

CAMP DREAMCATCHER NEWS



“The Counselors and Staff believe in you and know you can do it.” - Camper



2023 THERAPEUTIC & EDUCATIONAL CAMP SESSION REPORT

The Therapeutic and Educational Camp Session was held August 20th - August 26th, 2023. The Program served 105 HIV/AIDS impacted youth between the ages of 5-17 (an increase of 18 additional campers from 2022). Twenty-five of the children attending the session were New Campers this year, and 18 of those were between the ages of 5-8. 74% of the campers were from Philadelphia and the surrounding region. 217 counselors, medical personnel, professionals, and community members volunteered during the camp week.

CAMP WEEK GOALS ACHIEVED:

Goal 1: To improve the physical and emotional health of the children. We provided **120 therapeutic programs** (psychotherapy, mindfulness, wilderness-based therapy, yoga, massage and sessions with therapeutic dogs) during the camp session.

Goal 2: To offer educational sessions that explore issues, problems and concerns common amongst HIV/AIDS infected and/or affected youth. We provided **50 educational programs** and these included sessions on substance use, puberty education, karate, dance, drumming, team building & leadership programming. The 15-17-year-olds participated in Career & College Readiness Programs facilitated by PayPal. New programs this year included a Robotics Program, woodworking, and Native American art/crafts, games, education and dance sessions facilitated by Barbara “Bluejay” Michalski – a Storyteller and Public Speaker of Lenape Culture at Lenape Nation of Pennsylvania.

Goal 3: To give the campers the chance to feel free from the secret of HIV/AIDS and have fun - just like any other kids! We provided **150 recreational programs**. These include arts/crafts, laser tag, go-kart racing, horseback riding, lawn games, nature hikes, story-time, fishing, pickleball, canoeing, GAGA tournaments, a Camp Carnival, archery, an adventure course, basketball, movie nights, and our annual dance, talent show and John Flynn concert!

Goal 4: Restorative Practice Program: Ten members of our Camp Dreamcatcher Leadership Team completed training with to become Restorative Practices Trainers prior to the camp session. They facilitated trainings with the volunteers to ensure that we were all using these practices during the camp session to promote connectedness in the cabin, address conflicts, repair harm, and restore justice within the community. Over 200 Cabin Circles and 200 Restorative Circles were held during the camp session.

Upcoming Events:

November-December: Adopt-a-Family Program
November 28th: Giving Tuesday 2023
December 9th: John Flynn Holiday Concert
Teen Leadership Retreat: April 27-28, 2024
Therapeutic Camp Session: August 18-24, 2024

2023 CAMPER EVALUATION RESULTS:

- Did you have fun at camp? Yes 100%
- Do you feel safe at camp? Yes 98%
- Did you feel supported by the staff and volunteers at camp? Yes 98%
- Did you feel there was someone to talk to at camp? Yes 98%
- Is it important to have a place like Camp Dreamcatcher? Yes 97%
- Did you feel accepted at camp? Yes 96%
- Did you make new friends at camp? Yes 95%
- Did you feel comfortable expressing your feelings at camp? Yes 92%
- Did the restorative circles help you resolve conflict and/or repair harm at camp? Yes 92%



148 West State Street
Suite 104, Kennett Square, PA
19348
www.campdreamcatcher.org
Phone: 610-925-2998
Fax: 610-925-0403