to feel sensitive about my age, especially seeing the new young bands at Sonshine. As I was driving the lead singer of Remedy Drive and his son to the signing table I mentioned that I had recognized one of the songs they were playing on stage and said that I'd heard it on the radio earlier this year. He then tells me, "Yeah....well most people who listen to the radio nowadays are middle aged women!" Gee.... THANKS!

Chris Alexander spent the entire day Saturday with his SRT team beginning at 6am. He even offered to do extra duty in the trench that evening during TFK and Relient k. After finally leaving to enjoy the Newsboys with his wife, she remarked how good he smelled after such a long day of SRT work. He told her it was just bug spray but she insisted he smelled REALLY fresh. Finally he remembered helping **Gabe Hackmann** pull a young lady over the wall and carry her to the EMS tent. I guess she had lots of nice perfume on!

Throughout Sonshine there were many bands at the HM Stage that thanked the pit crew for their hard work and appreciated what they did, but one of the bands specifically told the fans they should thank the security for what they do. **Leah Preble** was in a pit when the band said this and a guy comes over and gives her a very genuine hug. She was really surprised that someone was so appreciative and willing to show it. Where else would someone be willing to give someone working security a hug?!

Saturday night I (**Jeff Quiggle!**) wandered over to HM to check out As I Lay Dying and watched in amazement from the sound board as pits were everywhere and all were being watched closely by various pit crew members. Coordinating the coverage was **Matthew Mika** as he darted in and around every pit like a knife through butter, moving security to where they should stand. He logged a lot of miles supervising the pits! Leaving the relative safety of the sound board, I made my way to the front corner where I saw a young man crumpled up against the wall. I leaned close and asked if he was ok. Clearly in pain he says, "I think I broke my hip". I leave the building to radio an EMT and ask **Alex Roth** to watch for them. By the time I got

back to the kid several other kids were laying hands on him and praying loudly for him. I was so moved to see these kids respond like that. We ALL know hardcore kids are NOT real Christians right? The band having finished by now, the pit crew cleared the path for the ambulance and watched as he was put on a body board and hoisted up. I got a little choked up again as the entire crowd stood and clapped for the young man as he left the building waving to them.

Lizzy Alexandr got a little carried away, literally, on Thursday when he joined in the pit for a little fun. A severe twist of his knee and he was brought to EMS where they checked him out as best they could. The next night he was back again after introducing his head to the HM concrete floor. Back to EMS he went, kicking and screaming. His stay in the EMS tent was brief and he struggled to be cooperative. Needless to say, he did not get a lollipop for being a good patient. Once told he had to wait ten minutes before they would take his blood pressure again he counted down the seconds on his watch until he could leave. When I arrived there after hearing of his head injury I sat next to him and simply asked, "Would you vote for Obama again?" and he replied, "Yes I would". Looking to the EMT caring for him I said, "It's a permanent head injury. Nothing more you can do for him. He'll be fine".

At ALL the shows at the HM stage this year some person had this giant plastic gnome that they would irritatingly shake up and down the whole time. **Leah Preble** found it particularly annoying as did other people in the crowd she talked to. One kid in particular suggested to her that security should use the power they have as security members to tackle the guy and take his gnome. After pondering this a moment they reluctantly decided that would *probably* be abusing the power!

Kevin Olson had problems getting his ATV restarted on Thursday, causing him to take it to the "ATV doctor", the dealer back home. An hour after leaving the grounds he arrived at the dealer and the tech got to work on it while he stood by nervously like a daddy waiting for the Doctor to tell him that his baby has cancer! The problem turned out to be serious so Kevin felt he had NO CHOICE but to buy a brand new Rhino! Rumor has it *maybe* he sabotaged it *just* to buy a new one!?

Ben Uden is in Paramedic school so it takes a LOT to gross him out...but he almost gagged watching **Rachel Hubbell** eating not just a slice of watermelon, but wolfing down the ENTIRE RIND too! She claims she does this on a regular basis! Which of the food groups is that in?

Scruff Eddy refereed while security crew members wrestled each other in the pits during a slow spot during Living Sacrifice. The kids around the pit seemed to really enjoy the show, going particularly crazy when two attractive girls from security faced off and went at it!

Maybe you noticed.....

- Rookie **Danni Snider** was really bummed to see the new Stage 2 barricade and would not get to carry on the tradition there of being part of the human wall!
- **Laura Holum** wore the blood from a mosh pit on her pink security shirt like a badge of honor like many others did this year including **Lizzy Alexandr** and **Chad Lecy**.
- **Sue Chambers** and the other “stronger than they look” security girls up front were able to catch a stage jumping Tobymac on Friday night.
- Crowd surfing took on a new twist, literally. Surfers would ride the crowd and get to a group that chose to either spin them in a circle, or toss them in the air a few times. I guess just riding a human sea isn't enough anymore. What next? Somersaults?
- **Richard Jenum** spray painted the Main Stage fire lane with, “No TRAPS or chairs”; misspelling tarps and getting a few laughs from the crowd that read it.
- The hillside preacher unleashing condemnation using his megaphone from the hill to the angry teens below.
- A semi-trailer almost hitting Trevor of TFK as he came out of the mini-biff on Saturday.
- The new "guitar fingers" during any great guitar solo when the crowd would play along with their hands and fingers thrust toward the stage.
- While the soccer ball brought by Alyssa Riggs provided some relaxing fun backstage between shows, it also was the cause of a few injuries to **Bou Gazley** and **Duane Bobick**.
- **Sarah Ellingson** almost dying of laughter at the North 40 cafe on Saturday night while eating walking tacos. Still unsure if Sarah is completely stable or not....
- David Crowder throwing an inflatable whale right at security in front of the stage on Friday night and almost breaking **Derrick Ellis'** glasses.
- **Rachel Hubbell** had the cutest raccoon face from her sun/wind burn and sunglasses!
- Teenagers tried to base jump from the big hill with a tarp, some ropes and a skateboard!
- During Flatfoot 56's set the first night they split the crowd for their legendary wall of death it was cool to see that most of the pit crew was at the front of the pack. We led the charge and it was awesome!

Terry Post had a runner late one night; dude grabbed his 4 bottles of beer and made a run for it. Luckily **Kinsey Anderson** and **Cory Thomas** intercepted them and Terry only had to make the 100 yard dash. Poor kid was over 21 and was absolutely crushed that he couldn't take his four beers (1 of which was open) with him as his sober cab was there to get him.

Sonshiners kept coming up to Crowd Patrol rookie **Sarah Ellingson** and **Diana Larson** asking how they could get pink security shirts. Their answers usually were along the lines of “pay \$50 bucks...or date a security girl.” Needless to say, they got asked out a lot. (Personally I would have paid the \$50 instead!)

Another runner story has **Andy Sopher** and **Nigel Masters** watching over some kids they had been trailing late one night. The kids took off and Sopher, in his most graceful Sonshine effort

ever, in mid chase tripped running full speed over a tent line and landed right on a tent stake, ripping a gaping hole in the crotch of his pants! Singing a few notes higher, and in quite a bit of pain, he was not amused as Nigel couldn't stop laughing for 30 seconds when he called in to the Willmar PD! I guess there was some bruising but I'm not about to ask, and NO, there is no evidence of this incident on the Photo CD.

Tracy Fuller was so startled by a loud explosion from the fireworks during the Skillet show Thursday she shoved **Jeff Quiggle** in the back full force with both hands, almost knocking him over. She couldn't stop laughing! Then, it happened again, but she was gentler that time.

Nichole Ruiz was working at Stage Two Thursday when the lead singer of Eleventyseven pretended to punch her in the face. They started dancing like that to the music of the prior band. A little while later he comes over to her and whispers in her ear that he would like to use a restroom without a line before they have to go on, so she quickly runs him over to HM to use one of the unmarked bathrooms in the rink. While running over there she introduces herself, he does the same, and then comments that he wishes his legs were longer. Being pretty short herself she understands completely. She then agrees, "You know, sometimes I wish that too."

During one of the Pit Crew's breathers outside between bands, a group of campers was playing a lively game of Red Rover. They foolishly called out, "Red rover, red rover, send SECURITY over!" Without hesitation, **Travis Johnson** (Big T) charged and broke the line, killing 4 and injuring 7. Charges are pending.

One of the crew (maybe **Jeff Quiggle**) used the biffys by HM Stage and as he sat there heard a little boy in the biffy next door holler, "Mommy, mommy, that's DIARRHEA!" Mom quickly shushed him saying, "It's OK, just don't look". The young boy, obviously still staring into the hole, repeated, "But mommy...it's DIARRHEA!" This went on for another minute or so as mommy urged him on and the crowd laughed at the poor mother's attempt to talk him into closing his eyes. Where would we be without Sonshine biffy stories?

Speaking of...**Curtis Ward** walked out of the biffy one evening with a distraught look on his face. I asked him what was wrong and he told me he had tried the balancing act inside and set his Gatorade on the urinal. One slight bump and WHOOPS, into the hole it went!

On Wednesday night **Jason Lowe** and **Tony Larson** were sitting on a golf cart watching the Vehicle Gate. **Suzanne Anderson** pulled up behind them with a golf cart full of camping chairs for the gates, and as she got off the cart one of the camp chairs fell over and hit the gas pedal. She started shrieking and holding onto the canopy posts skipping along side of it trying to get it to stop. It finally went in the ditch behind the security tent where it laid to rest. Suzanne was too chicken to go get it so **Tony Larson** had to rescue the cart for her. It wouldn't have been so embarrassing if **Jason Lowe** and **Tony Larson** wouldn't have witnessed the whole thing!

Sam Jerome and **Suzanne Anderson** were driving through Ticket Gate #3 near HM when one of the volunteers flagged them down. "I think someone did something that they shouldn't have done in the last porta-potty," she said. Suzanne opened the door, and seeing nothing out of the ordinary began to shut the door...until she smelled something very bad. Someone had taken a jumbo dump in the urinal! Sam put an "Out of Order" sign on the door and quickly left.

By Saturday the signs of exhaustion in the crew lead to some humorous moments. **Clark Lamb** wearily came up to the security trailer in the morning to get his radio and asked **Andrea White**, "Where are my sunglasses?" Andrea looked back at him and laughed, "You're wearing them!"

Talk about being tired...**Diana Larson** and **Suzanne Anderson** finally went back to Grandma's at around 3:45AM Saturday morning to get some sleep. This was the 3rd night they had been up that late and they both have to be on grounds by 9AM every day. As Suzanne was brushing her teeth she came into the bedroom and heard Diana's voicemail on her cell, "Are you still there? Are you still there?" She realized Diana had fallen asleep listening to her voicemails. She had fallen asleep on her phone!

Saturday was a busy day in the yellow section as half the day SRT and Crowd Patrol crew watched as six or seven tents got packed up. We had gotten a report of kids drinking and causing issue with the neighboring campsites. When **Kevin Olson** got to one site he explained what they were about to do and asked for their honesty in telling where the alcohol was. He was informed that they did not drink and therefore did not have anything to hide. This was repeated several times even after Kevin told them they were going to search everything. They did a textbook bust: had all seated, surrounded by security, ID's in hand. The search of the two tents revealed nothing. You could sense the glimmer of hope in the kids.....until Kevin opened the back door of their SUV and found a cooler full of beer and booze! Then one of the kids (who drove dad's vehicle that now housed the alcohol) buried his head in his hands and started to cry. When Kevin approached him and asked why he lied he was told that he "forgot" the stuff was in there and thought he had moved it into the tents!!! Wow....I guess they think if they lie to you enough times that you will say....OK you are good kids.....and avoid the search!?! For their attempts at deceit they got sent home and their alcohol wet the dry ground.

Hmmm...I think this was the SAME section **Alyssa Riggs** was cruising by on Wednesday night complaining there was no action at ALL!

Dean, a member of the band Silverline, came up to **Tracy Fuller** and thanked her for sharing her testimony with him a couple of years ago when she was a Sonshine rookie. He said it had encouraged him greatly. Very cool that he would remember and even cooler that he sought her out to tell her. I've always said we can touch people's lives EVEN while working security!

God often shows He can take care of us even in the midst of everything going wrong. After packing up their stuff and getting ready to leave Sonshine on Sunday, **Tim Wilcox** and **Travis Johnson** ran down the battery of the truck and finally were able to get it started after much prayer. The battery was so dead on the drive home they could not put down the windows, the speedometer stopped working, and the battery gauge did not even register. Time to pray again. They prayed for just enough battery to get them to an Auto Parts store anywhere. In Litchfield the truck was close to dying at every stoplight. As the truck's battery FINALLY died they noticed an Auto Parts store and had just enough momentum to coast into the parking lot. Travis had only \$46 and after telling the owner his story he let them have the battery for a big discount, threw in all the extras for free, and even let them use his tools to put in the battery! Before leaving, they prayed over the store's owner and his business. Isn't God good to us!

On Friday, **Susie Vantland** and **Duane Bobick** spent nearly an hour with a guy named Chris while patrolling in Tent City. Chris's brother and friends left to check out the stages and he opened his heart to them. Chris did three tours in Iraq and they mentioned that a few of our security team were over there right now. Somehow they got on the topic of what our soldiers and sailors go through when they return to the States after everything they've seen and experienced. Chris shared his testimony, where he'd be now without Christ, and how he wants to reach out to other returning troops. THIS is what Crowd Patrol is about....

Working as a Front Stage Assistant for Relient K on Saturday, **Diana Larson** was sporting her odd-looking bright green sunglasses which **Nigel Masters** kept trying to steal throughout the show. He kept moving people around to try and be positioned next to her. She decided to whip out her camera for a quick picture of the crowd and immediately **Jon Oachs** and Nigel grabbed her arms. Nigel took her camera and Jon Oachs took the Front Stage Asst lanyard. Thinking she was in trouble, and having been on the wrong end of the law many times, she knew better than to resist. That's how she got tasered two summers ago at a pep rally in St Cloud. They had something else in mind. They hoisted her up and threw her onto the crowd for a little body surfing action! Luckily she remembered to keep pulling up her jeans because she'd forgotten to wear a belt that day. The crowd refused to let her down and sent her all the way to the back of the crowd. Lost Chapstick: \$3; Lost Flashlight: \$25; Lost pack of gum: \$1 Crowd Surfing for the first time EVER... PRICELESS.

On the final night, the overnight SRT ran into 2 boys running around tent city in just their underwear. They absolutely refused to put their pants on, and even after a short talk with the Police they were still reluctant to comply. They were sitting on the back of Kelly Lowe's golf cart with their legs moving up and down to keep "moving" since they were pretend running. Every ten seconds they would bend over and stretch, then they would "shake it out" and go back to running as they were seated on the back of the golf cart. After another brief

conversation with the officer in which they were told if they didn't put their pants on they would be charged with indecent exposure, they sobered up REAL quick and pants suddenly appeared. Probably one of the stranger things Kelly has ever seen at Sonshine.

From **Leah Preble** - Although we joked around with people a lot in the crowd, I felt because we were willing to be relaxed and joke with the kids, they respected us even more. I also noticed when we first started having our meetings outside in between bands that kids would avoid us or kind of freak out when they came out the door and saw this big group of security people gathered together, but slowly when they realized we weren't going to tell them to go away or be mean to them, they would kind of hang out near us and look over at us and seemed to be trying to hear what we were saying. I noticed when we met outside the last night a couple bands before As I Lay Dying there was a group of kids standing just outside our circle really attentively listening to what we were talking about. They almost seemed like they wanted to be a part of our group. Very cool Leah!

It was the final night of Sonshine when **Kelly Lowe** received a radio page from **Donald Doolittle** asking her to "come over here". She could see him about 500 feet away in the High School parking lot. Being a little suspicious she asked if he could tell her over the radio. He reluctantly proceeded to tell her that "there was a case of fornication (hanky-panky) going on in front of the high school doors". Laughing, she and **Alyson McCoy** drove up the sidewalk to the kids and asked to make sure they were wearing clothes and gave the "3 feet for Jesus" lecture. Alyson was pretty sure there was heavy petting going on as the girl never revealed much of her clothing that she was supposedly wearing and the boy had his hands on her stomach. As they were turning around and going back down the sidewalk, Kelly looked up and EVERY overnight person was lined up in and leaning out of their golf carts. After a good laugh, she looked back to check on the love birds, and seeing they had not loosened their grips on each other, decided on a last minute training effort for **Chad Lecy and Cory Thomas**. She asked them to go and tell the kids they were done for the night and to head back to their campsites. Mind you they are radioed up with the ear piece and have the entire overnight crew watching them take the 200 foot walk up the sidewalk to the school doors. The whole overnight SRT watches Chad and Cory talking to the kids and after a minute the kids stand up and collect their blankets and get ready to leave. As they are getting ready to leave the young man puts his right hand out for Chad to shake, and simultaneously as Chad is reaching his out to shake it, Sopher (knowing where that hand MAY have been) radios to Chad (in his ear piece) shouting, "hey man don't touch that!!" All you can see is Chad's whole body jerk away violently from this kid and the whole overnight crew bursts into laughter. Those poor kids had no idea why Chad was dancing around shaking his hand clean.

From **Andrea White** - "On Friday, **Leigh Lundy** had a hip-hop band (Frontline Movement) show up at the stage but they hadn't checked in with SS Office (read no wristbands, parking pass, etc), so she called for an available golf cart. Since I was on my way to deliver the Stage 3 radio, I picked up the band to take backstage so they could get checked in. They were very appreciative and after helping them check in and a few other things (getting car parked backstage instead of hayfield, etc) one of the guys said that with all the Festivals they've been to we had the most **helpful, friendly and courteous** security group **ever!!** We say it, but it was great to hear from someone else! I made a point of checking out their set and afterwards talked a few minutes with them. They were still so appreciative of all that we had helped them with so they didn't miss out on anything, especially since it was their first time at Sonshine!

From **Tracy Fuller** - My brush with fame story is this: When Switchfoot did the Concordia show and I was their driver, I drove the drummer around looking for a wiffle ball set. It was winter, so, of course, we couldn't find one. He seemed very disappointed by this because he had been searching for a while. Well, ever since then, every time I saw a wiffle ball set, I got this "urge" to buy it, but thought it would be a waste because I would never see them again, let alone be close enough to give it to them. Well, then I find out they are opening for Sonshine. I didn't want to overstep any boundaries, so I prayed that God would find a way for me to give it to them. I MySpaced them and their people said they would forward it to the band, but that it was so last minute they might not get it. So, I went to the signing table, hoping there would be an opportunity to give it to them. It was so cute...as soon as he saw the set (before even knowing it was for him), his eyes lit up and he pointed it out to the band mate next to him. I went and sat behind them. As he looked back I said, "This is for you," and he said, "Really? No way!" just like a kid. When they finished signing, I gave it to him. He remembered our search for the set and remembered that I had worked for Teen Challenge. He asked me to autograph the bat for him and said he would keep it in the tour bus. He was very grateful and I felt a release that I had accomplished what I was supposed to do. It's not like it was some expensive gift or that I was some groupie wanting something from them...it was a very simple gift to bring a smile to someone's face...that's all. I asked for nothing, and wanted nothing in return. The smile was more than enough.

From **Diana Larson** - On the 2nd day of Sonshine **Sarah Ellingson** and I were making our rounds in our area and we found a dad and his two sons chillin' around a grill. We got to talking to them and found out they were from Mexico and had driven up from here just for Sonshine. They found out about Sonshine through the INTERNET, and this was their very first time. The dad told how he had been a foreign exchange student here as a boy and always wanted to bring his sons up here to see "God's Country". On Saturday night as we were doing our last patrol we stopped back at their campsite and got a picture with them. They proceeded to pray for us and told us we had no choice but to come back to Sonshine next year. Their son is also part of a

band and hopes to play next year – God willing. We packed all of their stuff into the back of our golf cart and brought it to their car where they gave us Mexican candy and Mexican hugs!

Having missed a portion of several evenings due to injuries and having to sit on the sidelines while his Pit Crew handled the pits, a very emotional **Lizzy Alexandr** spoke to his crew after As I Lay Dying had finished. He looked at each of them and confessed how humbling it is to find out you're not needed as much as you thought...but in a good way. The Pit crew, made up of a few vets and lots of rookies, was able to take on some insane pits while Lizzy could only watch. They had proven themselves this Sonshine and he was honored to work with them.

Similarly, on Wednesday I had honestly told everyone, "I'm not in charge of anything at Sonshine". I've got such a great group of Supervisors working with me at Sonshine that I rarely have to step in for anything. I was impressed by their increased push for solid training from themselves to the vets and down to the rookies. It is an honor and privilege to work with such an amazing group of people every year! We are all blessed to have such a wonderful caring second family. As we close the book on Sonshine 2009, I want to thank you all for the hard work you put in and hope to see you back on the best volunteer crew ever at Sonshine 2010!

Serving together;

Jeff Quiggle

Director of Security

Sonshine Festival