



Camp Linden Winter Views

December, 2018

Thank You for Your Support

As Chair of Friends of Camp Linden, I am writing to thank you for your past generosity, and ask you once again for your support.

Last summer Camp Linden provided an opportunity for two hundred and fifty-two children from low income inner-city neighborhoods to learn to swim and experience the natural world at our beautiful property in Chester County. Contributions from Friends of Camp Linden covered 61% of our operating budget. Many of you also contributed to a special fund we established two years ago to pay for needed repairs to our pool. This newsletter is our report to you on how we used your contributions to benefit the children we serve.

Our entire operating expense for the year was \$29,262. We keep our expenses low because so much of the work required to operate the camp is done by volunteers. Our only fundraising expense is for the production and mailing of this and our other newsletter, Summer Views.

We ended the year with a modest operating surplus of \$2,442, which was added to the Camp Linden Reserve, \$6,255 of which was expended this year to cover the difference between the cost of pool repairs and the amount raised for the pool fund. A breakdown of our budget for the last fiscal year and the Pool Fund is set forth on page two.

We wish you and your loved ones a joyful holiday season and a very happy New Year. Please think of Camp Linden when you make your end of the year charitable contributions.

Jeffrey Dubb, MD
Chair of the Camp Linden Committee and Chair of Friends of Camp Linden

Newsletter layout and design by Ruth Dubb



Summer 2018 Report

We began this summer booked to capacity with eight agencies scheduled to send a total of over 250 children to Camp Linden. All of our partners from the previous summer returned. Netter Center, the community outreach program of the University of Pennsylvania, which sent a group from Lea School in 2017, send groups from both Lea and Hamilton schools in 2018. The Lenfest Center, which held a one day event at Camp Linden in 2017, came twice. The Cambodian Association, Community Concern 13, Spring Garden Academy, United Communities of Southeastern Philadelphia, Hilltop Lutheran Neighborhood Center and William "Hicks" Anderson Community Center also scheduled for five or six weeks.

Most of our partners attended as planned. We had only one cancellation for weather. One organization had a staffing issue which caused them to drop out after their second visits.

Our staff included returning volunteers Leonard Weeks (Manager), Sharon Wallis (Program Director) and Joe Dubb (Head Counselor). Ed Seniuk an invaluable resource, continued to serve as our resident caretaker. *(Report cont. on page 2)*

(Report, continued from page 1) Returning paid summer staff were Kateri Brehany, nature counselor, and our lifeguards, the three O'Keefe siblings, Chris, Katherine and Chiara. Kathleen Lanigan, who was hired as a nature counselor, completed lifeguard certification during the summer and also served as a substitute lifeguard when needed. Jessica McFarland was employed part time as SEL (Social and Emotional Learning) consultant and nature instructor. She shared her expertise with our staff and also worked one-on-one with children who were difficult to control. We also initiated a Counselor in Training (CIT) program. Giles Brehany, Kateri's brother, and Tommy Manidi, both age 14, received a small stipend for helping in the nature program while they received training and work experience.

This summer, for the first time, we started each camp session with a lesson on Camp Linden Values and Behaviors to Live Our Values. See Our Program at p. 2 and Harold and the Toad at p. 4 of this newsletter.

Another first this summer was Leonard's presentation about Insects which preceded the bug catching activity in Week 2 of our program. See Meeting a Bug at p. 4 of this newsletter.

Camp Linden Operating Budget

EXPENSES	\$	%
Program	5,483	20.5
Facilities	4,880	18.3
Staff	15,343	57.4
Fundraising	1,014	3.8
TOTAL	26,720	
INCOME	\$	%
Contributions	17,822	61.1
Foundations	8,000	27.4
Ethical Society	3,000	10.3
Events	340	1.2
TOTAL	29,162	
BALANCE	2,442	

Pool Fund (Completed)

EXPENSES	
Painting	4,405
Replace skimmers	12,000
TOTAL	16,405
INCOME	
Lenfest Foundation	5,000
Contributions	5,150
Camp Linden Reserve	6,255
TOTAL	16,405
BALANCE	--- 0---

Pool Repairs

Swimming is an essential component of the Camp Linden program. Most campers identify it as their favorite activity, and it is doubtful that our partners would be willing to go to the expense of transporting their children to Camp Linden if we did not offer swimming as well as environmental education.

Two years ago we recognized that our pool was in immediate need of major repairs. Bare concrete had become exposed in many places, promoting the growth of algae. We were losing water through cracks in the skimmers (plastic tubs embedded in the apron of the pool to filter debris). We established the pool fund and, with help of a generous matching grant from the Lenfest Foundation, raised over ten thousand dollars. We had the pool repainted last year. This year all five skimmers were replaced. Now that the repairs are complete our pool functions more efficiently, it is less expensive to operate, and it looks great,



Remembering Gerry Lenfest

The Philadelphia Ethical Society thanks the Lenfest Foundation for the generous matching-grant donation that helped repair the Camp Linden pool. We note with sorrow the death of Philadelphia philanthropist and civic leader, H. F. "Gerry" Lenfest, on August 5, 2018.

Our Mission

To provide a camp experience for inner-city children that

- promotes appreciation of the natural world,
- acknowledges the intrinsic worth of all human beings,
- and encourages campers to develop self-reliance, integrity and ethical relationships.

Our Program

Each day we begin with a brief discussion of Camp Linden Values and Behaviors to Live Our Values.

Camp Linden Values

1. Value yourself - Keep yourself safe and open to experience and learning.
2. Value other people (especially fellow campers). Keep them safe and help them learn.
3. Value the Earth and all living things (especially those encountered at camp) Learn from observing nature, and leave things as you found them.

Behaviors To Live Our Values

1. Act and and speak in a way that puts people up and not down.
2. Recognize and share your feelings.
3. Take responsibility. We can't control what happens to us, but we can control our reaction.
4. Let it go. Know when to let something go and move on.

The campers are then divided in two groups. One goes to the pool for swimming lessons and free swim; the other participates in our environmental education program. They switch after lunch.

The environmental education program has a different theme or major activity each week, as follows:

Week 1. Plant Parts

Campers harvest and plant in the garden and learn about what plants need to grow and why they are important to us. The lesson covers photosynthesis and experiencing nature with all our senses.

Week 2. Pollination and Bugs

Campers learn about plant propagation, flowers, seeds and pollination. The bug lesson covers anatomy of insects and spiders, helpful and harmful characteristics and opportunity to catch and examine before releasing them back to nature.

Week 3. Brandywine

Campers wade and float in the Brandywine Creek and have the opportunity to examine aquatic life in the creek as well as insect and plant life along the bank.

Week 4. Trail

Campers hike the main trail through the woods to the edge of our property where they meet a corn field and walk on to a scenic overlook where they net butterflies and other insects.

Week 5. Three Sisters

Campers observe the Three Sisters garden, the Native American method of growing corn, beans and squash together as contrasted with the modern method of planting corn as a unitary crop, which depends upon chemical fertilizers and insecticides. They learn about the many uses of corn, shuck, cook and taste fresh corn, pop corn and roll out tortillas.

Week 6. Closing Celebration

Campers harvest in the garden a prepare kale chips. They have a feast featuring produce from the garden and other healthy treats such as watermelon and popcorn. Then they celebrate Planet Earth with musical instruments, singing and a parachute game followed by a Native American "spearing" ability test, and a number of other tossing games.



Harold and the Toad: A Camp Linden Fable

This story was part of our lesson on Camp Linden Values last summer:

Harold and his best friend were standing under a tree at Camp Linden with other campers when someone cried out: "Look at this enormous toad." Harold really, really wanted to see the toad, so he pushed his friend out of the way. The friend also really, really want to see the toad. What do you think the friend did? The campers answered: "Push back." What happened next?. The campers responded: "They fought." And what did the toad do? I asked. The campers laughed and answered: "He hopped away." They found it amusing that Harold and his friend were so busy fighting that they did not get to see the toad they were fighting to see. When I asked what other bad things might have happened to Harold and his friend as a result of the fight, the campers suggested that they might have gotten in trouble; one or both might have been hurt; and they might not be friends any more. We talked about what Harold and his friend could have done to avoid these consequences. - Sharon Wallis



Meeting a Bug

An oft repeated scene occurs when campers enter the bathrooms in the morning only to emerge frantically scattering in all directions, screaming "A SCARY BUG!"

For years our program has included some basic information about insects and spiders with an opportunity for campers to capture and release them. I decided to try to spark a bit of calm, scientific curiosity to replace, or at least mitigate, the fright that I was witnessing. In the off-season I immersed myself in Donald Stokes' *Observing Insect Lives*, Gullon and Cranston's *The Insect*, a college level outline of entomology, several children's books about "bugs," and various internet articles on matters such as insect evolution. You can imagine how little of this learning I was able to effectively include in a brief presentation for our campers.

The campers enthusiastically engaged in the bug capturing and excitedly brought their prizes to show me asking "What is this?" They happily watched as we let the moths fly free or carefully returned other captives to nature. However, the bug hysteria continued.

Then one day a camper who had captured a Daddy Long Legs asked me if it would crawl on his hand without hurting him. I assured him that it was indeed harmless and asked if he would like to try. He hesitated so I asked, "Would you like me to go first?" He thought that was a good idea, so I released it and let it crawl up my arm. Without a hesitation he followed my example. I was overjoyed! Here at last was at least one camper who actually demonstrated the wonder and scientific

curiosity I had so longed to stimulate.

- Leonard Weeks

