Fall/Winter 2021



CAMP DREAMCATCHER NEWS

YEAR-ROUND PROGRAMS FOR CHILDREN WHOSE LIVES HAVE BEEN TOUCHED BY HIV/AIDS

Dear Friend:

The biggest news this year is that we transitioned back to **IN PERSON CAMP!** The shift to in-person programming has been vital for the children and families served by our programs. The physical and emotional safety of the children and volunteers at camp is the number one priority at Camp Dreamcatcher, and thanks to Patty Hewson and our fabulous Health Center Team, we had a COVID FREE CAMP! During the week of August 22-28, a total of 85 campers and 120 volunteers enjoyed an action-packed week of camp. It was great to have our camp family together again. A full camp report and volunteer list is included in this newsletter.

Other News & Program Updates:

New Financial Literacy Program: We are partnering with PayPal to provide virtual financial literacy programming to the 15-17-year-old campers. This is a follow up on a program that was launched at camp this summer. The teens will learn about investing, credit & credit cards, budgeting, resume writing, job interview skills, applying for college scholar-ships/financial aid/student loans, social media etiquette and much more!

Emerging Leaders Program: The Emerging Leaders Program began in March and charts a new pathway for counselors, who were previously campers, to become part of the Camp Dreamcatcher leadership team. They were actively involved in our DEI assessment process by participating in a focus group with S'more Melanin, and assisted with program planning sessions prior to the camp week in August.

Adopt-a-Family Program: Want to make dreams come true for the children served by Camp Dreamcatcher during the holidays? Register as a donor in our Adopt-a-Family Holiday Gift Program. You will then choose a child or children to purchase gifts for during the holiday season. The gifts will be sent directly to the families or distributed through our Camp Dreamcatcher staff and volunteers. Visit our website at https://campdreamcatcher.org/programs/adopt-a-family/ or call us at 610-925-2998.

Emergency Fund for Families Program: Food insecurity was identified as an urgent need for our families. This program sends grocery gift cards to the families served by Camp Dreamcatcher.

Counselor Retreat: Our volunteers are the BEST!!! We are honoring this wonderful group of volunteers by holding an overnight Counselor Retreat on April 2-3, 2022 at Camp NorthBay.

TEDx Talk: I was honored to present my TEDx Talk "Catching Dreams for Kids – a Journey of Hope" on March 13th at Unionville High School. You can watch my talk by visiting the *www.ted.com* site and entering my name.

Fundraising News:

Camp Dreamcatcher's Virtual 5K & 1 Mile Run/Walk was held from May 23rd to June 6th, had close to 90 participants, and raised over \$10,000 to support the session in August.

Camp Supply Drive: Over \$40,000 in camp supplies were donated for the session this year. These included books, toys, water games, giant board games, socks, clothing, medical supplies, art/craft supplies, snacks, blankets, shoes, masks, toiletries, walkie talkies, hand sanitizers, t-shirts and stuffed animals. These donations were especially important this year, as we needed to keep the campers busy within their smaller villages and

cabin pods throughout the week of camp.

Catching Dreams for Kids 25th Anniversary Virtual Event: The highlight of the evening will be a keynote address by Lakeisha Brown – the 2019 DC Teacher of the Year, and the 2020 Miss DC for America. Lakeisha was one of our first campers in 1996 and she will share her personal story of resiliency and hope at the event. The event will also include over 50 auction items and a chance to raise funds for our programs and celebrate 25 YEARS OF LOVE!

In my TEDx Talk, I asked the question "how do you make a dream into a reality?" Twenty-five years ago I had the dream of creating a therapeutic community for children coping with HIV/AIDS, and thanks to the support of donors and volunteers, that dream became a reality. I hope you will consider making a donation to celebrate our 25th Anniversary and to help us sustain Camp Dreamcatcher's Circle of Love.

Warmly,

Patty Hillkirk

Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Projects: In 2020, the Board of Directors and Staff made a commitment to expand the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion of our programming by identifying specific DEI goals for 2021. Our DEI goals included an equity & culture audit of the organization, which was conducted by S'more Melanin, a company founded by two women of color who grew up at camps, with the mission of assisting organizations to provide a safe and inclusive camp culture that honors diversity, and welcomes and embraces BIPOC (Black Indigenous People of Color) in the camp world.

2021 DEI ACHIEVEMENTS:

- We conducted a DEI assessment with Camp Dreamcatcher staff, board members, volunteers and members of our Emerging Leaders Program.
- We engaged all staff, volunteers and board members in conversations about diversity, equity and inclusion.
- We reviewed and updated our policies, processes, systems, and trainings to promote values of inclusivity and mutual respect and to encourage acceptance and the celebration of differences.
- We increased the number of BIPOC volunteer at camp from 56% in 2020 to 70% in 2021.
- We increased the diversity of materials at camp to include 70 new books for children written and illustrated by BIPOC.
- We provided education on indigenous cultures during the camp session.
- We increased the pathways for leadership at camp by launching the new Emerging Leaders Program.
- We updated the HIV/AIDS & Diversity Counselor Training to include components on racism, systemic racism, racial, white privilege, the hidden curriculum at camp, Trauma-Informed Programming and LGBTQ Inclusivity and Belonging at Camp.
- We created a safe space for open and honest discussions to encourage radical empathy and to practice restorative justice practices at camp.

Our Camp Dreamcatcher® 2020-2021 Donors

Catching Dreams

PayPal Community Impact Grant
The Julian A. and Lois G. Brodsky Foundation

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The contributions listed were made between October 1, 2020-October 1, 2021. We sincerely apologize if your name does not appear correctly or is missing.

Please contact us at (610) 925-2998 so we may recognize you in our next newsletter.

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Melissa Hewson, MD

Special thanks to outgoing board members Nathan Schenker, Ray McKay and Harris Vuadens for their years of service to Camp Dreamcatcher, and welcome to our new board member Mark Stewart.



Tom and Lynn Engle founded Max's Kicks for Kids in memory of their son Max Engle, and with a mission of providing new, back-to-school sneakers to children. This summer at camp, they donated NEW sneakers to every camper. Above is a photo of Tom purchasing sneakers for our kids.



COVID-19 Testing at Camp

Wilderness Program Hike





Camp Dreamcatcher Virtual 5K & 1 Mile Run/ Walk



Campers Greeting John Flynn COVID Style at Camp

Upcoming Events

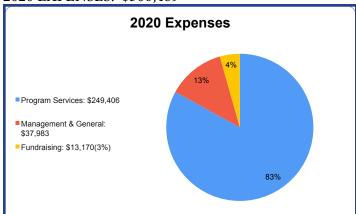
- November 6th: Catching Dreams for Kids 25th Anniversary Event
- November/December: Adopt-a-Family Program
- November-December: Virtual Financial Literacy Programs for Teens and Leaders in Training
- April 2-3, 2022: Counselor Retreat
- August 21-27, 2022: Therapeutic and Educational Camp Session

The Camp Dreamcatcher® Mission

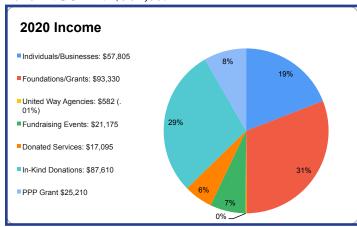
- To provide safe, the rapeutic and educational services to HIV/ AIDS impacted youth and their families
- To foster an atmosphere of tolerance, compassion, respect and understanding through volunteer opportunities, services and expanded community outreach.

2020 Financial Information

2020 EXPENSES: \$300,469



2020 INCOME: \$302,807



The Harvard University Center on the Developing Child and other research has indicated that "The single most common factor for children who develop resilience is at least one stable and committed relationship with a supportive parent, caregiver, or other adult." 70% of the counselors and campers have been attending our programs for over ten years.





Volunteer Quotes from the DEI Equity Survey

"Camp Dreamcatcher is a second home for the campers, and for most, it is the only place they feel safe and free from the secret of HIV/AIDS."

"Camp is very strong and inclusive. I've never felt more welcomed anywhere else in the world, and I try to create that sense of belonging for the campers."

"Diversity is all over the place. I love it."

"Camp Dreamcatcher establishes an environment of trust and caring from day one of the camp week."



Camp Dreamcatcher®

A NOT-FOR-PROFIT ORGANIZATION 148 West State Street Suite 104 Kennett Square, PA 19348 www.campdreamcatcher.org Return Services Requested First Class Presort

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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.



Camp Dreamcatcher

148 W. State Street Suite 104 Kennett Square, PA 19348

Check out our website at:

www.campdreamcatcher.org

Questions or comments? You can email us at:

campdreamcatcher@kennett.net

610-925-2998

Wish List

- Transportation service for camp week, flashlights and batteries, backpacks. toiletries. first-aid supplies, towels, and washcloths, sheets, and pillows.
- Summer clothing for children ages 5-15, especially sneakers, flip-flops, socks, underwear, bathing suits, shorts and pajamas.
- Children's crafts, games, puzzles, chalk.