



2021-2022 ANNUAL REPORT



MISSION

The Mission of Dream Camp Summer Program and After School Academy is to transform the lives of youth from historically under-resourced communities through innovative year-long programs that nurture the individual, educate the mind, and inspire the spirit.

VISION

We strive to break the cycle of generational poverty in historically under-resourced communities by teaching children to create successful pathways for themselves. Dream Camp empowers them to become future leaders and contribute to the city.



DIRECTOR'S NOTE



DEAR FRIENDS,

This past year proved to be an impactful year, being our first full year with all in-person programs since the pandemic.

We have remained committed to providing our students unwavering guidance and support in the midst of uncertainty. It is remarkable seeing how our students continue to persevere year after year.

Celebrating our 25th year was a must! The one-of-a-kind partnership that exists between Trinity College and ESF Dream Camp was evident as the College and Camp community came together to reflect on years past and look toward the future.

Our core mission and vision remain the same and we continuously work toward transforming

students' lives while cultivating an environment that offers them support, encouragement, and kindness.

As we close the year, we want to celebrate every highlight and accomplishment our students and staff made possible. On behalf of Paul Raether and the entire Dream Camp family, we thank every staff member, partner, and donor for believing in our mission and supporting us in making it a reality. We are extremely proud of our students and how far their determination has brought them.

With gratitude and appreciation,



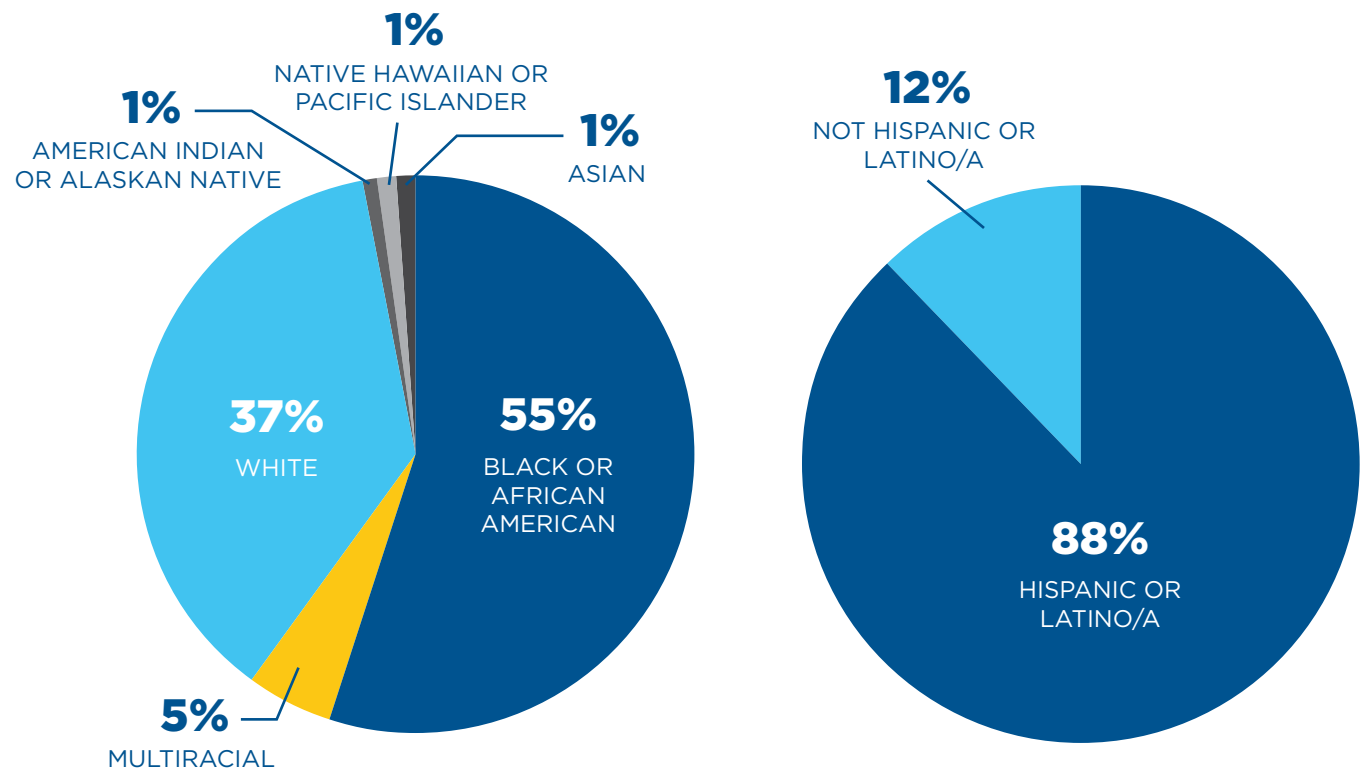
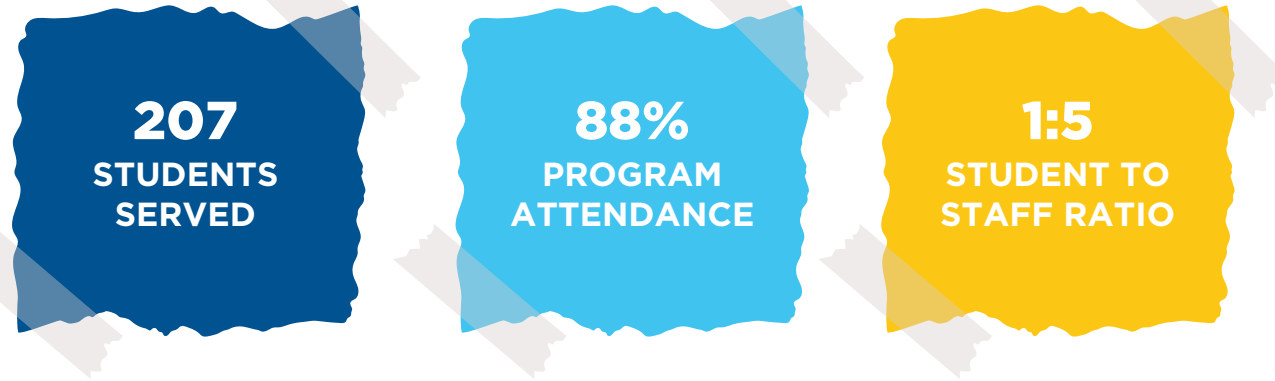
MICHAEL J. ROUSE
Executive Director

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DREAM CAMP BY THE NUMBERS

100% OF FAMILIES STATED THEY PLAN TO HAVE THEIR STUDENT RETURN NEXT YEAR



WHAT FAMILIES APPRECIATE MOST ABOUT DREAM CAMP



“I appreciate that they work on reading and writing activities. My kids love kickball and swimming lessons – they enjoyed every bit of camp. This was their first-time experience and they came home happy every day.”
-HINEOA, CAMP PARENT



“Having the Family Fling BBQ made it feel like a family event for sure ...thank you.”
-TAINA, CAMP PARENT



“Dream Camp does a great job creating unique activities to target everyone’s interest, while allowing campers to actively contribute.”
-GENEVA, CAMP PARENT

SEASONS OF DREAM CAMP

WINTER 2021-22

The extended Dream Camp family rang in the holiday season with donations and volunteer services during our Miracle on West initiative! Two families received a FULL Thanksgiving meal!

Long-time generous donors enabled Dream Camp to provide a holiday surprise for two families. Each household received a pile of personalized gifts for every family member. The smiles often turned into tears of relief and joy as boxes and boxes of gifts were unloaded.



SPRING 2022

After long awaited clearance, our After School Academy was able to start back in person at Expeditionary Learning Academy at Moylan School. Activities included frisbee math, egg carton counting, sight word bingo, and more. The mentors engaged the students in various creative ways to make learning fun. They conducted read-aloud sessions with group discussions. They went outdoors for nature scavenger hunts to work on counting, colors and sorting. Most importantly, the mentors focused on providing a physically and emotionally safe space for students during the critical after school hours.

SUMMER 2022

There were barely enough hours in the day to fit in all the top-notch programming during these 5 weeks of camp! Dream Camp sought out 61 mission-driven leaders to mentor our 164 students in grades 1-12 on the beautiful campus of Trinity College.



Swimming
Reading
Project Discovery
STEM



Art
Sports
Music
Quest



Summer Survivor
Disc Golf
Healthy Living



25TH ANNIVERSARY

Dream Camp marked 25 years in classic summer style on Wednesday, July 20, 2022 beginning with an anniversary edition of the Family Fling!

Dream Camp Co-founder Michael Rouse reflected, “ESF Dream Camp Trinity has been a 25-year partnership between our team, the students, and their families that I’m most proud of. Through that partnership that is rooted in Paul Raether’s vision, along with our relationship with Trinity College, we have been able to provide students with the platform to turn their dreams into reality.”

The unique and strong relationship that exists between Trinity College was put on full display with a visit by Connecticut Governor Ned Lamont and his chief of staff, Paul Mounds Jr. '07. Mounds worked as a Dream Camp team member while a student at Trinity College and believes the program is having a transformative effect on the lives of so many students –



campers and staff alike. The duo announced that the State of Connecticut was awarding Trinity College Dream Camp a \$1 million grant to secure the future of the program for generations to come.

“We started Dream Camp because of our strong belief of the relationship between education and opportunity,” said Raether. “If you give children access to an outstanding education, it opens up new vistas for them. It is our sincere hope that the Dream Campers continue to take advantage of the opportunities that Dream Camp at Trinity College offers them.”

KATHY ANDREWS
Contributor, Trinity College

From left to right, former camper and current team member Howell McFarlane enjoys the celebration with Paul Mounds, '07 and Dream Camp Team Member 2004-2007, Michael Rouse, co-founder and Executive Director of ESF Camps and Experiences, and Paul Raether, '68, Dream Camp co-founder and long-time supporter.



Campers presented a Dream Camp “promise contract” to Governor Lamont. The children unfurled the banner-sized contract that they had created and decorated, which attested to the campers’ promise to respect each other and their community and to give back to their community.



ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

HOWELL MCFARLANE has been a member of the Dream Camp family since the first day of camp in 1997. He was a camper from 1997-2006. He then transitioned directly into working as a counselor from 2006-16. During his time at Dream Camp, Howell, Paul Raether ('68), camp founder Michael Rouse, and Site Director Dan Swartz developed a unique and special bond.

Howell has committed himself to giving back to the youth of his community year-round. During

the school year, he supports families and students in the Manchester Public School system, most specifically with attendance issues. In summer 2022, Dream Camp was thrilled to welcome Howell back as a Sports Specialist. He earned the Master Teacher award for his tireless efforts to give back to the camp that has given him so much. Howell will continue working at Dream Camp in a leadership role in summer 2023.



FAMILY SPOTLIGHT

MEET THE BELTRAN FAMILY

Since 2011, Dream Camp has been a part of the Beltran Family's life. Ricky started to attend Dream Camp when he was 7 years old. Upon high school graduation when he could no longer be a camper, he remained a part of Dream Camp as a counselor. By then, Ricky's brother Julius was a camper. And in the summer of 2023, their younger sister will begin her Dream Camp journey as a 1st grader!

"I personally loved interacting with people at camp and being competitive in the sport activities. I would say being at camp helps us be more active and go out and meet new people. It forces us out of our comfort zone and helps us grow as individuals."

-RICKY

"Dream Camp provides an opportunity to build healthy activities and choices. Also, camp provides structure and expectations, and a learning environment with appropriate boundaries. Without camp my kids would lose some knowledge during the summer months. Dream Camp helps my kids build basic life skills, develop a positive view of themselves and develop an exciting environment for learning. I am grateful for the opportunity Dream Camp has provided to my children."

-JULIANMARIE SANTIAGO, MOM



DREAM CAMP STAFF

MICHAEL J. ROUSE
Co-Founder and Executive Director

KATH CLORAN
Managing Director

DAN SWARTZ
Site Director

ADAH GILLON
Assistant Site Director

This group of leaders for ESF Dream Camp Summer Program at Trinity College has over 100 years of experience with our program. Together, they ensure our students are safe, mentored, and inspired year after year!



Dream Camp welcomed a total of 68 staff members this year at Summer Camp and After School Academy. This elite and spirited group of mentors and educators included 26 college graduates (15 of whom are certified teachers). Of our amazing staff, 13 of them were Dream Camp alumni!



Receiving their awards for years of service from Co-Founder Michael Rouse (far right) are:
L-R Site Director, Dan Swartz (20 years), Bill DeWitt, SportsLab Co-Director (20 years), and Rob Dietelbaum, SportsLab Co-Director (20 years)

DONORS AND PARTNERS

SEPTEMBER 1, 2021-AUGUST 31, 2022



Trinity College
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TRAVIS MANION
FOUNDATION



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Farmington Bank Community Foundation

George A. and Grace L. Long Foundation
William and Alice Mortensen Foundation
Barnes Foundation
Charles Nelson Robinson Fund
Ensworth Charitable Foundation
Enterprise Holdings Foundation



A very special thank you to Mr. Paul Raether ('68) and his family for their continued support of Dream Camp.

OUTLOOK

The year ahead is full of promise as we will be at Trinity College for all of our Dream Camp programs!

The pandemic created a lot of uncertainty and challenges, but we feel that we are ready to bring back the level of support we had pre-COVID, and then some! The 25th anniversary celebration for Dream Camp Trinity was made extra special with the news that Connecticut Governor Ned Lamont awarded Dream Camp with a \$1M grant to provide program stability for years to come. As we plan to utilize this amazing award, we are thoughtfully and intentionally targeting how to increase our impact in the Hartford community. Plans to expand the number of families and children we serve are underway as we deepen our partnership with Hartford Public Schools, Trinity College, and other resources across Connecticut. While the last few years have created challenges for everyone, we see the coming year as an opportunity to not only make up for lost time but also to strengthen the experience and impact of everyone involved in Dream Camp - from students to families to staff.



TRINITY COMMONS

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**ESF EXECUTIVE
OFFICE HEADQUARTERS**

750 East Haverford Road
Bryn Mawr, PA 19010

VIEW OUR BRAND NEW WEBSITE!



WWW.ESFDREAMCAMP.ORG

**FOLLOW US
ON SOCIAL MEDIA**



**“Two roads diverged in a wood, and I – I took the one
less traveled by, and that has made all the difference.”**

-ROBERT FROST