

Camp Harbor View Annual Report 2012



CHILDHOOD HAPPENS HERE.



Dear Friends,

For the 900 kids who attend Camp Harbor View each summer, Long Island is a special place. It's a place for learning how to ride a bike, jumping into an Olympic size pool, learning to sail, or just sitting with friends---and feeling safe.

For too many kids in Boston, the simple pleasures of childhood have been taken away. But when they arrive at Camp Harbor View, a wonderful transformation begins. They experience uncomplicated childhood - sometimes for the first time. They begin to understand what they can truly achieve. It's not just the new skills they acquire, it's also the knowledge that they each possess wonderful potential.

For six seasons now, we have welcomed kids from all corners of the city and watched as they discovered new visions of the future. Your support has made much of this possible.

Welcome to Camp Harbor View. Childhood happens here.

Sincerely,

Mayor Thomas M. Menino and Jack Connors, Jr.



FRIENDSHIP HAPPENS HERE.

One of the best things that happens at Camp Harbor View is that kids whose lives have revolved primarily around their own neighborhoods are brought together to become a new community. What becomes apparent is what they have in common instead of what they don't: they are all kids with something to offer, despite their many different backgrounds. They build bonds of respect, trust, and fun. These relationships don't end when summer ends - they continue year-round, and quite often for many years going forward.



TRUST HAPPENS HERE.



One of the primary reasons for establishing the camp was to provide safety for our campers, knowing that that would provide the foundation for them to develop trust in themselves and in one another. The talented staff of 90 counselors—hired and supervised by the Boys & Girls Clubs of Boston – fosters an atmosphere that supports this growth of trust. The camp’s curriculum, from traditional camp activities to mentoring and counseling, is guided by this principle.



CHANGE HAPPENS HERE.



From the moment they jump off the bus for breakfast until they leave after dinner, our campers are busy pursuing activities that reflect Rule Number One – which is “Have Fun.” As they rotate through our five program areas – sports and fitness, aquatics, leadership development, arts and crafts, and Knowledge is Power – change creeps up on them without their even knowing it. They develop competence and confidence that stand them in good stead throughout their camp experience and beyond, into the school year – and the future.



TEAMWORK HAPPENS HERE.

Teamwork is one of the important concepts that are stressed throughout the camp experience. The healthy competition that is encouraged by dividing the campers into teams (in keeping with the island theme named for various local lighthouses) infuses the camp with energy, enthusiasm and a great sense of loyalty; to one another, to the camp itself, and to the staff. At no time is this more apparent than on the last day of each session, when the Harbor View Hustle pits the lighthouses against one another in a series of “leave it all on the field” competitions. The electric, joyous atmosphere of the day is testimony to the relationship-building that has gone on for the past four weeks and a view into why so many of these new friendships last beyond the camp season.

The rich and diverse programming that we are able to provide is only possible through the Camp’s teamwork with our program partners, who bring their areas of special expertise into the overall curriculum. Special thanks are due to our 2012 program partners, who include AccesSportAmerica, Courageous Sailing, Forsyth Dental Institute, Green City Growers, the Museum of Fine Arts, Partners HealthCare and save the Harbor/Save the Bay. We are also thankful for the 2012 Leader in Training internships provided by the Boys & Girls Clubs of Boston, Boston City Hall and the Roslindale Animal Shelter, to name a few. As has been the case since we opened in 2007, we rely on City Fresh Foods to provide our campers with three healthy meals each day and we appreciate their focus on sourcing locally grown organic food.

LEADERSHIP HAPPENS HERE.

The Leader in Training building was completed in June of 2012, and has become the summer home of the program. Comprised of classrooms, staff offices and meeting spaces, the building has provided the Leaders in Training and the LIT staff with a “home of their own”, away from the distractions of other camp activities. Classroom time, mentoring and counseling sessions and group projects are now occurring in this space, enabling all those involved to take best advantage of the time spent together. This is the only year-round, fully heated space on campus, which allows for off-season use of the camp facilities.





VICTORIES HAPPEN HERE.

The victories at Camp Harbor View extend far beyond the playing field. Our campers have achieved a range of personal conquests that extends from learning to play a new sport to overcoming long-held fears of heights, of water, of being with people from different cultures and neighborhoods. We acknowledge the small and large victories with private celebrations between a counselor and a camper, huge camp-wide celebrations and everything in-between. One of the most meaningful ways in which we recognize the achievements of our campers is to elevate them through a very rigorous selection process to the Leader in Training program; a one, two or three-year program designed to foster the development of good citizenship and leadership skills in general, and to cultivate future Camp Harbor View counselors in particular. The program has had a significant impact not just on the campers who are chosen to participate, but on the camp population at large, as it provides an inspirational model for everyone to follow.

CONFIDENCE HAPPENS HERE.



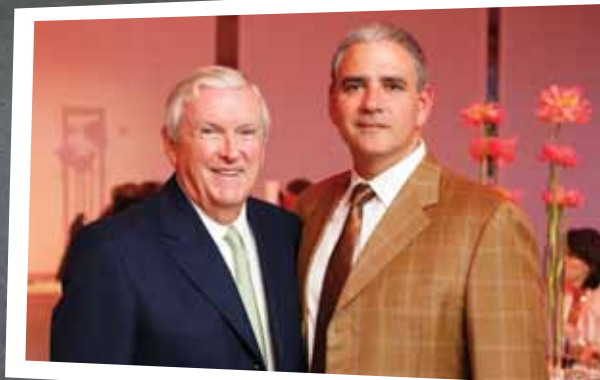
It starts with reaching the top of one of the climbing structures, or kayaking across the Harbor to Spectacle Island for the first time. It's a feeling of having done something extraordinary; something that no one else in your family has ever done before. And that feeling just might be what it takes to decide that college is in your future, even though it hadn't been an expectation until now. We are delighted to see our campers explore and expand the boundaries of their courage and pleased to offer support as they do so. In 2012, this included the awarding of 11 college scholarships, the majority of which were \$10,000 awards.

START



The Boston community has come together to support Camp Harbor View in an astounding way. The most visible manifestations of that support occur during our two signature fundraising events, the Beach Ball Gala and the Harborthon 5K. The proceeds of these events comprise the majority of our operating budget, but there is quiet and consistent support from a range of individuals, corporations and corporate and civic foundations. The consistent and generous support of the greater community contributes to the spirit of community seen every day at the camp.

COMMUNITY HAPPENS HERE.



< 2012 Beach Ball Co-Chairs Jack Connors, Jr. & Ralph de la Torre

Honorary > Beach Ball Chair Mayor Thomas M. Menino





ALWAYS HAPPENS HERE.

The Camp Harbor View experience does not end when the summer ends. Based at our Roxbury facility, our counseling staff has grown from one seasonal social worker in 2008 to a team of four full-time social workers whose mission is to provide ongoing counseling and crisis intervention when necessary to both campers and their families. What started as pilot year-round program has evolved to include gender specific groups, parent support groups, workshops, health and wellness groups, and hobby specific activities—everything from snowboarding, biking, photography, and film groups for the kids, to Zumba and poker night for parents. All of these activities are designed to engage the campers and their families in a deeper relationship with the camp and its staff.

Because we believe that continuity is important, we are especially pleased that 40% of our campers are returning participants each year, and 2/3 are repeat counselors. This climate of consistency enables these relationships to continue far beyond the campers tenure on Long Island. Our counselors remark time and again that one of their favorite aspects of their work is hearing from former campers.

Perhaps camp co-founder Mayor Menino said it best when he remarked, “The kids may leave Camp Harbor View at the end of the summer, but I believe the lessons they learn at camp won’t ever leave them. Just look at the smiles on the kids’ faces and the hope in their eyes. Listen to them laughing. Watch them make new friends. That’s all the proof we need to know we are making a difference.”



FUTURES HAPPEN HERE.



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