

# 2021 Therapeutic and Educational Camp Session Report

The 26<sup>th</sup> Therapeutic and Educational Camp Session was held August 22<sup>nd</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup>, 2021. The program served 85 HIV/AIDS impacted youth between the ages of 5-17, and 15 young adults, between the ages of 18-25. 93% of the campers were African American, 3% Latino/Latina, 2% Caucasian and 2% Native American. 98% of the campers came from low-income households and only 13% have access to therapeutic and educational programs in their own communities. The campers came from PA, DE, NJ, NY, VA and MD. 120 counselors, medical personnel, professionals and community members volunteered for the session.

The following Program Goals were achieved during the camp session:

- Our biggest achievement in 2021 was our ability to provide a **COVID-19 FREE IN-PERSON CAMP SESSION**. We strictly followed all of the CDC and American Camping Association guidelines for residential camp sessions. All of our volunteers were vaccinated and the campers received COVID-19 tests prior to camp. The children taking buses from Johns Hopkins and St. Christopher's Hospital for Children had PCR tests 96 hours prior to meeting at the bus departure sites, and then received rapid COVID-19 tests

before getting on the buses. The children who were being dropped off by parents/guardians stayed in their cars upon arrival and received rapid and PCR COVID-19 tests. Children were only permitted to move into the main camp area after their negative COVID-19 test was confirmed by our medical volunteers. Campers stayed within their own "pods" or cabin family for the week, and wore masks if they were within 6 feet of distance to another cabin. Meals and programs were held outside, and masks were worn inside program areas.

- We provided **85 therapeutic programs** (psychotherapy, mindfulness, wilderness-based therapy, yoga, massage and sessions with therapeutic dogs) during the camp sessions.
- We provided **55 educational programs**. These included dance classes with Emanuel "Manny" Chacon (dancer/choreographer from Wilmington, DE), karate and self-defense, step dancing classes, cooking, drumming, guest speakers, teambuilding and leadership programming. The 15-17-year-olds participated in a **Career Readiness** track during the camp session. We partnered with two new organizations for this pro-

gram: **Junior Achievement and Wings for Success**.

Topics discussed during these sessions included the following:

- The Job Search / Interview Process
  - Identifying Interests, Skills and Value to align with Career Paths
  - Wearing the Right Outfit & Attitude / The Impact of Social Media
  - How to Build a Strong Resume / The Importance of Networking
  - Managing Your Money and Financial Literacy
  - Getting Out of Debt / How to Build Your Credit
- **We had FUN!!!** We provided **150 recreational programs** during the camp session. These included arts & crafts, pottery, laser tag, go-kart racing, horseback riding, water slides & sprinklers, GIANT GAMES, fishing, canoeing, paddle boats, story-time, an Escape Room, a GAGA tournament, field games, archery, an adventure course, basketball, movie nights, and our annual talent show and John Flynn concert!

**All of the campers received NEW SNEAKERS for the camp session.** Tom and Lynn Engle from Max's Kicks for Kids <https://www.maxskicksforkids.org/> donated the sneakers to the campers at the beginning of the session.

# 2021 Camp Session Volunteers

## Village Chiefs

Derek Andress  
Jenn Brown  
Taj Brown  
Letitia Cheatham  
Callie Fraser  
Kevin Nolan

## Leaders in Training Counselors

Miguel Correa  
Valen Nori  
Harold Miller  
Gennifer Robinson

## Counselors

Rae Rae Adams  
Aubrey Alvarenga  
Alexa Austin  
Corey Beans  
Liz Bishop  
Jarrae Bond  
Tyshanna Campbell  
Jarrett Cuavers  
Asia Davis  
Takerra Flowers  
Claire Gower  
Patrick Gower  
Kenny Griggs  
Jilazia Guy  
Brittany Hammond  
Nick Harris  
Brionna Hearn  
Ca'Ron Jones  
Rachel Kearney  
Sam Llabres  
Nafessa Loper-Jones  
Michelle Lozowski  
Sherrell Pressley  
Carline Maeding  
Ashley Miller  
Mike Miller  
Zoe Morrow  
Al Torres  
Miracle Williams  
Christina Wilson  
Tia Wise  
Karen Wislocky

## Arts & Crafts

Jill Beech  
Susan Myers  
Suhan Neema  
Debra Swayne  
Lucia Sanchez  
Harris Vuadans

## Health Center Volunteers Patty Hewson, CRNP - Director

Tricia Allen  
Alan Barnett  
J. Lynne Dixon  
Sarah Herd Dozier  
Charlie Gower, RN  
Melissa Hewson, MD  
Ted Hewson  
Helenmarie Kolicus, RN  
Mary Ann Knott-Grasso, CRNP

Joan Lajoie, CRNP  
Nellie Lazar, CRNP  
Kathleen Mahoney, CRNP  
Reina Puri, Pharmacy Intern  
Erin Quinn Schneider, MSN  
Johanna Troy, CRNP  
Allison Walker, RN  
Karen Walker, RN  
Jack Welsh, RN  
Emily Wilf, RN

## Yoga Instructors

Jenn Brown  
Kristin Rogers/Black to Yoga

## Massage Therapist

Michelle Smith

## Special Events & Program Volunteers Career Readiness & Financial Literacy Program

Junior Achievement  
Ellen Oiler  
Wings for Success  
"Celebrate" & "Keepin' it Real"  
Derek Andress  
Cameron Armstrong  
Taj Brown  
Stephanie Rand  
Al Torres  
Jack Welsh

## Dance

Emmanual "Manny" Chacon  
Jarrett Cuavers

## Fishing Program

David Bland & Friends  
Doug Bland  
Richard Brown  
Harris Vuadens

## Guest Speaker

Lakeisha Brown

## Horseback Riding Program

Dixie Abbott  
Virginia Brown  
Glen Carson  
Barbara Forney  
Angela Greenberg  
Lisa Knox  
Cassandra Mahoney  
Barbara Stewart

## Karate Program

Sam Llabres  
"Big Al" Torres

## Transportation

Ray McKay  
Jack Schwartz

## Wilderness Therapy Program

Derek Andress  
Cameron Armstrong  
Patty Hillkirk  
Taj Brown  
Jack Welsh

## Senior Art Project

Dan Fineberg

## Therapeutic Staff and Professional Volunteers

Cameron Armstrong, LCSW

Callie Fraser, MSS, LSW  
Patty Hillkirk, Gestalt Psychotherapist  
Karen Wislocky  
Paws for People - Therapeutic Dogs

## Counselor Training Facilitators

Taj Brown  
Jenn Brown  
Letitia Cheatham  
Callie Fraser  
Jay Garvey  
Patty Hillkirk  
Smore Melanin

## General Volunteers

Houston Baker  
Doug & Stuart Bland  
Rick Braun  
Longwood Rotary Club  
David Madans  
Susan Myers  
Swarnalatha & Suyog Neema  
Ray McKay  
Kimberly Orr  
Ellen Oiler  
Jose Rios  
Cal Russell  
Tommy Scattolino  
Jack Schwartz  
Patrice Scott  
Kimberly Stout  
Debra Swayne  
Jacie & Brian Wagner

## Student Community Volunteers

Davis Bland  
Suhan Neema  
Lucia Sanchez

## Camp Dreamcatcher Staff

Executive Director  
Patty Hillkirk  
Program Director  
Callie Fraser  
Health Center Director  
Patty Hewson, CRNP  
Camp Assistants  
Miguel Correa  
KJ Lookingbill  
Bookkeeper  
Myra Miller  
Intern  
Jenna Cox

## Medical Director

Melissa Hewson, MD

