



# 2020-21 ANNUAL REPORT







## MISSION

The Mission of Dream Camp Summer Program and After School Academy is to transform the lives of underserved youth 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 underserved communities by teaching children to create successful pathways for themselves. Dream Camp empowers them to become future leaders who contribute to the city.

1	.....WELCOME
2-3	..... AFTER SCHOOL ACADEMY
4-5	..... MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAMS
6-7	.....SUMMER DAY CAMP
8-9	..... SUMMER SENIOR CAMP
10-11	..... SPECIAL PROGRAMS
12-13	.....DREAM MEALS
14-15	.....STAFF
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18-19	..... PROGRAM PARTNERS
20-21	..... DONORS

## DEAR FRIENDS

The opportunity gap in our country, already significant, has been greatly exacerbated by the pandemic. At Dream Camp, we have persisted vigorously to support our students and their families through our virtual programs with live instruction and hands-on activities during the school year. Our Dream Meals initiative has ensured food security to those in desperate need, and we finally got back to in-person learning at our 2021 Summer Camp!

It is an understatement to share the sheer joy we felt and saw first-hand in our students' eyes each day this summer. It was powerful!

For our youngest students in Day Camp, many have never had the structured routine of a "normal" school day or extracurricular programs as the pandemic did not allow for in-person learning.

For our middle schoolers, we gave relief from the online social pressures that continue to plague our Gen Z youth who are now being coined "zoomers." For those in our Mentor-in-Training and Young

Leaders Programs, the ability to engage with their peers and trusted mentors was transformative. We cannot adequately express the gratitude we feel for being able to support our students and their families throughout the year and to see our students again this summer by successfully running safe, Covid-free, meaningful programs in the 2020-2021 school year.

Please join us in celebration of our dedication and accomplishments as you read through the year's highlights from our 2020-21 academic year programs and the summer of 2021. We are proud of our students, thankful to our staff, and grateful to our partners and funders during these unprecedented times. We hope you will continue to stay engaged in our students' progress so together we can change the world, one child at a time.

With gratitude and appreciation,

Michael J. Rouse  
Executive Director







# AFTER SCHOOL ACADEMY

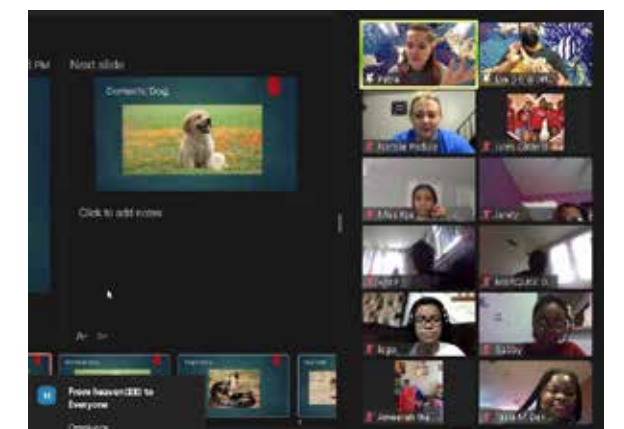
The hours after school are especially precarious as there continues to be significant unmet need in many low-income communities. Dream Camp provides a safe space for students to learn and grow during those critical hours at the After School Academy.

From October 2020 through May 2021, Dream Camp programs operated virtually, serving 101 students in grades 1-12. The elementary aged programs ran four days per week from 3:00pm-5:30pm with a total of 110 program hours. Programs included STEM, homework help, art, movement, special events and awards. Students were provided with all the supplies needed for projects and programs along with live instruction and support. Program collaborations for elementary and middle school students included the Center for Aquatic Sciences at Adventure Aquarium where age-appropriate marine biology was explored. Ten-year-old Jarely who has been enrolled in Dream Camp programs since 2017 reflects upon her experience,

“I understand why you say don’t be on our phones cause you push me to at least try something new and experience new things. Why would I be inside on my phone when I could be learning new things at Dream Camp?”

context clues	context clues 2	context clues 3	context clues 4	context clues
100	100	100	100	100
	200	200	200	200
300			300	300
400	400	400	400	400
500			500	
Hakeem	Jarely	Kiera	Angelo	Leah
0	0	0	500	500
			Marquez	Nya
			300	300
			Mentors	Team B
			300	0

101  
STUDENTS SERVED





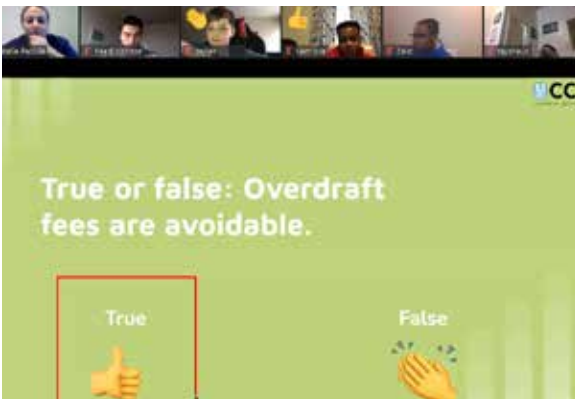
# MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOL

Throughout the year and during the summer, we provide many occasions for hands-on work which included the pre-medical program (in collaboration with CHOP) for some of our high school students interested in medicine.

Other programs included a financial literacy program with University of Pennsylvania's undergraduate organization, Common Cents. Penn students led an engaging workshop designed to empower students to manage their money and reach financial independence. One facilitator commented, "The Dream Camp kids were more engaged in the program than my peers in my freshman classes."

One of Dream Camp's 8th grade students, Sameer, was formally recognized for his heartfelt and emotionally cathartic essay in our "Do the Write Thing" program.

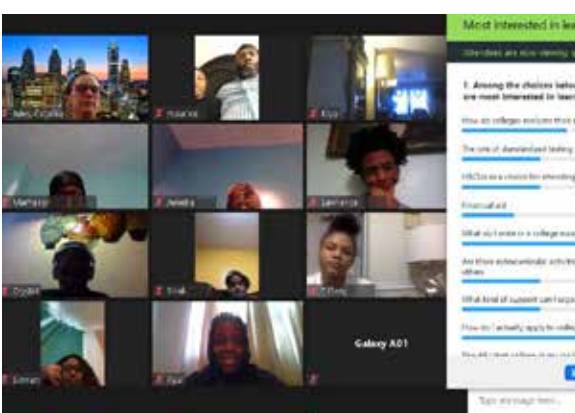
"Youth commit crimes because of peer pressure, childhood trauma, no parental guidance, social media influence, and limited opportunities to earn money. Instead of adults ridiculing and looking at youth as the reason for violence, they should pay more attention to why youth may feel that violence is the only way to solve their problems or meet their daily needs."



99%  
DREAM CAMP HIGH SCHOOL  
GRADUATION RATE

72%  
PHILADELPHIA HIGH SCHOOL  
GRADUATION RATE\*

\* School District of Philadelphia website







# SUMMER DAY CAMP

“Dream Camp is amazing; you kept the kids learning and engaged all summer. My son loved every aspect of camp this year!”

—Dream Camp Parent

In late June, Dream Camp’s staff welcomed 137 students back in person on the beautiful Chestnut Hill College campus. After a year and a half of online classes and modified hybrid learning, everyone was thrilled to be outside for our inaugural summer at Chestnut Hill College!

Day Camp curriculum is highly interdisciplinary. Students made Model Magic leaf impressions, cityscapes, and Picasso self-portraits. They enjoyed playing Pictionary on Fridays and made a sidewalk chalk mosaic. In STEM, they worked hands-on with KiwiCo kits to make hydraulic claws, catapults, lanterns, and color changing crystals.

During Dream Camp 2021, we put an extra emphasis on physical activities and being outside, despite the especially hot summer.

Campers were ACTIVE with daily sports including various competitions, games, skill development, and fitness challenges. Dance and music are always a favorite activity for Dream Camp students. Because of the pandemic, our first and second graders have had little to no experience in a structured environment. The camp day is arranged into blocks of time on a rotating schedule. This structure was especially important this year and set our youngest students up for success in the fall when they entered school in-person for the first time.



## 90%

DAILY ATTENDANCE RATE





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# SUMMER SENIOR CAMP

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Bigger...bolder...brighter...  
Summer 2021 offered our oldest students unique and innovative opportunities to keep them engaged with one another and their Dream Camp family.

Senior Campers exercised their artistic muscles while creating action shapes inspired by artist Keith Haring, masking tape masterpieces, painted tempera stencil skylines, and tie-dye wardrobes.

Exercising their performing arts muscles, the Senior Campers created their own dance routines, songs and music videos. For the first time, Dream Campers were offered the opportunity to participate in a two-week pre-med program. In partnership with Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP), the program combined coursework with project-based learning activities to engage students in a broad-based introduction to the field of medicine.

Dream Camp's True Life Adventure (TLA) courses are a fun way to expose students to curriculum and experiences they would not likely find in their classroom or community.

One of this year's TLAs was Sound Foley where students learned how to make sound effects for everyday experiences which are used in films, video and other media. Photography TLA was also well received as evidenced by the stunning cover photos.



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HIGH SCHOOL ENROLLMENT  
**DOUBLED**  
FROM SUMMER OF 2020

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## SPECIAL PROGRAMS

Dream Camp runs several special programs throughout the year. Thanksgiving meals and December holiday “Miracle on West” are two that lift families up year after year.

“I’ve been overwhelmed since my mom passed and God told me to *be still* and then He sent me you. I would like to thank you for all the help for the holidays that you have given my family, we appreciate everything and hope your holiday is filled with love and joy like you have given to my family.”

—Recipient of Miracle on West

Camp visitors are always welcome and remind our students just how wide their support network is. Jimmy Curran read his book *Will the One-Winged Eagle* to Dream Camp students, followed by a Q & A. Jimmy is living with Spinal Muscular Atrophy and he serves professionally as a Senior Competitive Research Analyst at Independence Blue Cross.

Our annual Career Symposium continues to be a highly anticipated event. A panel of presenters shared their personal and career journeys which led to an interactive discussion. We also conducted a hands-on workshop for students to reflect upon their personal preferences and discover qualities they possess which would align with potential careers.



# 200

DREAM CAMPERS AND  
FAMILY MEMBERS WERE  
PROVIDED A FULL  
THANKSGIVING MEAL





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# DREAM MEALS

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Dream Camp has always provided snacks and meals during programs. When the pandemic hit, and healthy food became scarce in some of our families' households, we were determined to ensure food security.

Nourishing food, fresh ingredients for cooking, and an innovative recipe to ultimately gather around the dining room table are essentials for a fulfilling and balanced daily life experience. What happens when food becomes scarce, schools close, and the meals children received during the school day are no longer available? The Dream Meals program was established in March of 2020 and continued into early 2021. Dream Camp partnered with nationally recognized Chef Frankie Celenza and locally known Carlino's Market to create a unique culinary arts program for our families to ensure food security and build culinary skills. With the financial support of a few foundations, corporations and individuals, Dream Camp was able to react quickly and effectively during the height of the pandemic and throughout the 2020-2021 program year.

"Dream Meals came in at a time where things were very rough. It was the best idea because it brought us together as a family to try new recipes, plus the quality time was priceless."



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22,145  
MEALS SERVED

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## STAFF

“Love, love, love Dream Camp.  
Your staff are the BEST, they are  
always happy and full of energy!”

—Catherine, Dream Camp Parent

Our Covid-free summer 2021 at Chestnut Hill College was spectacular. It was a new site, a smaller student cohort and staff, but we were immense. Out of 36 summer staff members, 26 are college graduates and of those, 15 are certified teachers. This past year Dream Camp celebrated a few milestone years for our director level staff. Co-site Directors Natalie and Danielle celebrated their 15th and 16th summers respectively and Director Kristine celebrated her 20th year at Dream Camp.

This is a testament to the dedication our staff has for the program and children of Dream Camp.

We engaged 69 volunteers who donated nearly 350 hours of their time and energy to our students and programs. Dream Camp staff is a family and we value traditions to ensure staff retention. Our Ichiban Award winner was Day Camp Support Specialist Gayle Perry-Johnson, who received this honor in her 1st year at Dream Camp! Our Master Teacher was none other than Paul Eaton, Senior Camp Music Production Teacher. Paul has been with ESF and Dream Camp for 24 years, and he is the first team member to win the Master Teacher award twice. Paul’s undeniable musical talent continues to blow us away year after year.



# 91%

OF STUDENTS REPORTED  
HAVING BUILT POSITIVE  
RELATIONSHIPS WITH DREAM  
CAMP STAFF MEMBERS





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# ALUMNI

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Dream Camp alumni always come back! During Summer 2021, three Dream Camp graduates worked on staff and did an incredible job.

Other alumni visited camp to catch up with their mentors and attend special events. Three alumni graduated high school in 2021. Two are attending college and one has entered the workforce.

After the pandemic, stability and consistency are more important than ever. When speaking with alumni, they concur that traditions are a BIG deal at Dream Camp! Dream Camp traditions ensure campers know they are a part of something bigger and it is a stable part of their lives, thanks to the generous support of our donors and foundation partners.

“Becoming a team member at ESF Dream Camp feels like a long time coming as I’ve been going to Dream Camp since the 1st grade as a camper. We all want to have great experiences and I know despite the challenges of this past summer, we achieved a great summer for the kids and we will continue to do that in the future.”

—DeAndre, Alumni and current staff member



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SINCE 2012,  
**31 ALUMNI**  
HAVE WORKED AS DREAM  
CAMP TEAM MEMBERS

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# PROGRAM PARTNERS





# CONTRIBUTIONS

OVER \$100

**THE DREAM MAKERS**  
**\$250,000+**

Pine Street Group, LP

**DIAMOND LEVEL**  
**\$150,000-\$249,999**

The Horace W. Goldsmith Foundation

**PLATINUM LEVEL**  
**\$50,000-\$149,999**

David Clare and Margaret  
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**GOLD LEVEL**  
**\$20,000-\$49,999**

Connelly Foundation  
The Patricia Kind Family Foundation  
Hamilton Family Foundation  
The Huron Foundation  
The Philadelphia Foundation

**SILVER LEVEL**  
**\$10,000-\$19,999**

DiBona Family Foundation  
Martin Murphy and Susan Smith  
Grace S and Linton Nelson Foundation  
Nixon Uniform Service & Medical Wear  
Philadelphia Indemnity Insurance Co

**BRONZE LEVEL**  
**\$5,000-\$9,999**

The Albertson's Companies  
Foundation  
Charities Aid Foundation  
Lawrence Saunders Fund  
Scattergoods Foundation

**\$1,000-\$4,999**

The 1830 Foundation  
Jon and Gwenn Barger  
Dolfinger-McMahon Foundation  
Christian & Mary Lindback Foundation  
Christopher Ludwick  
Foundation Grants  
Jason Rojas  
Westminster Presbyterian Church

**\$500-\$999**

Janine Andrayo

**\$250-\$499**

Jim and Megan Fitzsimmons

**\$100-\$249**

Rose Bayer  
James Cornish  
Paul J. Hirsch  
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