

2023 IMPACT REPORT

Because of
Camp.
Because of
You.





OUR MISSION

Agassiz Village is a nonprofit youth development organization whose mission is to “prepare youth for life’s journey.” Through our exceptional summer camp experience and year-long programming, youth develop and practice critical leadership and life-shaping skills that positively impact their futures. For 88 years, children from under-resourced communities in Maine and Massachusetts have come to our 330-acre lakefront overnight camp in Poland, Maine to experience unique learning opportunities, be challenged to discover interests, uncover new skills, make lifetime friendships, and connect with inspiring mentors. In addition, teens in our year-round program, are supported to graduate high-school and prepare to be career/college ready.



FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Agassiz Village Family,

Because, of YOU and your unwavering commitment, we welcomed back the next generation of Agassiz Village campers and staff. Kids experienced a two-week program that provided experiential learning activities including fishing, swimming, canoeing, ropes course, climbing wall, sports, creative arts, and archery. Kids learned to ACT: ACHIEVE goals, CONNECT with others and THRIVE as individuals.

Agassiz Village remains a safe place where kids are surrounded by caring adults and the need for Agassiz Village continues to grow.

- **Dozens waited for a spot as camp opened in June.**
- **The poverty of our families continued to grow as nearly every child this year qualified for the USDA lunch program.**
- **and 1 in 3 campers reported they were homeless or in foster care.**

Thank you for helping us to change the lives of these children forever. **We could not have achieved the successes in this report without YOU!**

With Sincere Gratitude,
Lisa Ferrari Carter

Because, together we change lives ...

41

campers remained on the waitlist at the start of summer



452

youth enrolled in the summer of 2023

696

hours of summer programming offered

96%

of campers qualified for free or reduced lunch program

DIVERSITY OF CAMPERS

Black – 58%
Latinx – 13%
Mixed Race – 12%
White – 10%
Asian – 1%
Native American – 1%
Other – 5%

38%

of youth reported they are currently or recently homeless or in foster care

DIVERSITY OF STAFF

Black – 41%
Latinx – 20%
Caucasian/White – 35%
Asian – 4%

98%

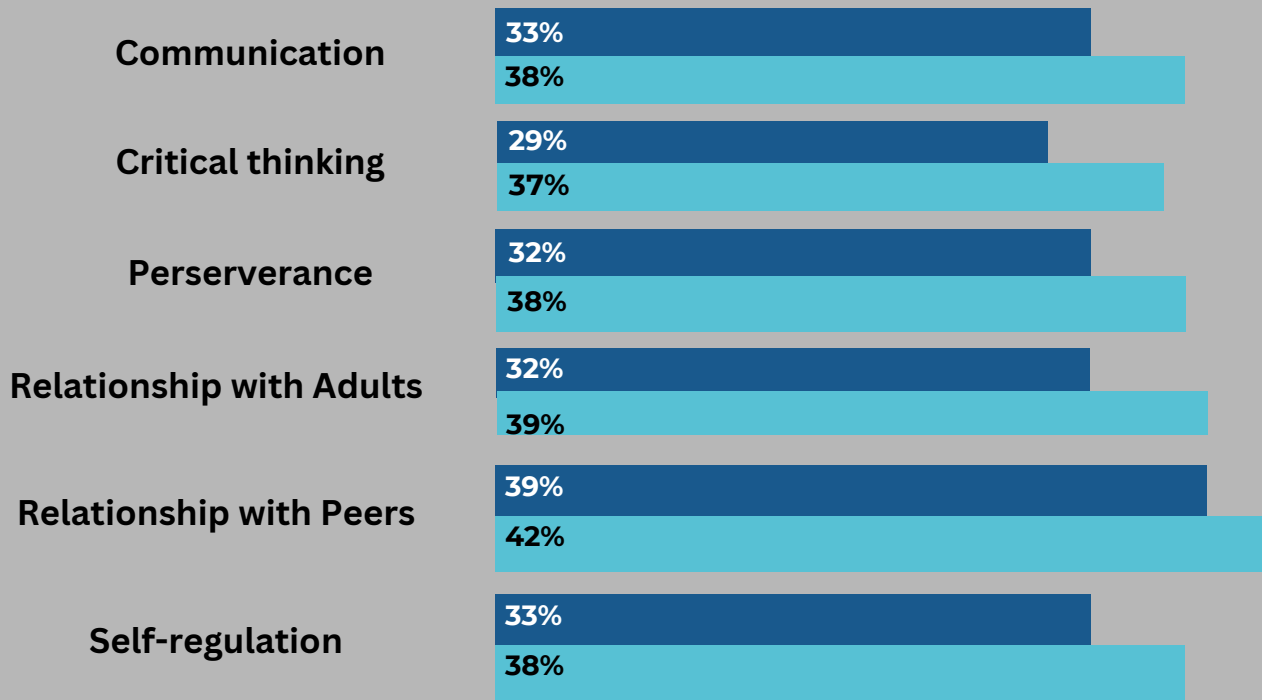
of families receive financial aid and pay \$135.00 on average for two weeks of summer camp



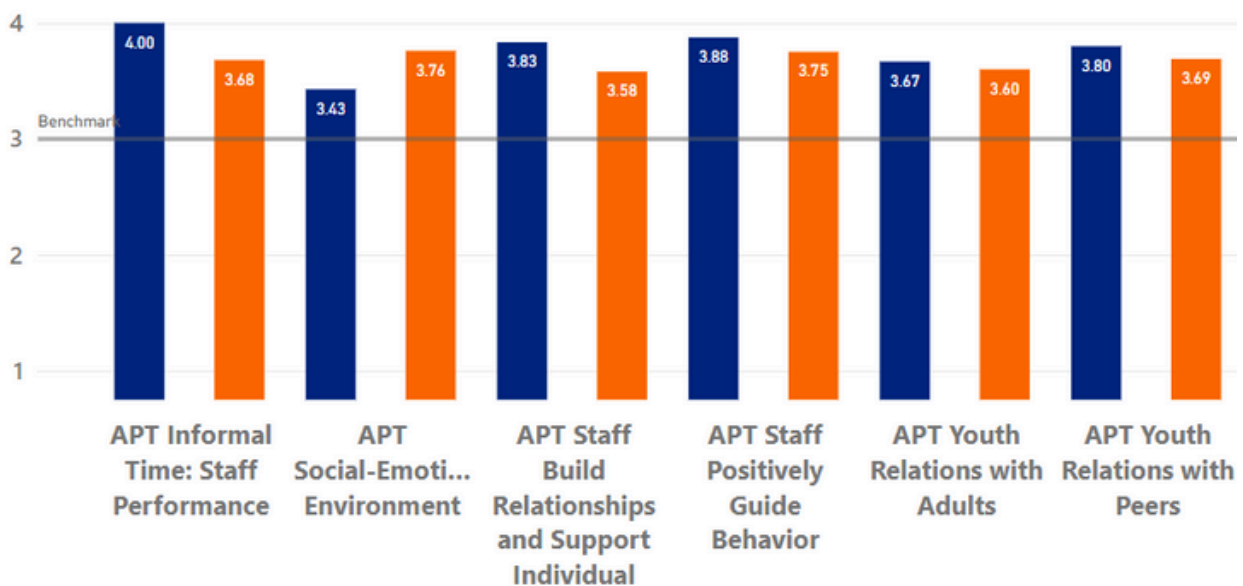
Because, together we shape lives ...

YOUTH SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL GROWTH

Through our partnership with Boston After School & Beyond, we collected pre and post data indicating the social and emotional growth in our campers after 12 days of being at the Village.



How We Stack Up to Other Summer Programs



Agassiz Village outperforms other summer programs in almost every category. These areas are not only positive evaluations but the framework for youth to excel once they leave camp. Providing the proper tools for success always extends well beyond their time at camp, but we recognize the importance of not only building that foundation but investing in it over multiple sessions or years.

Because, there are many ways to measure success ...



LEARNING THROUGH EXPLORATION

Statistics and numbers don't always show the real impacts that Agassiz Village has on campers. Perhaps when we think of implementing the principles of ACT there are few better places than our waterfront.

So many of our kids arrive at camp unable to swim. For most it is an opportunity they just have not had prior to arriving at Agassiz Village. Not only is knowing how to swim a great way to cool off on a hot summer day but it is also a potential life-saving skill.

When we think about **ACHIEVING** goals it means you succeed in doing something or cause it to happen, usually after a lot of effort. This summer Aaisha was the perfect example.

There is a lot of yelling and screaming at the waterfront on a typical day but this day was different. A single swimmer was trying so hard to stay afloat and make forward progress alongside one of our docks. Yet she wasn't drowning, and the 20 or so counselors and campers surrounding her weren't crying out in fear but instead they screamed words of encouragement.

CONNECT with others. No one at the waterfront was not deeply involved in the situation. "Come on" ... "You can do it" ... "You're almost there Aaisha" and she could do it, everyone there felt it! The determination, so evident in the young camper's face and the quickening of the pace of her arms and legs made it all seem possible!

Then the moment ... **THRIVE** as individuals, Aaisha reached the dock and fellow campers reveled in the accomplishment. What makes this story so incredible is prior to her arrival at camp the staff was informed by Aaisha's mother that after a traumatic near drowning experience when she was younger, Aaisha was terrified of the water.

However, staff called the mother and asked if swim lessons would be okay - and she agreed. On day one, she sat on a bench while other campers took swim tests. On day two, she could be seen sitting on the dock with her legs in the water. By day three, she began to join other kids in the shallows. As it would turn out, in less than two weeks (with a little encouragement and a lot of cheering) Aaisha went from not being able to swim to being a yellow band, intermediate swimmer, to an advanced green band swimmer.

Aaisha went on to be named "The Pioneer of the Session" at the waterfront!

Because, You help ... those who need it most

Dear Agassiz Village,
I have just been in contact with a community coordinator at the Portland Public Schools about a family in real need.

They have been living in a church basement and must be out by tomorrow. The school coordinator is hoping to get the kids to summer camp for any available times. They are from the DRC and speak English well. They are ages 6 (a girl, and I know she's probably too young), 8 (girl), 10 (boy) and 12 (girl). Do you have any more capacity for Level Ground campers?

It would be best if the kids could all go to the same camp, but I'm told that the possibility of getting the three youngest together and another camp for the 12 year old might work.

I know it's late in the game but I thought of you first, both because you've been so generous and also because you aren't a huge distance from Portland.

I'll get back to Amy at the school as soon as I hear from you. I'm also considering some other possibilities.

I know you're swamped but I thought I'd at least reach out to see where you're at.

Many thanks,
Kris
Level Ground, Maine Summer Camps



**These amazing kids
not only attended
multiple sessions, but
eventually found a
permanent home by
summer's end.**

*Because, WE would not be here
without ... YOU!!*

Year-Round Staff:

Lisa Carter, Executive Director
Michael Smith, Development Director
Dan Hanon, Camp Director
Camille Ridge, Program Director
Ryan McAllister, Facilities Director

Board of Directors:

Theresa O'Bryant, President
Ben Kern, Vice President
Jonathan Gillim, Treasurer
Arnie Stewart, Clerk
Allison Burroughs
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Meg Clough
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Jennifer Ginsburg
Wendy Horn
Leslie Hoyt
Amanda Karomba
Jon Levy
Nimish Shah
Thomas Thrasher
Sean Tolan



We thank you for your continued support. Look out for our full Impact Report in January



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