

CAMP DREAMCATCHER NEWS 2024



“You can talk about anything, there is so much love, and you are always accepted.” - Camper

2024 THERAPEUTIC & EDUCATIONAL CAMP SESSION REPORT

The Therapeutic and Educational Camp Session was held August 18th - 24th, 2024. The Program served 110 HIV/AIDS impacted youth between the ages of 5-17 and 24 campers moved into the role of counselors this year. 85% of the campers were from Philadelphia and the surrounding region. 200 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 **145 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 **65 educational programs** and these included sessions on substance use, puberty education, karate, woodworking, robotics, dance, drumming, team building & leadership programming. The 15-17-year-olds participated in Career & College Readiness Programs facilitated by PayPal. Barbara “Bluejay” Michalski, Chief and Keeper of Culture and Storytelling of the Lenape Lenape Nation of Pennsylvania, facilitated educational sessions with campers throughout the week.

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, soccer, volleyball, 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: Over 200 community building Cabin Circles and 200 Restorative Circles were held during the camp session. These practices were used to promote connectedness in the cabin, address conflicts, repair harm, and restore justice within the community.

"As a camper to counselor (CTC) camp provided me a safe haven in life to freely express my health, both mentally and physically. The stigma on HIV has decreased, however nobody understands more than people who relate and thanks to the family I've chosen I know there's always a place to feel seen and heard!"

Upcoming Events:

November-December: Adopt-a-Family Program

Monthly: Mentoring Program

December 6th: John Flynn Holiday Concert

Teen Leadership Retreat: April 26-27, 2025

Therapeutic Camp Session: August 17-23, 2025

2024 CAMPER EVALUATION RESULTS:

- 92% of the campers reported that participating in a restorative circle helped them resolve conflicts.
- 95% of campers felt that they had someone to talk to at camp
- 96% of the campers felt safe or very safe at camp
- 97% of the campers made new friends at camp
- 98% of the campers felt they could ask for help at camp
- 98% of the campers felt supported by staff and volunteers at camp
- 99% of the campers felt accepted at camp
- 99% of the campers would recommend camp to a friend
- 100% of the campers feel Camp Dreamcatcher is important



148 West State Street
Suite 104, Kennett Square, PA
19348

www.campdreamcatcher.org

Phone: 610-925-2998

Fax: 610-925-0403

CAMP DREAMCATCHER 2024 CAMP WEEK VOLUNTEERS

<p><u>Village Chiefs</u> Aubrey Alvarenga-Arteaga Liz Berger Taj Brown Tish Cheatham Callie Fraser Kevin Nolan Al Torres Karen Wislocky <u>Leaders in Training Village Chiefs</u> Leila Hanzel Jack Welsh <u>Counselors</u> John Adams Paris Agnew Ebony Christmas Ambrose Corey Beans Andrew Berger Jarrae Bond Sean Brown Aaron Burgess Craig Burgess Aaliyah Comrie Jeremiah Dean Ray Delatorre Trish Devine Abby Fichter Mary Fichter Eric Frans Patrick Gower Kenny Griggs Rakeem Harris-Gunter Que Harris-Moore Brittany Hammond Sanari Herbert Khatira Herbert Darius Howard Karen Johns Ca’Ron Jones Molly Kerstetter Nam Kiatiyinyu Sam Llabres Nafessa Loper-Jones Laura McAliley Ashley Miller Augusta Miskovicz Tiyanna Moore Mayra Nolan Owen Pease Annalisa Pena Yasir Pinnacle Abby Reese Zoe Rind Matthew Rivera Neymarie Sanchez Rodriguez Amber Rudolf Ceyanni Smith Page Swinerton</p>	<p>Tyson Taylor Maria Torres Yehili Torres Danielle Wallace-Johnson Bonnie Waxman Jamie Waxman Miracle Williams Bohan Wyatt Semaj Young <u>Health Center Director: Patty Hewson, CRNP</u> <u>Medical Director: Melissa Hewson, MD</u> <u>Health Center Volunteers</u> Tamara Brunson, RN Stephanie Coyle, RN Charlie Gower, RN Ted Hewson Asia Kemp, CRNP Tammy Kline, RN Mary Ann Knott-Grasso, CRNP Helenmarie Kolicius, RN Dan Lazar Ethan Lazar Nellie Lazar, CRNP Joan Lajoie, CRNP Kathleen Mahoney, CRNP Emily Wilf, RN <u>Arts & Crafts</u> Shaniya Boyd Dorothy DeShazo Barbara “Bluejay” Michalski Marta Sanchez <u>Blanket Superhero</u> Matt Fetick <u>Camp Carnival</u> PayPal, Inc. <u>Coffee Superhero</u> Oxford Starbucks Coffee <u>Counselor Transportation</u> Ray McKay <u>Dance Program</u> Manny Chacon DJ: Tsitsi Moyo <u>Fishing Program</u> Davis Bland Doug Bland Harrison Darman PayPal, Inc. <u>John Flynn Concert</u> John Flynn <u>Ice Cream Treats</u> La Michoacana Homemade Ice Cream <u>“Joel of all Trades”</u> Joel Levitt <u>Karate Program</u> Sam Llabres “Big Al” Torres</p>	<p><u>Leaders in Training/Mentoring Program</u> Coach Latifah Raheem & Lincoln University’s Volleyball Team Financial Literacy: Taj Brown & PayPal, Inc. Guest Speakers: Valerie Brown Danny’s House - Tiffany David Tysheira Maddox Minding Your Mind - Jordan Burnham <u>Lenape Nation of PA Programs</u> Barbara “Bluejay” Michalski <u>Massage Therapists</u> Stephanie Coxe Erin Everdale Daniel Floyd Shane O’Donnell Michelle Smith Simon Stellwagon Jack Williams <u>Max’s Kicks for Kids New Sneaker Program</u> Lynn & Tom Engle <u>Mentoring Program Facilitator</u> AubreyAlvarenga-Arteaga, MPH <u>Senior Art Project & LIT Drumming</u> Dan Fineberg <u>Soccer Program</u> Marcia Preston & the Avon Grove Girls Soccer Team <u>Therapeutic Team</u> Cameron Armstrong, LCSW Nancy Boxer, RN, CHt Callie Fraser, LCSW Patty Hillkirk, Gestalt Psychotherapist Dori Middleman, MD Cierra Walker, Addiction Recovery Coach Karen Wislocky, MS <u>Therapeutic Dogs</u> Paws for People Chelsea Minsky & Obi <u>Westtown Robotics Program</u> Lucia Sanchez Liam Sellers-Johnson Bailey Tuckman Maitreyi Vadigepalli <u>Yoga Instructors</u> Dr. Brian Baar Lisa Deshazo Marla Friedman Erin Rodgers Bonnie Waxman</p>	<p><u>General Volunteers</u> Houston Baker Naomi Blanco Davis Bland Doug Bland Stuart Bland Mike Bond Harrison Darman Debbie Dart Elliot Fraser Harper Fraser Lisa Fraser Amy Leiberman Lakeisha Lemmons Toni Lemmons Kennett Square Light Rotary Longwood Rotary Club Chris Stevens Ceci Weigand Matt Wrabley <u>Camp Dreamcatcher Staff</u> Executive Director Patty Hillkirk Program Director Callie Fraser, LCSW Health Center Director Patty Hewson, CRNP Camp Assistants Imani Johnson Genesis Juarez Bookkeeper Myra Miller <u>2024 Camp Dreamcatcher Board of Directors</u> Co-Presidents: Raynetta Adams & Letitia Cheatham Treasurer: Liz Berger, CPA Secretary: KC Wolfe <i>Members</i> Kelly Daniels Mark Stewart, MSPH Jack Welsh, RN <i>Youth Advisory Member</i> Quadir Bowman <u>Advisory Board</u> Susan Belfiore Seth Birch Tiffer Burns Jeff Darman Robert Fineberg, Esq. Robert DeMento, Jr. John Flynn <u>Marketing/PR</u> Veronica Chavez <u>Superheroes Program Philadelphia Avengers</u></p>
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