In the pages that follow, we'd like to introduce you to some incredible members of the Camp Harbor View (CHV) family. For nine remarkable years now, we have welcomed campers from all corners of the city and watched as they came to know one another as well as themselves. This is at the heart of the CHV experience—a transformation that begins the moment they step onto the island and begin the process of seeing themselves and the world around them in new and profound ways.

We are pleased to share uniquely personal stories about what it means to be a member of the Camp Harbor View family. You’ll hear about the deep and lasting impact CHV has had on campers’ lives; how staffers strive every day to “give back,” and a grateful parent’s heartfelt testimony about the transformative effect the program has had on her child’s life.

In 2015, we were faced with a variety of obstacles due to the closing of the Long Island Bridge. Despite these challenges, we were committed to preserving the Camp Harbor View experience. The campers were our focus and our priority, and it was clear that they were yours as well. With your help, we not only conquered those obstacles, but, we are happy to say, CHV emerged stronger than ever.

Your generosity has been and continues to be the sustenance of Camp Harbor View. Because of you, CHV has become a significant year-round presence in the lives of many Boston families. We are deeply grateful, as always, for your support. Thank you, once again, for making Camp Harbor View a part of your story.
Camp is a great opportunity to learn how to be a community, how to work as a team and to support people. That's how this camp makes you feel. It's a safe haven.

For Alex, behavioral issues made fitting in and making friends difficult. He was bullied at school and constantly teased on the bus. Naturally, he was fearful when he boarded the Camp Harbor View bus for the first time. But something amazing happened. Instead of being met with cruelty and aggression, Alex found a busload of kids who were talkative and friendly. They weren't taunting or making fun of him. “It was amazing to see his reaction when he got home that very first night,” says his mother, “and to see how he was the next day on the bus. It was heart warming.”

Surrounded by other kids his own age, Alex felt he could be himself for the first time. Slowly, he began to understand that everyone faces adversity and that overcoming it is one of the biggest hurdles in life. The camp's climbing wall was emblematic of what he learned. Smiling, he remembers the first time he tried to scale the wall's steep incline. “I was really scared,” he recalls. “I didn’t want to do it. But with everyone cheering me on from below, telling me I could do it, I did it. It was an amazing feeling, and now I know I can do anything.”

Alex made it to the top that day and has challenged himself ever since. He is no longer the nervous boy who was afraid to get on the bus. Alex has learned that everyone experiences difficulties in life, but you can overcome them with the right attitude, support and hard work. Camp is “a dream come true,” says Alex. It’s the place, he says, that’s taught him that every challenge that we confront in life just makes us stronger and better equipped to achieve the things we were meant to do.
“Camp helped me open up and find different ways to express myself, and who it is I’m supposed to be.”
Evelyna, a team leader, is affectionately known as “the kid whisperer.” The campers talk to her, open up to her, tell her things they feel they can’t share with anyone else. “I’m in love with them,” she said. “I don’t know what it is, but the kids like me. I have a big heart, so talking to some of these kids—hearing their story and finding out what they are going through—you just feel for them, and your heart aches for them.” She knew right away that camp was something special; it’s never anything like it. She describes it as a “magical island,” a place that gives inner-city kids and troubled youth a sense of hope.

She treasures her job at camp, largely because of the impact she can have on those around her. Like Dion (pictured left), who, when he tragically lost a parent during the July session, had to leave camp to be with his family. He returned in August, and Evelyna kept her eye on him, paying special attention to how he interacted with others and ensuring he didn’t spend too much time alone. Thanks to Evelyna and the extra time she spent with him, Dion soon began to smile more, to find comfort in the day-to-day activities of camp and pleasure in the company of people who cared about him.

Another of her “boys” was Xavier (right), whom she remembers as a stone-faced kid who wouldn’t let anyone in. Her daily high fives and “how are you doings?” went unacknowledged every time. Yet she refused to give up, trying again day after day. It took a few weeks, but one day her high five was returned, and, in the days that followed, it was clear that Evelyna had broken through. Xavier asked her to help him pass the swim test so that he could hang out with his friends in the deep end of the pool. He passed. Evelyna was bursting with pride.

“I want to make kids smile, give kids faith that even though we grew up in a bad neighborhood, one that not many people make it out of, they can go on and do amazing things. This place actually gives them hope, and I know that I can make a difference in these kids. If that’s the way I can make a difference in the world, that’s enough for me.”
In the off-season, camp is what I dreamed of. It was always in my mind.

In 2007, Mariana started camp “under protest.” Her mother made her go, and she went, kicking and screaming. A self-described “angry child with a lot of issues,” Mariana had no place to put her rage or any outlet for her emotional turbulence. She was 14 when she came to camp, and she became an LIT the next summer. “I was being tested over and over in my life back then,” says Mariana, “and there’s no way I would have gotten through any of it without camp. Camp gave me something to look forward to every day during the summer and, in the off-season, it was what I dreamed of. It was always in my mind.”

Mariana had forged a close bond with the late Mayor Thomas Menino, co-founder of Camp Harbor View and one of the city’s greatest advocates for Boston’s youth. She took his passing hard. “I wanted the Mayor to see that I was no longer that angry 14 year old, how much I’ve grown, and, most of all, how much I want to give back to his city. It’s all about paying it forward. If I can help even one kid out in the same way that camp helped me, I will be very grateful. I want to give back to the kids who don’t get the opportunity to come to Camp Harbor View, the kids who are still on the streets of the city of Boston.”

Because of the camp staff and their faith in her, Mariana will soon begin her career as a Boston police officer. “This camp is a blessing,” said Mariana, choking up. “People always say that it is life changing and that sounds clichéd. But I’m here to say that they’re right. Camp made everything possible. Without camp, I don’t know where I would be. It’s that simple.”
Alejandro started coming to camp when he was 12, and he’s loved it ever since. Over the years he has made a lot of new friends, and when he had the chance to become an LIT, he jumped at it. “I enjoy making other people happy,” he says, ”and making sure they’re having a good time. Just being good to others is something I really enjoy.”

Unfortunately, towards the end of his first session as an LIT, things became difficult at home. Over the next few years, Alejandro endured many hardships, including the death of several friends and family members, and he battled depression. Camp and the happiness he felt there seemed out of reach, so he was overjoyed when he began to hear from fellow staffers. “I kept thinking of camp, because it was like family to me. They cared so much, knew what I needed and were willing to be there for me. One day, he got a call from camp. “They said, ‘We want you back.’ That meant the world to me after being away for so long. It meant everything. I never would have gotten better without camp. There’s no way I can thank them enough.”

The best medicine, he says, was being able to focus on other people and to inspire them to make changes in their lives. He believes that making people happy is the most powerful medicine there is. Grateful for the chance to inspire younger campers, Alejandro is eager to pass on the powerful, transformative lessons he has learned. And there is no doubt he will.
For sisters Ayjah and Brianna, camp is family, and this family means everything to them. They rely on the ever-expanding network of staffers and campers they have come to know and love over the years—people who are there for each other no matter what. The girls weren’t so sure about camp at first, but it didn’t take long for them to be captivated, and to quickly realize what a “magical place” it was.

“Camp had a huge impact on us,” says Ayjah. “The people we met when we were 13 are now our best friends. You come here thinking that these people are only going to be in your life for a summer, and the reality is they’re in your life forever.”

Ayjah and Brianna say that whenever they needed something, their camp family was there. A few years ago, their mother lost her job just as the girls were starting college. “It’s hard to afford college. Camp gave us scholarships so that we were able to further our education, so we could grow—not only as individuals, but also as strong young women. We are able to make the best of what we have because of what camp has provided for us.”

Camp has given them deep and abiding friendships and joy in abundance. They call it their unfailing support system. Every summer they tell young campers what being a member of the camp family means: No matter what choice you make in life, you will always be family, and we will always love you.

“Yes, you come here thinking that these people are only going to be in your life for a summer, and the reality is they’re in your life forever.”

Ayjah & Brianna | Age 20 | Roxbury Camper 2008-2009 LITs 2010-2012
was gifted to 43 applicants with a college scholarship ranging in amounts from $500 up to $10,000.

In 2015, $156,000 was gifted to 43 applicants with a college scholarship ranging in amounts from $500 up to $10,000.

Campers and staff traveled to CHV aboard the Provincetown II ferry and enjoyed organic, locally sourced breakfasts and dinners catered by City Fresh on the boat each day. Lunch was served family style in Menino Hall on the island.

The 2015 Holiday Gift Assistance Program, supported by CHV donors and a dedicated team from Fidelity, provided holiday gifts for 247 youth and 104 families.

In 2015, the Leaders in Training (LIT) program served:

- 16 Year: Two students (ages 16)
- 14 Year: Three students (ages 17/18)
- 40 Year: One student (ages 15)

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EMC brought the 2nd annual STEM Fair to CHV, introducing and encouraging campers to pursue training and careers in science, technology, engineering and math.

Each staff member has a daily supply of five Leadership Pins with which to reward campers whose actions embody one of the six leadership values—Fun, Respect, Responsibility, Character, Courage and Community.

One of the six leadership values is chosen to focus on daily. Leadership Pins are scarce, and therefore valuable. Approximately 10,000 pins are awarded each summer.

Neighborhood summer camp enrollment numbers:

- Dorchester: 336
- Roxbury: 116
- Hyde Park: 111
- Mattapan: 92
- Roslindale: 55
- Jamaica Plain: 28
- South End: 24
- South Boston: 20
- West Roxbury: 20
- Boston/Downtown: 19
- East Boston: 19
- Chelsea: 13
- Charlestown: 10
- Allison/Brighton: 10

23% of campers and/or families received direct social service intervention throughout the year.

Breakdown of Needs Addressed

- Emotional Issues
- Peer Relations
- Behavioral Issues
- Crisis Intervention
- Family Issues
- Conflict Resolution
- School-Related Issues
- Resource Assistance
- Health & Wellness
- Medical Issues

2015 Operating Expenses

- Personnel & Program: 60%
- General & Administrative: 21%
- Transportation: 10%
- Facilities: 5%
- Insurance: 4%

2015 Funding

- Corporate & Corporate Foundation Giving: 44%
- Individual Giving: 44%
- Foundation & Grants: 12%

Couch to 5K Full Program

This program for parents and kids met once a week throughout the fall, gradually building their strength, conditioning and endurance. The program concluded with a celebratory 5K, the Jingle Bell Run, in Somerville on December 20th.

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On June 14, 2015, Camp Harbor View’s community of supporters celebrated the 8th annual Beach Ball gala at Boston’s Black Falcon Warehouse. A new venue, beautiful sunset and an outpouring of support for Boston’s youth made it one of the most memorable nights in Camp Harbor View’s history. A record $5.5 million was raised through event sponsorships and the on-site special appeal.

Guests were welcomed by co-chairs Joe Tucci and Jack Connors, followed by remarks from both Governor Charlie Baker and Mayor Marty Walsh. Bryan Rafanelli and his team transformed the Warehouse into a glowing, elegant scene in which guests mingled and dined. MAX Ultimate Food, Martignetti Companies and Beach Ball Lead Sponsor, The Sheehan Family Companies, provided the fare and cocktails enjoyed by all.

Guests viewed a special tribute video to Camp Harbor View co-founder, the late Mayor Tom Menino. Menino’s vision to create a safe haven for Boston’s youth to experience joy, learn about themselves and life’s opportunities, and to benefit from a positive support system continues to inspire Camp Harbor View’s growth.

The legendary Beach Boys capped the evening, performing their greatest hits while guests danced into the night.

Camp Harbor View would like to thank the many supporters who helped make our 2015 programs possible. Your commitment to our kids is remarkable and its impact is profound.

“This camp has enriched thousands of lives. They’ve given inner-city kids incredible opportunities. I want to thank everyone for working to keep Camp Harbor View open. This commitment is inspiring. It shows that if you truly believe in your cause, you can find a way to make it happen.”

Mayor Marty Walsh
2015 Donor List
The following is a list of donors who have made generous commitments in support of Camp Harbor View.

2015 Donations & Pledge Payments Includes outright gifts & event sponsorships made in 2015, as well as payments towards multi-year commitments.

SIM & above
Partners HealthCare

$100,000 & above
Magne Capital Management
Bank of America
The Baypoint Group
Holly & David Bruce
City of Boston, Mayor Marty Walsh
EMC Corporation
Highland Street Foundation
Kelly Family Foundation
Michael & Howard Kessler, Kessler Family Foundation
Shef A. & Beth S. Klarman
Linde Family Foundation
William A. O’Malley
Pricewaterhouse Coopers
Reed & Blue Foundation
Bob & Laura Reynolds
Elaine & Gerald Schwalter
The Sheehan Family Companies, Gerald Sheehan, CEO
Roberta & Stephen R. Weiner Family Foundation, Melissa Weiner Janfaza & Andrew Janfaza, Rita & Adam J. Weiner

$50,000-$99,999
Anonymous
AT&T
Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts
The Boston Foundation
Joseph E. Corcoran
Janel & Brian Crowley
The Degas Family Charitable Foundation
Eversource Energy
The Hassenstein Family Foundation
Linda & Jay Hooley
Carolyn* & Peter S. Lynch
James G. Martin Memorial Trust
Massachusetts General Hospital
Obama Presidential Transition

$25,000-$49,999
Jose & Kristen Almeida
Anonymous
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$10,000-$24,999
ADP
American Cleaning Industry
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The Baker Committee
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Linda & Michael Corcoran
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Kerrie & Thomas O’Keefe
Lucy & G. Jill O’Keefe
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$5,000-$9,999
Anonymous
AT&T
Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts
The Boston Foundation
Joseph E. Corcoran
Janel & Brian Crowley
The Degas Family Charitable Foundation
Eversource Energy
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Linda & Jay Hooley
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Richard & Jane O’Keefe

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Carolyn* & Peter S. Lynch
James G. Martin Memorial Trust
Massachusetts General Hospital
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2015 Donor List

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New York Jets LLC
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Ron & Barbara Wells
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Peter Wilson
Michael & Judy Woodland
Chris Woods

5,000-$9,999

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Tamara Alperson
James & V. Assalia
Bruce Auerbach
Aron & Naomi Benson
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Rob & Robin & David Butter
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Aron & Naomi Benson
Jeff & Heather Bennett
Rob & Robin & David Butter
Jenny & Jack Callahan
Emma Campbell
2015 Financials

2015 Operating Expenses: $3,906,794*
*Includes year-round and summer camp expenses.

Corporate & Corporate Foundation Giving 44%
Individual Giving 44%
Foundation & Grants 12%

Endowment balance through 2015: $6.5 Million