



**AGASSIZ VILLAGE**

**Preparing Kids for Life's Journey**



See important announcement on Page 3

# NEWSLETTER

**Spring 2024**



**LISA CARTER**

Executive Director  
Agassiz Village

A big hello from all of us at Agassiz Village! We hope you're enjoying a great start to 2024!

Here at Agassiz, we're busy preparing the camp and planning another fun and action-packed summer program that is sure to be memorable for our campers.

We are most excited about this year's enhanced learning sessions that we are currently developing. We will be introducing our new THRIVE Program at camp this year. It expands on the basic skills children need as they journey through grade school and on to college and the workforce. Look for an update on this comprehensive program in the coming months.

We are also very excited about our growing international staff that will serve as this year's camp counselors. More than nine countries are represented, enabling our campers to learn about varied cultures from around the world.

My sincere thanks to all of you for creating a supportive Agassiz community where we can continue the mission of offering children the chance to reach their full potential.

A lot has been happening here over the last few months, so let's get you updated!



## HURRY! RECORD REGISTRATIONS FOR 2024

We have already received more than 200 applications for our 2024 summer sessions, nearly 80 more than this time last year.

If you have not yet registered, please do so now to ensure you secure a spot for your camper.

Click [here](#) to go to the registration page.

## 2024 Session Dates

Sunday, June 30 – Thursday, July 11

Sunday, July 14 – Thursday, July 25

Sunday, July 28 – Thursday, August 8



## YOUR PARTICIPATION NEEDED FOR IMPORTANT SURVEY!

You should have recently received a message from Executive Director Lisa Carter on an upcoming comprehensive funding campaign to support the future of Agassiz Village.

Our goal in the coming years is to welcome even more campers during summer sessions and to create a sustainable business model by renting out the camp to various organizations and groups in the off-season.

Therefore, the campaign will place a large focus on the renovation and repair of our cabins and facilities. Many of our buildings have been here since before the camp opened in 1935 and are in desperate need of attention. To ensure Agassiz can continue to safely and effectively host hundreds of campers each year, as well as expand business operations, these repairs are central to our goals.



To help us in this campaign endeavor, CCS Fundraising has partnered with us to create a strong strategy to help us reach—and hopefully exceed—our goals. As part of its assistance, CCS is conducting a survey. Responses will be private, and CCS will use the information to determine the scale and scope of the campaign.

**Your participation in the survey is critical as it will help us plan for the future of Agassiz and prioritize our philanthropic goals. Please help us maximize our impact by taking this brief survey, which should take no more than five minutes. Your input will be invaluable Thank you!.**



Take the survey now.

[CLICK HERE](#)



### AGASSIZ VILLAGE 2024 PRIORITIES

We had a fantastic 2023, with 452 children attending our summer sessions. However, we are always looking for ways to improve on our offerings to our families. Looking ahead for the rest of the year, we have prioritized the following enhancements and extended services for this summer and beyond:

- **Increase the number of campers by 11% with a goal of serving more than 500 children.** To achieve this, we will reconfigure camper cabins and bunks to increase capacity and overall enrollment.
- **Continue to enhance and improve Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) and overall mental health of both campers and staff.** Since COVID, there has been a distinct shift in the needs of our population. This will be addressed through the introduction of two new positions: a Director of Camper Care and a Director of Staff Care to help us better identify and more closely monitor the well-being of everyone on site.
- **Expand our teen program** so that we are serving exponentially more teen campers and providing them with the tools they need to be successful as they finish high school and move on to secondary education or trade opportunities.
- **Grow the number of Maine campers.** We will continue our commitment to those communities we have historically served while expanding the outreach of our program for children in need of our services in surrounding underserved communities near Poland, Maine.

## Please mark your calendars for 2024 Agassiz events.



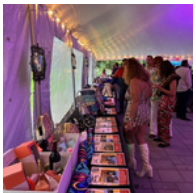
### **Alumni Volunteer Weekend, May 31 – June 2**

Bring your family and friends and join us for our annual Alumni Volunteer Weekend at Agassiz Village in Poland, Maine. Help us make improvements to the cabins and the grounds for the next generation of campers. Projects include landscaping and gardening, painting, and renovation projects. see old friends and make new ones (BONUS! You may get to sleep in your old cabin!) Click [here](#) to register.



### **Agassiz Golf Outing, Monday, August 19**

Come join us at the Woodlands Golf Club in Auburndale, Mass., for our annual golf tournament. Registration begins at 9:00 with an 11:30 shotgun start. Sponsorship opportunities are available. Click [here](#) for more information.



### **2024 Maine Course Event, Saturday, September 7**

It's official! We're going back to the 1980's! We're excited to announce that our 13th Annual Maine Course event will be held at Gore Place in Waltham, MA, on Saturday, September 7. We are anticipating a fabulous evening featuring food trucks, '80s-themed cocktails, live entertainment, and a silent auction. Be sure to arrive early as the open bar is from 5:00-6:00 p.m. We can't wait to see you there! Click [here](#) for more information.



## 2024 IN-KIND DRIVE NOW ON AMAZON

Did you know you can support Agassiz Village through Amazon purchases? Each summer, we need supplies to help us better serve the children coming to our camp—items such as arts and crafts materials, first aid equipment, and sporting gear. Our wish list for Summer 2024 is now on Amazon. Click [here](#) for more information.

The following donations are also much appreciated: furniture (dressers, sofas, TVs, chairs for camper cabins and staff cabins); boats and watercrafts/equipment (canoes, kayaks, boats, and fishing equipment to improve our camper water activities; and items for the staff lounge (pool table, games). Additionally, every year we raise needed funds through our Maine Course event. If you would be willing to donate a weekend or week stay at your rental property to help us raise funds, please contact us.

## REMEMBERING AGASSIZ LEGEND DONALD WELCH

This past January, we lost a valued member of the Agassiz Village family. It is with great sorrow that we announce the passing of a true camp legend: Donald Welch.



Don served as Agassiz's Camp Director beginning in the '70s, leading our program for more than two decades. Whether mentoring campers, supporting staff, or hosting First Lady Nancy Reagan, he was a true leader who inspired so many lives with his kindness and devotion to the Agassiz mission. Don's memory will live on, and his legacy will continue to be celebrated at Agassiz Village.

## BOARD MEMBER AMANDA KAROMBA RECOGNIZED

We are so proud to announce that Coast 93.1 and Portland Radio Group has recognized Agassiz Board Member Amanda Karomba as one of Maine's 20 Outstanding Women!



Amanda's community efforts go far beyond Agassiz Village. As the visionary founder of Happy Haven, she leads an organization that provides direct support to Maine adults with intellectual disabilities. In addition, Amanda serves on the Board of Tri-County Mental Health, Community Clinical Services, and the Maine Association of Community Service Providers.

Amanda, we are so proud of you and your community impact, and so happy to have you on our Board!

## MARTIN MADDEN JOINS AGASSIZ BOARD

Agassiz Village is excited to announce that Martin "Lark" Madden has joined our Board of Directors effective January 2024.



Lark currently serves as President of Root Overhead Collaborative in Newburyport. He previously worked as an investment manager, and brings to Agassiz experience in governance, policy, leadership development, finance, and strategy. He is a member of the West Newbury Investment Advisory Committee and has also served as President of Lowell's Boatshop Trust and as a Board Member of the Newburyport Maritime Society Investment Committee. Welcome, Lark!

## FUND-A-BUNK UPDATE

Thanks to the overwhelming support from our community of friends, donors, and sponsors, our Fund-a-Bunk campaign was a tremendous success! Our goal was to replace 85 bunk beds as well as raise and level four bunk houses. Mission achieved—and more! Our incredible facilities staff—Ryan McAlister, Shep Stults, and Vern Stevenson—have built 74 bunk beds and 57 single beds, and several cabins are in the process of being raised and renovated!

Thanks to the outpouring of generosity, we will be able to continue nurturing and strengthening the wonderful camp experiences for our youth, allowing them to sleep safely, soundly, and comfortably.



## YE OLDE SAWMILL, SORTA



It may not be quite that old, but thanks to some generous donors and the talents of our facilities crew, Agassiz has its own working sawmill.

The sawmill has come in quite handy in making cabin repairs, building outhouses for sleepovers at our three overnight camping areas, as well as other renovation projects going on throughout the property.



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