

SUMMER SEALS DAY CAMP – 2020 ANNUAL REPORT



The annual report is usually where I write about how the SUMMER SEALS DAY CAMP continues “to enrich the lives of our campers, one summer at a time.” If you are guessing that the pandemic prevented us from doing that last summer, I’m happy to tell you to guess again.

It’s true that we were unable to proceed with our traditional model for camp since our primary and alternate venues were closed. But our Board of Directors was committed to providing a fulfilling camp experience nonetheless. They decided to support our campers and our staff by pressing forward, even if we didn’t know where we were going at first.

The Board challenged camp directors Kelsey Kline and McKenzie Sweet to reimagine what camp could look like in a time of remote learning and social distancing. And they delivered. Our directors and teachers created an amazing virtual camp experience that combined activity kits with online interactions. As just one example, please check out the introduction video that the staff shared with the campers via our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=1597088480441514>.

The staff designed the activity kits, which were delivered to the campers’ homes, to correspond to this year’s three teaching units: Sports, the Ocean, and Safari. The kits provided fun exercises to improve the campers’ core reading and math skills. Unfortunately, we were unable to conduct the standard testing to measure the campers’ progress this year. We were also unable to provide the recreation/social opportunities, such as field trips, trips to the pool, or the ever popular car wash, that the campers normally enjoy.

Due to improving current conditions, however, we are very excited to announce that SUMMER SEALS DAY CAMP will return this year in person for our 15th season starting June 14th. We can’t wait to resume our traditional camp model at the Selinsgrove Area Intermediate

School. Mindful of the continuing effects of the pandemic, we will adhere to all current state and federal guidelines, as well as school district protocols, to prevent the spread of COVID.

With our return comes some personnel changes. Kelsey Kline and McKenzie Sweet decided to step away as camp directors, and we thank them for helping us through our most difficult season. Looking forward, we are pleased to announce the addition of Kim Burkhart and Jodi Cope to our Board of Directors. Also, the Board handed the camp director reins to Madison Rice and Colleen Kerber, and they have hit the ground running with our teaching team:

- 3rd Grade – Deborah Nace and Jen Guldin
- 4th Grade – Shelby Young and Emily Lefevre
- 5th Grade – Katie Spracklin and Olivia Lee
- Senior teacher – Ryan Pelletier

This summer's three teaching units will be the Body, Weather, and Counties/Olympics.

SUMMER SEALS DAY CAMP wouldn't be possible without the support of our Selinsgrove Area School District partners, including school counselors Amy Veach and Judy Fatchaline, along with Selinsgrove Area Intermediate School Principal Jason Schmucker.

Our program is blessed with many dedicated community volunteers, especially our Board members (listed below) who are focused on ensuring the quality of the program in a fiscally responsible manner. The Board continues to share our program's success through our Facebook page and our website.

Development and sustainability have been constant watchwords for the Board. Mindful of our role as good stewards of our donors' confidence and resources, the Board continues to utilize the services of Bill Bucher, C.P.A., as well as the firm of Herring, Roll & Solomon, P.C., to ensure that our fiscal affairs are properly executed. Donna Ross continues to offer critical assistance with the Board's administrative and fundraising responsibilities.

The designation of SUMMER SEALS DAY CAMP as an Educational Improvement Organization for purposes of the Pennsylvania Educational Improvement Tax Credit (EITC) program continues to provide critical financial support for the portion of our program serving second and third graders. In addition to our many generous individual donors, the SUMMER SEALS DAY CAMP received substantial EITC contributions from several local banks and other

businesses. It is the support of our donors that allowed our program to weather the storm when some non-profits were not able to do so.

We especially thank our program partners: the Selinsgrove Area Rotary Club, the Selinsgrove Area Community Foundation, Susquehanna University (and in particular, its Education Department), and the Selinsgrove Area School District. Their continued commitment to our program, its campers and their families inspires us all as we work to make SUMMER SEALS DAY CAMP 2021 better than ever!

*This annual report was compiled and submitted in May 2021
on behalf of the SSDC Board of Directors:*

- *Dottie Anderson
(Chair of the Governance & Development Committees)*
- *Marty Blessing
(Secretary)*
- *Kim Burkhart*
- *Judi Cope*
- *Michael Damiano*
- *Mike Coyne, C.P.A.
(Treasurer)*
- *David McLaughlin, Ph.D.
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- *Ryan McGuire
(Vice President)*
- *Mike Piecuch, Esq.
(President)*
- *Toby Skinner*
- *Jason Schmucker, Ed.D.*
- *Amy Veach*



Using videos to connect with our campers



Camper hard at fun!



Delivering the activity kits to our campers



Building a model of a jellyfish



The physical activity challenge!



Learning about the Ocean



A donation from our friends at Mifflinburg Bank & Trust



Another camper hard at fun



A donation from our friends at Norry National Bank



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