

Teen Leadership Programs

Over the years, Camp Dreamcatcher has expanded its programming to meet the changing needs of HIV/AIDS infected/affected youth. In 1999, Camp Dreamcatcher offered its first Counselor in Training (CIT) program and in 2008, its first Leaders in Training (LIT) program. We offer a Teen Leadership Retreat and Teen Life Skills Retreat, which include therapeutic and educational sessions on team building, college preparation and leadership training. Graduates of the Teen Leadership Retreat may become members of our Teen Speaker's Bureau and share their personal stories and challenges with middle schools, high schools, universities and community groups. Our hope is that the teens will transform their HIV/AIDS challenges into becoming positive leaders in their communities.

"Instead of being a shadow in health class when we bring up a topic on HIV and AIDS, I make the shadow."

"It has helped shape me into the man I am today."

~ Teen Retreat participants



"Camp Dreamcatcher means more to me than most people realize. I have been coming since I was five, and every year I learn something new, meet new people, and open up about things I've kept bottled for years. I love all the people. I love all the support I get and others get as well. It's a safe place where anything can be said and there are no worries. 'Many a child, looked up and smiled, here in this circle of love'* means everything to me. It is nothing but truth. It is my circle of love. That is the describable part about My camp. The rest is indescribable."

~ former camper, CIT, and soon to be Junior Counselor

*from the song "The Web and the Feather" by John Flynn

The number of children and adolescents in need of our programs increases every year. A recent Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, HIV/AIDS Surveillance Report, states that "approximately 40,000 people in the U.S. become infected with HIV each year, and an estimated one-fourth of people living with HIV in the U.S. do not know that they have become infected with the virus."

How can I help? Donate

Camp Dreamcatcher is a 501 (c) 3 tax-exempt organization. Our programs are supported by donations from foundations, groups/businesses, individuals, United Way agencies and funds raised during special events. You can donate with Paypal on our website or send your donations to our camp office at:
617 West South Street, Kennett Square, PA 19348

In-kind Donation

We are always in need of supplies during the camp week. Items include: new backpacks, flashlights, batteries, pillows, pillow cases, single bed sheets, summer clothing (used and in good condition or new for ages 5-17), rain ponchos, cabin games, sleeping bags and toiletries.

Volunteer

You can make a child's dream come true by becoming a full or part-time counselor, a health center volunteer or a general volunteer during the camp session. Visit our website at: **www.campdreamcatcher.org** to find more information and to download a volunteer application.

Another easy way to raise money for Camp Dreamcatcher:

Start using GoodSearch.com as your search engine. It's easy, just visit GoodSearch.com and choose Dreamcatcher as the charity you support. GoodSearch.com will make a donation to us every time you search.

If you would like more information, please contact us:

campdreamcatcher@kennett.net
www.campdreamcatcher.org
phone: 610-925-2998 fax: 610-925-0403



Providing therapeutic
and educational services to
HIV/AIDS infected or affected youth



"I am glad I have some place I can call home."

~Camper

OUR STORY

In 1996, a committee of concerned men and women created Camp Dreamcatcher. What began as a one-week camp session has expanded to year-round programs for children coping with the harsh reality of HIV/AIDS. The children attending our programs may be coping with their own HIV/AIDS infection, the HIV/AIDS diagnosis of a family member, or the loss of a family member to AIDS.



A copy of the official registration and financial information for Camp Dreamcatcher may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling (800) 732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.

OUR MISSION

- To provide therapeutic and educational services for HIV/AIDS infected and/or affected youth
- To foster an atmosphere of tolerance, compassion, respect and understanding through volunteer opportunities, services and expanded community outreach



OUR PROGRAMS

- Therapeutic and educational camp session for hundreds of HIV/AIDS infected/affected youth. Campers, age 5-17, enjoy horseback riding, go-kart racing, swimming, arts/crafts, miniature golfing, concerts, boating, basketball, tennis, volleyball, a camp-wide carnival, cooking and our annual dance and talent show! The camp week includes separate programs for younger campers (5-11), older campers (12 & 13), teen campers (14 & 15), counselors in training, leaders in training (16) and junior counselors (17).
- Weekend Teen Leadership Retreat
- Weekend Teen Life Skills Retreat
- Reunion parties for campers, their families and volunteers
- Camper Support Groups
- HIV/AIDS Training, Education and Community Outreach
- Teen Speaker's Bureau
- Holiday Adopt-a-Family Program
- Family support and advocacy services

What makes Camp Dreamcatcher unique?

- All of the programs offered by Camp Dreamcatcher are free.
- Our programs include both therapeutic and educational components. Therapeutic modalities offered include music therapy, art therapy, movement therapy, group psychotherapy, yoga and massage. Age appropriate educational sessions are provided focusing on HIV/AIDS, grief, depression, addiction, body image, puberty, abuse, peer pressure, family/community violence, conflict resolution, relationships and the healthy expression of feelings.
- Over 300 counselors, medical personnel, professionals and community members volunteer during the camp session – providing over 13,500 hours of service!
- Camp Dreamcatcher is featured in the documentary film *Tiny Tears*, which includes the stories of HIV/AIDS infected/affected children from Thailand, Uganda, Brazil and Camp Dreamcatcher. For information on the film, please visit www.tinytearsdocumentary.com