

# A SUMMER TO REMEMBER



## Impact Report

2022



# About Agassiz Village

## 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 86 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.

## DIVERSITY OF KIDS SERVED

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

## OUR VISION AND PROGRAMS

**Our vision** is that children from Maine to Massachusetts, regardless of economic opportunity, experience Agassiz Village’s joyful, welcoming, and diverse community that inspires and enables them to explore new experiences and create the futures they envision.

We provide three programs:

### **Summer Camp Program, Coed, ages 8-13**

Kids experience a two-week program that provides experiential learning activities including hiking, swimming, canoeing, ropes course, climbing wall, sports, creative arts, and archery. Kids learn to ACT: ACHIEVE goals, CONNECT with others and THRIVE as individuals.

### **Teen Advancement Program (TAP), coed, ages 14-15**

Teens experience a two-week program that focuses on goal setting, positive decision-making, teamwork, tolerance, compromise, integrity, role modeling & community service. Teens also enjoy traditional camp activities like swimming, canoeing, and dance.

### **Leaders in Training (LIT), coed, ages 16-17**

This year-round program starts in the summer with opportunities to learn various jobs on camp and continues with monthly workshops focused on leadership, social change, financial education, college readiness, career pathways, and high school completion.

# By the Numbers

98

campers  
remained on  
the waitlist

696

hours of  
summer  
programming

462

youth  
enrolled  
in the  
summer  
of 2022

80%

of campers qualify  
for free or reduced  
lunch program/live  
at 185% of poverty or  
below

82%

of youth  
explored  
new  
activities  
and  
expanded  
their  
interests

38

youth reported they  
are currently or  
recently were  
homeless

98%

of families receive  
financial aid and pay  
\$131.00 on average  
for two weeks of  
summer camp

28

youth living  
in foster  
care

# 89%

of youth felt encouraged when working through difficult problems

# 86%

of youth felt like they were supported to learn about one another, both similarities and differences

# 79%

## Promoted Peer Bonds

(campers were encouraged to bond with other campers in their cabins and groups)

# 86%

## Engaged Authentically

(campers felt heard and valued by staff)

Social & Emotional Learning (SEL) is imbedded into all of our programs and activities and has an immediate, positive impact on youth experiences. We measure growth in five areas: academic self-efficacy, social skills, contribution, self-management and positive identity. According to CASEL, "SEL is the process through which all young people and adults acquire and apply the knowledge, skills, and attitudes to develop healthy identities, manage emotions and achieve personal and collective goals, feel and show empathy for others, establish and maintain supportive relationships, and make responsible and caring decisions." These "capacities" are critical to young people's development and promote long-term academic gains, college and career success and overall thriving.

Many studies shows SELs positive outcomes, such as higher graduation rates, lower drug use, and lower incarceration rates.

Data shows that our campers:

- (1) Increase their ability to reflect and understand themselves.
- (2) Identify positives about themselves and show personal improvement. And
- (3) Set tangible goals to build more positive relationships.

# Social & Emotional Learning Outcomes

**79%** Of youth demonstrated gains in at least one SEL capacity.

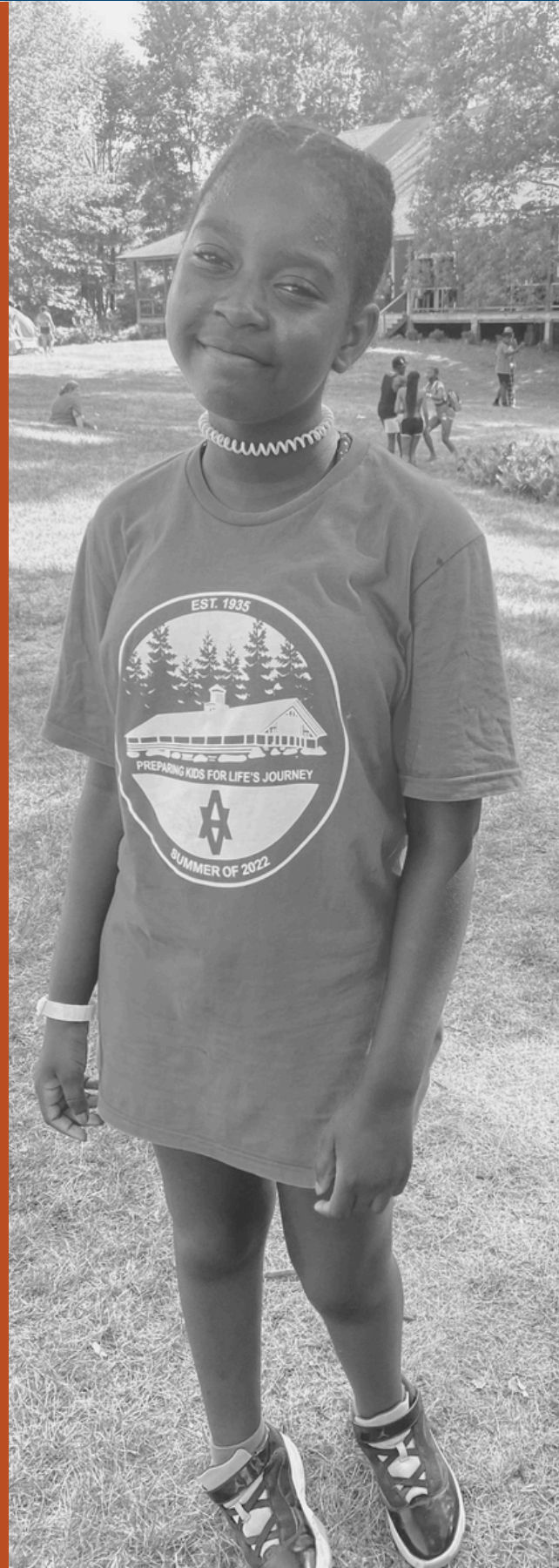
**74%** Of youth grew their self-management skills: the ability to regulate their emotions and behavior, take positive risks, and persist through life's challenges.

**63%** Of youth grew their Social Skills: the ability to take others' perspectives into account, and to develop a sense of caring and empathy.

**62%** Of youth grew their Academic Self-Efficacy: A young person's motivation and perceived mastery over their own learning, school performance, and potential to attain academic success.

**52%** Of youth grew their Contribution: the desire to give back to communities and society.

**56%** Of youth grew their Positive Identity: internal sense of who they are.



# Youth Have Fun, Explore Collaborate and Thrive

Every summer hundreds of kids — regardless of their background or circumstances—attend Agassiz Village for two weeks and get to explore nature, try new things, learn different skills and developed their love of the outdoors. Our nature instructor, Yari, recalls one young girl who attended camp for the first time this summer. During her first nature class, she announced, "I don't like being outdoors and I don't like bugs." She was particularly terrified of bugs and didn't even want to enter the nature cabin. She watched from the doorway as Yari told the cabin, "The reason why you are scared of bugs is because you don't know them, and you haven't given them a chance." He then captured a spider in a cup and showed the girls what he had caught. The girls were intrigued and began catching spiders themselves. Once the girl who was afraid of bugs saw her peers' catching spiders, she soon joined in with them. By the end of the class, the girls were picking up spiders with just their hands. They spent the rest of the session picking up different kinds of bugs to see the many bugs that we have at Agassiz. They learned about moths, beetles, ants, butterflies and spiders while at overnight camp for two weeks. Their nature classes also taught them to make a fire, how to build and use a compass, and how to make a shelter. In addition to nature, the kids participated in archery, high ropes, the climbing wall, swimming, canoeing, fishing, dance, drama, arts and crafts, and sports.



**...From "I don't like  
being outdoors or  
bugs" to capturing  
spiders with their  
hands**

# 100%

felt that the camp environment was a place where mistakes are celebrated as an opportunity to learn and grow

# 100%

feel they have an adult they can count on

# 75%

showed growth in their collaboration skills

# 100%

feel they received good career knowledge and skills

# 75%

developed an adaptive mindset

# Leaders in Training



Agassiz Village recognizes that making a difference in the lives of children is not just a summer need. This recognition led to a new program initiative. In 2021, Agassiz Village launched its year round Leaders in Training program.

LITs participate in leadership, social change, financial education, college readiness, career pathway, and high school completion workshops monthly. Students are given the tools and resources needed to succeed in high school and beyond.

The first year of the program was so successful we decided to make this a two year program to support teens for 24 months and beyond.

# Thank you to all of our amazing donors! We would not be here without YOU!!

## Special thanks to our year-round staff:

Lisa Carter, Executive Director  
Jaime O'Connor, Camp Director  
Camille Ridge, Program Director  
Chris Robichaud, Facilities Manager  
Susannah Benn, Development Coordinator

## Thank you to our Board of Directors:

Theresa O'Bryant, President  
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Jon Levy  
Nimish Shah  
Thomas Thrasher  
Sean Tolan



We thank you for your continued support. Look out for our full annual report in January

## Agassiz Village

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