

90 YEARS

of Preparing Kids for Life's Journey



AGASSIZ VILLAGE

1935-2025

Dedication

This book is gratefully dedicated to Harry E. Burroughs, Hannah Burroughs, Maximilian Agassiz, and Laura Agassiz, without whom tens of thousands of boys and girls from throughout New England would never have had the opportunity to prepare for life's journey--to dream big and forge new pathways to success and happiness.



**HARRY E.
BURROUGHS**



**HANNAH
BURROUGHS**



**MAXIMILIAN
AGASSIZ**



**LAURA
AGASSIZ**

AGASSIZ VILLAGE

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Cover Illustration by William Kaczka

Bill Kaczka was a member of the Burroughs Newsboys Foundation and came to Agassiz Village when he was 10 years old. During his years at Agassiz, he became the lead illustrator for *The Village Crier*.



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Congratulates Agassiz Village on 90 years of making a lasting impact on our community! For nearly a century, Agassiz has provided invaluable opportunities, support, and a sense of belonging to countless individuals. Here's to 90 years of inspiring service and to many more years of giving back and strengthening our community!

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A Message from the Burroughs Family

As we celebrate the 90th anniversary of Agassiz Village, we, the grandchildren and great-grandchildren of Harry Burroughs, are filled with profound gratitude and awe for the incredible legacy he began nearly a century ago.

Harry had a vision—a dream to create a place where every child, no matter their circumstances, could feel safe, valued, and empowered to achieve their full potential. With passion and determination, he laid the foundation for what Agassiz Village has become: a transformative community where lives are changed, families are strengthened, and futures are reimagined.

Today, as we reflect on this remarkable journey, our hearts are filled with appreciation for every individual who has been part of this story. To the dedicated staff, alumni, board members, donors, and friends who have carried forward his dream: thank you. Your commitment and love have made Agassiz Village not just a camp, but a movement—a testament to what can be achieved when people come together to lift others up.

Our grandfather's dream would never have been possible without all of you. From the counselors who inspire and mentor campers to the donors whose generosity removes barriers to opportunity, you are the heartbeat of Agassiz Village. You have turned his vision into reality, year after year, and for that, we are eternally grateful.

Looking ahead, we are inspired by the incredible possibilities that lie before us. Agassiz Village's story is far from over; in fact, the next chapter promises to be as transformative and impactful as the first. With renewed focus on growth, inclusion, and leadership development, we know our grandfather's mission will continue to shine brightly for generations to come.

We look forward to carrying forward Harry Burroughs' legacy—not just as his family, but as part of the greater Agassiz family. Together, we will ensure that every child and teen who walks through the gates of Agassiz Village experiences the joy, support, and opportunity that Harry envisioned so long ago.

Thank you for being part of this journey. With your help, Agassiz Village will continue to change lives, build communities, and create a future where every child can thrive. Let us honor the past, celebrate the present, and step boldly into the future, knowing that the best is yet to come.

With heartfelt gratitude,

The Burroughs Family



HARRY

The Story of Agassiz Village's Founder

Harry E. Burroughs never forgot the boy he once was—a working child on the streets of Boston, selling newspapers to survive. When life offered him a chance at something more, he seized it, building a successful career in law. Yet, the memory of the children he once labored beside never left him. Driven by his own experiences of hardship, Harry dedicated the final two decades of his life to creating a foundation that would nurture the bodies and minds of marginalized youth and a summer refuge that would nurture their souls.

Harry Burroughs was born on April 15, 1890, in the village of Kashoffka, then a part of the Russian Empire. Located at the junction of the rivers Styr and Oser and bordered by thick pine forests, the village was home to a few hundred peasants.

Harry's father, Nathan, and his mother, called "Hannah the Saint," were already the parents of a son, Samuel, and daughter, Bessie. Five other children had died when typhoid struck the village a few years before Harry's birth. The epidemic plunged the family into poverty and Nathan was forced to work in the forest stripping trees and selling the bark. On the day of Harry's birth, Nathan found 100 rubles stuffed in a hollow tree stump, which he used to go to America. He returned a very wealthy man—four years later.

During Nathan's absence, Harry and his mother became inseparable. He traveled throughout the countryside with her as she tended to sick and poor neighbors, and learned from her the meaning of helping those in need.

After the death of his beloved mother and following numerous run-ins with his new stepmother, Harry left home at the age of 10 and apprenticed himself to a brushmaker from Odessa who brought him to his factory in Sevastopol. While there Harry saw Czar Nicholas II. He felt a tremendous letdown upon seeing the most powerful

symbol of Russia: "The man whose name carried terror and authority to every corner of the land . . . was a timid little man . . . His step and bearing were nervous, apprehensive."

A second incident that left an indelible mark on Harry was a pogrom—an organized massacre of Jews—in Sevastopol that resulted in the death of many. "The air was leaden with tension as hooligans were brought into town. I tramped throughout the city and was amazed to discover that as preparations began for what we all knew was coming—and while police and the imperial army looked the other way—non-Jewish neighborhoods casually continued with everyday activities." After witnessing a Jewish brushmaker club a rioter to death, he made the decision to leave Russia.

He would never see his beloved Kashoffka again. Within ten years, it would be obliterated from the map.

America

Upon leaving Russia, Harry traveled across Europe with stops in Austria, Germany, Rotterdam, and Liverpool, England, where a Yiddish-speaking newsboy he encountered taught him how to sell papers, a trade Harry believed would greatly help him in America.

Harry arrived in Portland, Maine, in December 1903. Unable to speak English, penniless, and unable to find

work, he walked to Boston, where he knew other residents of Kashoffka and nearby villages had settled. His only belongings were a fine Russian fur coat, a hat, and his prized possession—shoes made by the shoemaker to the czar.

On his first day in Boston, Harry attempted to sell newspapers on Washington Street in front of the old Boston Theatre in Beacon Hill. Harassed by older newsboys—who call him a “greenhorn” and made fun of his clothing—he was ultimately attacked by one boy, who gave him a black eye.

“My initiation into the business was not pleasant,” Harry recalled. “The black eye I got on the first day stayed with me for three weeks, and the bewilderment of it all lasted much longer.”

Eventually, he established a corner at the intersection of Bowdoin and Derne streets. It was on this corner that he met then-Governor Curtis Guild, who, because he refused a dollar tip, gave Harry the right to sell papers in the State House.

The life of a newsboy was grueling and dangerous. Harry braved rain, snow, and bitter cold. On more than one occasion he collapsed on the street due to heat exhaustion, only to be taken into the home of a devoted customer to recover. In time, Harry became a fixture on the streets of Boston, earning the respect of customers and influential political leaders like Boston Mayor John F. Fitzgerald, the grandfather of President John F. Kennedy.

The newsboys, who had at first eyed him with suspicion and even hate, came to admire him. In fact, they elected him to arbitrate disputes over street corner sales and to speak on their behalf.

After nine years on the streets hawking newspapers just to survive, Harry’s luck changed. His fellow newsboys nominated him for a contest to win a scholarship to the Suffolk School of Law. Backed by their votes and those of his customers, Harry won.

Harry passed the Massachusetts bar exam and in time established a very successful practice. Newsboys would send their parents to him, and he represented many of his former associates, including the bully who had given him a black eye on his first day in Boston. When he tried cases in court, his best audiences were newsboys.

“Sometimes I would catch a twinkle in the judge’s eye as he rebuked them for applauding me.”



HARRY, SUFFOLK SCHOOL OF LAW STUDENT, 1912

Yet even as he prospered, Harry never forgot the boys he once stood beside. He believed that if given a chance, they too could change the trajectory of their lives. So, in 1927, he began negotiations for the purchase of the old Elks lodge to create a foundation that would help not only newsboys but also other working children on the streets of Boston such as boot blacks and messengers.

“The Burroughs”

The Burroughs Newsboys Foundation, located in the old Elks building at 10 State Street and affectionately called “The Burroughs” by the newsboys, was the largest headquarters for newsboys in any US city. It provided cobbler and tailoring services; free medical and dental services; a gymnasium, including a boxing ring; rooms for orchestra and general music training; rooms for classes in business, communications, the arts, and trades; laboratories for the study of practical sciences; a banquet hall; and an auditorium.

The Burroughs was officially dedicated on December 9, 1928. More than 500 people from civic, academic, professional, and charitable organizations attended the ceremonies. Harry also invited the mothers and fathers of the newsboys. The event, covered by every major newspaper in the New England area, was so large that arrangements were made to broadcast the speeches to the excited crowd outside.

At the height of its existence, the Burroughs had more than 5,000 boys enrolled annually. Harry insisted that it be run as a municipal government, with the boys in control of the legislative and executive branches. Council positions were a highly contested affair each year, especially the annual election of a “Mayor of Newsboyville.” The appointment was a

coveted achievement—so much so that every Boston newspaper covered the election results.

“I remembered who had influenced me for good and what surroundings had ignited my ambition. I never forgot the small kindnesses that helped me endure life on the streets. I believed I could offer those same advantages to hundreds of boys.”

The education of the boys attending the foundation was a core priority for Harry. Even before its official dedication, college scholarships were awarded to more than a dozen boys, who went on to enroll in prestigious institutions like Harvard, M.I.T., Dartmouth, Boston University, and Northeastern. The scholarships were a reflection of the opportunity Harry himself had received—and a lifeline to a brighter future for the boys.

Although his foundation profoundly changed the lives of so many youth, Harry still felt there was more to be done. He had helped to nourish their minds and bodies. Now he wanted to nourish their souls.

Agassiz Village

“We journeyed through the woods, and suddenly wide spaces opened up. I knew I had found what I was looking for. I turned to my companions and said, ‘This is Paradise.’ They saw ruin—charred trees, abandoned buildings. But I saw what it could become.”

In 1935, after nearly a year of researching and visiting more than 200 camps across New England, Harry came upon Camp Maqua in Poland, Maine, that had been run by the Young Women’s Christian Association (YWCA). With financial support from philanthropist Maximilian Agassiz, Harry purchased the property and founded The Agassiz Village of the Burroughs Newsboys Foundation.

That July, 60 newsboys arrived for their first summer camp experience. They were amazed—not just by the vast land, beautiful lake, and fresh air—but by the merry-go-round that had been purchased from Barnum & Bailey’s Circus, and an array of animals that Harry insisted upon so the boys could learn how to care for them.

In those early years, the camp focused on four guiding principles: cooperation, industry, health, and happiness. Each boy contributed according to his skills and interests. Opportunities ranged from carpentry

“To the thousands of boys who have been part of the Foundation and the Village, I leave with the hope that you will continue this work, and spread it to others.”

and farming to animal care, cooking, and groundskeeping. The campus included a blacksmith shop, riding ring, stables, animal house, and expansive gardens.

Harry had been able to purchase the land Agassiz sits upon because the dining hall of the YWCA camp had burned down and the group could not afford to rebuild. After he bought the camp, Harry had a temporary dining hall erected with the intention of building a grand hall in the future.

In 1939, construction began on what is now the camp’s most iconic structure. Built from 250,000 feet of logs, many salvaged from fallen trees from around the campus, the dining hall was completed in 1940.

Harry so loved his adopted country that he paid homage to the United States when designing it. Back-to-back American flags can be seen on the east side of the building, with the four windows at the top (consisting of 48 panes) representing the 48 U.S. states that made up the union in 1940. The darker, horizontal logs below the windows represented stripes on the flag.

Harry’s Final Message

Harry led the Burroughs Newsboys Foundation and Agassiz Village for the remainder of his life, constantly seeking out new supporters to provide the poor working children on the streets of Boston with hope for a better life.

In December 1946, Harry was admitted to Beth Israel Hospital. The cancer he had been diagnosed with had progressed, and he knew his time was short. While lying in an oxygen tent, he summoned his secretary and dictated one last message for his beloved newsboys:

“I want to leave with the thought that it is much easier to get along in the world by following the forces of good rather than evil. To the thousands of boys who have been part of the Foundation and the Village, I leave with the hope that you will continue this work, and spread it to others.”

Harry Burroughs died on December 18, 1946, at the age of 56. The Burroughs Newsboys Foundation closed five years later. But his legacy endures in Agassiz Village.

A Message from Allison Burroughs, Harry's Granddaughter



**Harry and Hannah Burroughs
were my grandparents.**

And they are my heroes.

They died before my father even met my mother, but have served as role models my entire life. Harry died at 56, eight years younger than I am now. And he accomplished so much! He made his way to America on his own, earned his own money from childhood, became a successful lawyer, wrote two books, started the Burroughs Newsboys Foundation and Agassiz Village, and fundraised for them tirelessly while also raising a wonderful family, including my father Warren Burroughs and his wonderful sister Jean Warren. An awe-inspiring and mind-boggling list of accomplishments, all squeezed into a life cut way too short.

But I have other heroes, too. My family is amazing. My mother and four siblings have all contributed to Agassiz in so many ways. My brother Warren and his wife Cindy help run the annual golf tournament and funded big chunks of the waterfront. My sister Carol raised money for an amphitheater named for my father after he died. Cathy and Jon and his wife Anita have all given and continue to give to Agassiz to the extent they can. And my cousins, Wendy, Michael, Jody, and Susan before she passed, have also been generous. I think Harry would be proud of us—his kids, his grandkids, and his great-grandchildren who are hopefully starting to think about picking up the reins.

The people who donate money and time to Agassiz are also heroes. People give to hospitals because they or people they love have or might need them. And we give to our schools or to other causes that touch our lives in some way. But most Agassiz donors won't ever be significantly financially challenged and aren't themselves underserved inner-city kids, and they give anyway. This is the best form of generosity—giving to a cause with no benefit to yourself save for the satisfaction of giving for the benefit of others. Our donors understand what Harry once told a group of camp counselors: when you are with Agassiz kids, “you will experience something you will never forget—the joy of making children happy.”

Agassiz is the people—the campers, staff, and counselors, my family, our donors, my fellow board members past and present—but it is also the place. The land and Thompson Lake and the iconic log dining hall all make my heart sing. It is a place for fun, friendship, and hope as well as being astonishingly beautiful and a reflection of all the best parts of what it means to be a community, to give back.

So here is to the next 90 years. To the survival and endurance of Agassiz Village and Harry's vision. To the existence of a place that brings out the best in the people it touches by the importance of its mission and the soothing beauty of the land and the lake. As my grandfather wrote in *Boys in Men's Shoes*, when he first saw the land that is now Agassiz he “knew [he] had found what [he] was looking for” and he exclaimed “this is Paradise.” May Agassiz always be a paradise for deserving children and may Harry remain an inspiring example of all that one committed person with a vision can achieve and a reminder that we can all be heroes.



The Burroughs clan (much of it) celebrating Warren Burroughs' 90th birthday.

Allison Burroughs
with Mike, Jake, and
Harry Leslie

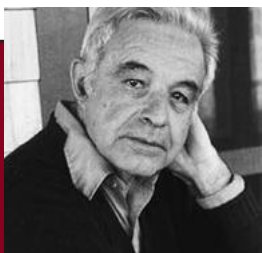


Harry's Newsboys: Success Stories



THEODORE WHITE

Born in Dorchester, Ted White was a newsie who frequented the Burroughs. When he applied for a scholarship from the foundation, several board members thought he was too frail to make it through the rigorous requirements of college life. Harry convinced them to give him a chance. Ted would go on to become a journalist for *TIME* magazine, known for his reporting from China during World War II, and for his *Making of the President* series, which earned him the Pulitzer Prize in 1962. A year later, Jacqueline Kennedy requested he write a story on John F. Kennedy, who had been assassinated. Ted's story gave rise to the comparison between the mythical Camelot and JFK's administration.



MISCHA RICHTER

Mischa Richter was a West End newsboy and graduate of the Burroughs. The recipient of a scholarship to the Boston Museum School of Art, he later graduated from Yale University. In 1936, as an employee of the Federal Art Project under the Works in Progress Administration, Mischa was selected to paint the mural at the Burroughs Newsboys Foundation. From there, his art career flourished. He was a contract cartoonist for *The New Yorker*, and contributed cartoons to *Collier's*, *The Saturday Evening Post*, and *This Week*. He also had his own cartoon panel, *Strictly Richter*. In 1979 he received the National Cartoonists Society Advertising and Illustration Award.



LEON WRIGHT

Leon Wright was an orphan who worked as a newsboy and coal truck driver to help support his grandmother. He received a scholarship from the Burroughs Newsboys Foundation and attended Boston University, where he graduated as a Phi Beta Kappa man. Leon served as a professor of classics at Morgan College in Baltimore, and then attended the Harvard School of Divinity. He was ordained a minister at St. Mark's Congregational Church in Roxbury. He taught for many years at Howard University, an historically black college in Washington, D.C.



ANTHONY DIFONZO

Anthony DiFonzo was only six months old when the front door to his home was kicked down and his father was arrested and sent back to Italy, leaving his mother to care for five children. When he was old enough, he started selling newspapers to help his mother. Anthony was attending the Burroughs when he was asked by a staff member if he wanted to go to Agassiz Village. Knowing his mother could never afford the \$12 fee to send him, he dismissed the idea. However, a stranger paid the fee for him, and Anthony never forgot that kindness. He decided to devote his life to giving back to others—doing so as a police officer in Roxbury for 30 years.



WILLIAM KACZKA

Bill Kaczka came to Agassiz Village in 1947 as a 10-year-old boy from Roxbury after first attending the Burroughs, where he developed his talent in art from several local artists who were brought to the foundation at Harry's request. After his last summer at Agassiz Village, where he was the principal artist for *The Village Crier*, Bill joined the Marines and served as a combat artist. In the late 1950s, Bill made a caricature of then-Vice President Richard Nixon at the bequest of his superior officers. When Nixon later saw the portrait, he was reportedly amused by it, and it now hangs in the Nixon Presidential Library in California.

AGASSIZ

Remembering a Remarkable Family



Maximilian Agassiz



Laura Agassiz



Alexander Agassiz



Elizabeth Cary Agassiz

The Agassiz family left an indelible mark not only on our camp, but on history.

Have you ever wondered how Agassiz Village got its name? It all traces back to a remarkable couple—Maximilian and Laura Agassiz.

Max and Laura were early and enthusiastic supporters of Harry Burroughs and his vision for the Burroughs Newsboys Foundation. Their generosity helped launch many important initiatives: they funded college scholarships, stocked the foundation's library with books, and even donated a printing press so the boys could publish their own newspaper.

When Harry dreamed of creating a summer camp for the newsboys, Max and Laura once again stepped forward. They provided the final \$10,000 needed to purchase the land that would become Agassiz Village. They also funded the merry-go-round that once stood on campus and contributed \$38,000 to build the iconic dining hall. As she had done at

the foundation, Laura donated hundreds of books to stock the camp library.

To honor their family legacy, Max and Laura requested that the Agassiz name become a lasting part of the camp:

- The camp was named Agassiz Village in honor of Max's father, Alexander Agassiz.
- The dining hall bears the name of Max's step-grandmother, Elizabeth Cary Agassiz.
- The Agassiz Cabin was named for Max and Laura themselves.
- The original library, now known as Serenity Cabin, was originally named the Laura M. Agassiz Library.

The Agassiz family left an indelible mark not just on our camp, but on history. To learn more about them, read on.

MAXIMILIAN AGASSIZ

(May 24, 1866 – September 21, 1943)

Maximilian Agassiz was born in Cambridge, Massachusetts, to Alexander and Anna (Russell) Agassiz on May 24, 1866. During his youth, Max accompanied his father on several trips to Upper Michigan, where Alexander was overseeing operations for the Calumet and Hecla Mining Company. In 1885, Max enrolled at the Lawrence Scientific School at Harvard University, his father's alma mater. While at Harvard, he was involved with several clubs, including the Hasty Pudding Club and the Institute of 1770. He left Harvard during his junior year and traveled extensively. He eventually settled in Rhode Island, where he was a popular figure among the Newport social set and became a well-known yachtsman.

Max was 55 years old when he married his second wife, Laura (Maynes) Boyd of Brookline, to whom he had been previously twice betrothed. Their impact on the Burroughs Newsboys Foundation and Agassiz Village cannot be overstated.

Max and Laura were fervent supporters of the newsboys and Harry Burrough's mission to help better the lives of working children. Among their financial gifts were 16 college scholarships they provided in 1933 for boys of the foundation in honor of Max's father. They also provided the printing press that allowed the boys to create their own newspapers, and hundreds of books to fill the shelves of the foundation's library.

In 1935, they gave Harry the final \$10,000 needed to purchase the Agassiz Village property, as well as the money needed to purchase the merry-go-round from the Barnum & Bailey's Circus. In 1940, they covered the cost for construction of the new dining hall—\$38,000—which was named after Max's step-grandmother, Elizabeth Cary Agassiz.

When Max died at the age of 77, Harry was in the process of completing his book, *Boys in Men's Shoes*. He dedicated the book to Max and Laura.

“In gratitude for their friendship, interest, help, and guidance. By their deeds they have bridged the gulf between plenty and need. Throughout the ages, love has been the preserver of mankind. Blessed is the nation whose wealth is in the hands of those who use it for the less fortunate.”

Harry also included the following note:

“While this manuscript was being finished Maximilian Agassiz passed away, on September 21, 1943. Since I wish him to live in this book, I have closed the chapters and the above Dedication without alluding to his departure. He was a kind, understanding man. His joy was in helping others. He deserves to live.”

LAURA MARGARET MAYNES AGASSIZ

(August 31, 1871 – September 13, 1959)

Laura Margaret Maynes was born on August 31, 1871, to Daniel and Margaret (Harrison) Maynes, a wealthy Boston family. She was engaged to Max Agassiz in 1913, twice, but each time the wedding was called off. Her first marriage was to “Hopalong Cassidy” actor William Lawrence “Bill” Boyd, on February 6, 1917, in Los Angeles, California. The marriage would not last, with the pair divorcing a few years later.

Max and Laura reunited in 1921, and much to the surprise of Boston and Newport social circles, were secretly married in Concord, New Hampshire on September 16, 1921.

Like Max, Laura was dedicated to helping the newsboys of Boston. Along with the many financial donations and gifts to the Burroughs Newsboys Foundation and Agassiz Village, she devoted much of her time to working directly with the boys. At the foundation, she held classes on vocabulary and writing. At Agassiz, she spent many hours at the camp talking to the boys and encouraging them.

Even after Max's death in 1943, Laura remained a fixture at Agassiz. She also was a champion to several newsboys, inviting them to her home for dinner, buying them clothes, and financing their college studies.

ALEXANDER EMMANUEL RODOLPHE AGASSIZ

(December 17, 1835 – March 27, 1910)

Alexander Agassiz, the son of famed biologist Louis and his wife, Cecile (Braun) Agassiz, was born in Neuchâtel, Switzerland, in 1835 and immigrated to the United States with his parents in 1846. He graduated from Harvard University in 1855, and two years later earned a Bachelor of Science degree in engineering and chemistry from the university's Lawrence Scientific School. He later worked as assistant curator in the Museum of Comparative Zoology that his father founded at Harvard.

Alexander was a noted scientist in his own right, specializing in marine ichthyology. He was elected a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences in 1862 and

served as president of the National Academy of Sciences, which since 1913 has awarded the Alexander Agassiz Medal in his memory. Though his father had discovered copper deposits in the Michigan copper district, it was Alexander who created the family fortune. Asked to take over the struggling Calumet Company, later known as the Calumet and Hecla Mining Company, his management expertise turned it into the leading copper producer in the United States from 1868 through 1886, and from 1869 through 1876, the leading copper producer in the world. From 1871 through 1880, Calumet and Hecla turned out more than half the copper produced in the United States. Through the last decades of the nineteenth century, the company paid out more than \$72 million in shareholder dividends, more than any other mining company in the United States during that period.

In 1873, Alexander acquired a small peninsula in Newport, Rhode Island, for the purpose of building a summer residence. Completed in 1875, it overlooked Narragansett Bay and included a laboratory where he could continue his scientific studies. Today it is known as the Inn at Castle Hill.

Alexander died in 1910 aboard the *RMS Adriatic* in route to New York after a trip to Egypt with his son, Maximilian. In 1935, Max donated the final \$10,000 needed to purchase the Agassiz Village property, asking that it be named for his father.

ELIZABETH CABOT CARY AGASSIZ

(December 5, 1822 – June 27, 1907)

Elizabeth Cabot Cary Agassiz was a visionary educator and advocate for women's higher education. Born on December 5, 1822, into a prominent Boston Brahmin family, she devoted her life to expanding academic opportunities for women, long before such efforts were widely supported or recognized.

In 1850, she married Louis Agassiz and became stepmother to his children, Alexander, Ida, and Pauline. Together, Elizabeth and Louis shared a passion for science and education. In 1855, they established a day school for girls in their Cambridge home, where prominent Harvard faculty—including James Russell Lowell and Benjamin Pierce—were invited to lecture. Elizabeth participated in major scientific expeditions alongside her husband, including a journey to Brazil (1865–1866) and the Hassler Expedition (1871–1872). She served as official recordkeeper on the latter and contributed accounts of the expedition to *The Atlantic Monthly*. Her own publications include *A First Lesson in Natural History* (1859) and *Geological Sketches* (1866).

In 1873, the Agassiz family founded the Anderson School of Natural History on Penikese Island.

A strong proponent of women's access to higher education, Elizabeth helped establish the Society for the Collegiate Instruction of Women in 1879—also known as the “Harvard Annex.” This initiative allowed qualified women to receive private instruction from Harvard professors, effectively offering an education comparable to that of Harvard College. Elizabeth served as chair of the Committee of Seven Lady Managers and became the society's first president.

Under her leadership and through her exceptional fundraising and diplomacy, the institution evolved. In 1894, it was officially chartered as Radcliffe College, named in honor of Ann Radcliffe, who endowed Harvard's first scholarship in 1643. Elizabeth served as president until 1899 and as honorary president until 1903. Her efforts secured access to a Harvard-level education for generations of women and laid the foundation for one of the most respected women's colleges in the country.

Elizabeth Agassiz's combination of intellect, leadership, and unwavering advocacy for educational equality left a lasting impact on American higher education.

Congrats!

Agassiz Village played a huge role in shaping the person I am today. It gave me confidence, lifelong friendships, and unforgettable memories.





People Who Have Shaped Agassiz Village

Agassiz Village has always been more than a camp—it is a community shaped by extraordinary individuals whose vision, dedication, and generosity have forged its incredible legacy. Over the decades, these figures have carried forward the mission of our founder, Harry Burroughs, ensuring that Agassiz Village remains a beacon of opportunity and transformation.



Herbert C. Fielding
Camp Director

When Harry Burroughs passed away in 1946, his nephew, Herbert C. Fielding, stepped in as Camp Director. Herbert's stewardship ensured that his uncle's vision

of providing a safe haven for under-resourced youth endured. With unwavering commitment, he navigated Agassiz through a pivotal period of transition, preserving the foundation laid by its founder.



Dr. Arthur Miller
Camp Director

A visionary leader, Dr. Arthur Miller began a major building program in 1953 to modernize camp facilities.

Under his leadership, outdated structures were replaced and remodeled, paving the way for a brighter and more sustainable future for Agassiz Village. His impact can still be felt in the camp's commitment to growth and continuous improvement.



Warren Burroughs Sr.
Board President

A devoted ambassador of Agassiz Village, the son of Harry Burroughs was the ultimate optimist, always sure

that what was around the next corner was going to be worth the journey. He had an astonishing number of friends from every walk of life, and was not shy about asking them all to support Agassiz Village. He and his sister Jean remained steadfast supporters of Agassiz throughout their lives, ensuring that their Dad's vision and legacy endured.



Nathan Miller
Board President and Philanthropist

From selling newspapers on Boston's streets as a young boy to becoming a wealthy philanthropist, Nathan

Miller's journey was deeply intertwined with the spirit of Agassiz Village. As a former newsboy supported by Harry Burroughs, Nathan later returned as President of Agassiz's Board. His leadership and financial contributions ensured the camp's survival during critical years. A recreational building once bore his name—a lasting tribute to his generosity—though it had to be removed recently for safety reasons. Nathan donated \$2 million to Suffolk University, which Harry Burroughs attended, to turn the site of the Burroughs Newsboys Foundation into a residential hall for Suffolk students.



Don Welch
Camp Director

Named Camp Director in 1972, Don Welch, along with his wife, Barbara, brought love, stability, and guidance to Agassiz Village for 25 years.

Alumni from this era fondly recall them as transformative figures who profoundly impacted their lives, both at camp and beyond. Barbara, affectionately known as "Camp Mom," provided unwavering care and support, making the camp feel like home for countless young people. Together, they left an indelible mark on Agassiz Village's history.



Warren Burroughs Jr.
Board Member

As the grandson of Harry Burroughs, Warren Burroughs carries forward a legacy rooted in vision, generosity, and enduring commitment. His long-standing involvement as a board member has helped to unlock critical funding and engage major donors, ensuring that Harry's original mission continues to thrive and grow. Today, Warren remains a vital part of our camp family through his leadership on the Golf Outing Committee, helping shape Agassiz's largest annual fundraiser. His calm, caring presence is felt deeply by staff and volunteers alike—always ready with a supportive word, a helping hand, or a thoughtful solution. Warren's quiet dedication and heartfelt connection to Agassiz Village are a living tribute to his grandfather's dream—a dream that still transforms lives every summer.



Christine Kenny
Board Member

From 2004 to 2018, Christine Kenny served on the Agassiz Village Board of Directors with heart, vision, and a deep commitment to expanding opportunity for every child we serve. Her leadership helped forge vital relationships, introducing several influential supporters to the Agassiz mission and strengthening our foundation for years to come. Christine's legacy is especially felt in our annual golf tournament, which she initiated with purpose and joy. Thanks to her drive—and her decision to bring on Dave Simmons—what began as a modest gathering has grown into a signature fundraiser that fuels transformative summers at camp. Christine's love for Agassiz is unmistakable. Her passion, advocacy, and enduring belief in the power of camp continue to inspire us.



Ron Fielding
Philanthropist

The legacy of Herbert C. Fielding continued through his son, Ron Fielding. As a young man, Ron received a small scholarship from Agassiz, which he later repaid with interest after achieving significant financial success. Since then, Ron has generously supported Agassiz Village with substantial annual gifts, providing a lifeline during challenging years. His contributions have been critical to keeping Agassiz afloat and thriving.



Dave Simmons
Benefactor

For decades, Dave Simmons has been an unwavering champion of Agassiz Village, dedicating his time and energy to ensuring that countless children and teens have the opportunity to experience the magic of camp. As the long-time Chair of the Golf Committee, Dave has been instrumental in organizing and leading the annual Agassiz Village Golf Tournament, which has raised over \$2 million to support the camp's mission. His dedication goes beyond fundraising—he embodies the spirit of community, generosity, and leadership that makes Agassiz Village thrive.



Leslie Hoyt
Board President

In 2018, Leslie Hoyt took on the role of Board President, ushering in a new chapter for Agassiz Village. In 2020, she hired Lisa Carter as Executive Director, and together they undertook a bold transformation of the organization. Overhauling board governance and revitalizing the camp program, they made remarkable strides toward reviving Agassiz Village. Leslie's leadership set the stage for significant growth before her sabbatical from the Board in 2022.



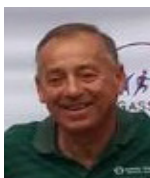
Theresa O'Brien
Board President

As Board President from 2022–2025, Theresa O'Brien launched a groundbreaking capital campaign to renovate over 40 camp buildings. She also led efforts to increase camper participation from 400 to nearly 600 children annually, laying the groundwork for a brighter future.



Ellen Corbett
Board Member

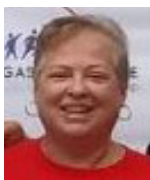
For more than forty years, Ellen Corbett has embodied the spirit of Agassiz Village. Starting as a camp counselor in the 1980s, her dedication has never wavered. From her active role on the alumni committee to serving over two decades on the Board of Directors, Ellen has been a constant source of wisdom, generosity, and hands-on support.



Rick & Nancy Glynn
Board Member, Ambassador

Rick and Nancy Glynn, siblings and lifelong champions of Agassiz Village, have been part of our story since the late 1970s when they first arrived as camp counselors. Their decades of dedication have left an indelible mark on our community—from leadership to laughter to late-night kitchen shifts. Rick served as a board member for several years, offering thoughtful guidance and rolling up his sleeves

at every annual volunteer weekend, where he is known for his hearty meals and warm hospitality. Nancy's vision and creativity have helped transform our former library into Serenity Cabin—a peaceful retreat where campers can rest, reflect, and recharge. Together, they're a force of generosity, always answering the call when help is needed. Whether hosting a comedy show fundraiser to restore our basketball courts, lending a hand in the kitchen, or bringing smiles to volunteer weekends, Rick and Nancy embody the spirit of Agassiz Village: steadfast, spirited, and deeply committed to making camp a place where every child thrives.



Agassiz Village owes its endurance and success to the vision, passion, and dedication of these remarkable individuals as well as many others. It truly takes a Village to shape the organization into what it is today, ensuring that thousands of youth have the opportunity to thrive and achieve their dreams.

We continue to grow and evolve while honoring Agassiz Village's history and legacy. We are committed to ensuring that the mission of Harry Burroughs lives on for generations to come.

We know there are so many others who have shaped, nurtured, and supported Agassiz Village over the last 90 years. We apologize for inadvertently omitting anyone.



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**In Memory of
WENDY ALISON HORN
Board Member, 2018–2025**

**Wendy's unwavering commitment to sending deserving children to
Agassiz Village was a beacon of hope and inspiration.**

**This garden stands as a tribute to her tireless work, boundless
compassion, and enduring legacy in the lives she touched and the
countless others who shared in her vision.**

A Legacy of Love and Impact: The Wendy Alison Horn Memorial Garden



Agassiz Village is built on a foundation of unwavering dedication, generosity, and belief in the power of opportunity. Among the many individuals who have shaped its legacy, Wendy Alison Horn stands as a beacon of hope, ensuring that countless children have had and will continue to have the chance to experience the magic of camp. As a Board Member from 2018 to 2025, Wendy's tireless commitment to sending deserving children to Agassiz Village was nothing short of extraordinary.

The Wendy Alison Horn Memorial Garden is a tribute to Wendy's boundless compassion, fierce advocacy, and lasting impact on the lives she touched. It is a space not only to honor her dedication but also to recognize those who, throughout Agassiz Village's 90-year history, have contributed to its mission and shaped its future. At the heart of this garden, stones bear the names of individuals whose leadership, generosity, and vision helped make Agassiz Village what it is today. From Harry E. Burroughs, our founder, to long-time

directors, board members, and advocates, each stone recognizes someone who played a pivotal role in ensuring that campers had a place where they could grow, thrive, and belong.

"Wendy believed deeply in the mission of Agassiz Village—that every child deserves to feel safe, supported, and empowered to reach their full potential," says Lisa Carter, Executive Director of Agassiz Village. "She worked tirelessly to make this possible, and her impact will never be forgotten. This garden is not only a tribute to Wendy but to all those whose love and generosity have shaped Agassiz Village's past and will continue to guide its future."

The Wendy Alison Horn Memorial Garden stands as a testament to the power of giving, the importance of community, and honors the legacy of those who have made Agassiz Village a home for so many. It is a space for reflection, gratitude, and inspiration—a reminder that the work of changing lives never stops, and that every act of kindness leaves a lasting mark. For Wendy, for all those honored here, and for the future generations who will carry this mission forward—we thank you.

ALUMNI PROFILE: CARLOS & LESLIE HOYT

Carlos and Leslie Hoyt have been associated with Agassiz Village for more than 40 years, dating back to the late 1970s when they arrived at camp as workers. Since then, they have been an integral part of the Agassiz family, serving in leadership roles and lending their tireless support to ensure that Agassiz remains a viable option for children in need.

Born in Costa Rica, Carlos Hoyt Jr. was four years old when his family moved to Boston. He grew up in Dorchester and spent his summers in Brooklyn with his aunt or in Dorchester playing basketball—until his older sister Sandra suggested to their parents that he should go to work at the summer camp from which she had just returned. Sandra was a student at Chapel Hill-Chauncy Hall, where Donald Welch, Agassiz Village’s camp director, was a beloved teacher and mentor. Realizing Sandra’s potential, Don brought her to Agassiz.

“She absolutely fell in love with it,” says Carlos. “When she came home, she told my parents, ‘Junior should go.’ I wasn’t thrilled. I was content spending my summers playing basketball and hanging out with friends. But at 17, I was sent to camp as part of the Workers Corps, the group responsible for taking care of the dining hall, the grounds, and all the behind-the-scenes needs of camp.”

Initially, Carlos was bitter about being taken away from his friends and care-free summers. But it didn’t take long for Agassiz to win him over. “Even at that age, I could see the value in what was happening around me. Before I knew it, the summer was over, I had made close friends, and I found myself crying because I didn’t want to leave.”

He returned the next summer as a CIT (Counselor-in-Training), and then as a junior counselor, a counselor, and eventually a section leader. In all, he spent 10 summers at Agassiz.

“I can say, without hesitation, that those summers were among the most important, valuable, and transformative experiences of my life—second only to family,” Carlos says. “Agassiz was an ideal version of the world where people from different backgrounds lived, worked, and grew up together—a place where you experienced what community could be. The camp served a population of children who were often underserved or disadvantaged, but there was a real spectrum—racially, socioeconomically, culturally—among both campers and staff. For some kids, camp is a fun summer escape. But for many of us, it was life changing.”

Life-changing in not only how it shaped his worldview, but also how it came to shape his life. During his second summer at camp, Carlos met a camp counselor named Leslie Dalrymple. They have been married for 38 years and have two children, Lauren and Evan and their new babies, Maxwell and Nora Jay, respectively.

“I learned about Agassiz Village on my own,” says Leslie. “I grew up in Rhode Island in a home that was not safe. I shared that fact with a librarian, telling her that I needed to get out of the house for the summer. She gave me a big thick book from the American Camping Association, and I saw Agassiz Village in it.”

After Leslie and the librarian discovered that Agassiz helped kids overcome whatever they were struggling with at the time, they agreed the camp would be a great fit. So, Leslie wrote a personal letter to Don Welch, got an interview, and got a job. Like Carlos, it was a transformative experience.

“It was like I woke up in one place and landed in another where no one looked like me,” she says. “I had come from an all-White racialized community and it was just a whole new world—but one that accepted me. I felt safe. I thrived.”

Leslie worked at Agassiz for nine years, finishing high school and college during that time. Her experience working with children at Agassiz led her to switch her college major to Social Work, earning a B.A. and then a master’s degree from Boston University School of Social Work.

Carlos also pursued a career in social work. After earning a B.A. in Psychology from Wesleyan University in Connecticut, he began work on a Ph.D. in Philosophy at the University of Chicago; however, he quickly realized that he wanted to work with people more directly. He returned to Boston and earned a master’s degree in Social Work from Boston University and, eventually, completed his Ph.D. at Simmons. Today



LESLIE AND CARLOS MET AT AGASSIZ AND HAVE BEEN MARRIED FOR 38 YEARS.

he works in areas related to DEI and has published two books—*The Arc of a Bad Idea: Understanding & Transcending Race* and *Diversity Without Divisiveness: A Guide to DEI Practice for K-12 Educators*.

Though their lives became busy with their careers and starting a family, both Carlos and Leslie were committed to keeping in touch with Agassiz because of the bonds that had been formed there, both friendships and family traditions. Carlos' younger brother Kevin, who has autism, attended Agassiz for a few summers, and Leslie's twin, Laurie, younger sister Cheryl, and younger brother Martin all attended Agassiz as well.

"Like so many families," says Carlos, "we became one of those that started with one person attending, and then it just grew because camp was such a powerful place to be."

What made it powerful for Carlos and Leslie can be attributed to one towering figure in Agassiz history: Don Welch. Don and his wife, Barbara, were "parents" to a generation of campers and counselors and their influence can still be felt today.

"We dealt with challenging situations and challenging kids, but we also learned how to lead, how to collaborate,

and how to bring out the best in each other," says Carlos. "Every generation of Agassiz alumni probably believes their cohort had the best time and I'm no exception. Leslie and I were there during what I see as a 'Golden Age' when Agassiz was evolving from old-school methods into a more intentional, disciplined, and culturally rich environment under Don's leadership. It was a place that expected the best from everyone—and most of the time, kids rose to meet those expectations."

Don was such an influence that Carlos dedicated one of his books to him: "Revered teacher, coach, mentor, father, and friend—who didn't come from where I came from but brought me to a place where I could discover where I was going."

Carlos and Leslie took the leadership lessons taught to them by Don in serving Agassiz as Board members. Carlos served on the Board for a few years, while Leslie, after agreeing to fill an open vice president position, was elected Board president and served in that role from 2018 to 2022, a pivotal time in the camp's history.

"It was during a time of change for Agassiz Village," says Leslie. "Before I could blink, I found myself trying to manage finance, accounting, and transitions in the Board and staff. It

was pretty close to a full-time job—and a stressful one.”

Adding to that stress was COVID. The pandemic hit a year after Leslie took over the role, and she had to navigate through the closure of the physical camp and pivot to a virtual camp. Luckily, she had hired Executive Director Lisa Carter, a move she considers to be one of the two major accomplishments of her tenure.

“All of that change was very hard, but it was worthwhile,” Leslie says. “Bringing on Lisa—our partnership couldn’t have been any stronger. We worked to figure it out together. We had to make the really hard decision to close the camp for the first time and it was heartbreaking.”

The following summer was not any easier. Although the camp opened for the season, there was a marked change in the staff and counselors. “Folks just didn’t have their camp legs. We had been home and shut in and the people brought a lot of feelings and tiredness and frustration from all of that. That first summer of camp after COVID was tough. But we survived and I am overjoyed to see camp doing what it’s doing now.”

Leslie’s other major accomplishment was bringing her younger sister, Cheryl Dalrymple, back into the Agassiz family as a Board member. Cheryl is a beloved member who participates on several

committees, including the 90th Anniversary Celebration, and is a very generous supporter of the camp.

And while it may not make her top 2 accomplishments, Leslie was also instrumental in bringing the crew from the DIY series *Maine Cabin Masters* to Agassiz to repair the gazebo and take on some other much-needed tasks.

“They’re as nice in person as they are on that show,” says Leslie. “They’re just the sweetest people—the production team, everyone. It was wonderful. And they did a lot more than what was shown on the episode!”

For Leslie and Carlos, their experiences as workers, counselors, volunteers, fundraisers, and Board leaders have given them lasting memories and a forever connection to Agassiz. And although they learned much about themselves through their involvement with Agassiz, there is one lesson in particular that continues to resonate:

“Agassiz taught us that coming together doesn’t have to compete with where you come from,” says Carlos. “It gave us a structure that helped us rise above the divisions the world struggles with. That, to me, is Agassiz’s greatest power and promise.”

CONGRATULATIONS ON 90 AMAZING YEARS!



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“In this work, love and understanding of these [children] does more toward lifting their spirits. I wish that it were possible to put into words these intangible benefits that the Village offers to these [children], and the good that they are deriving from them. If that could be understood properly, you and others who are supporting our work would have much happiness in the knowledge that you are participating in helping them in becoming happier children.”

— Harry E. Burroughs, 1946

ALUMNI PROFILE: STEPHEN BARNIBAS



STEPHEN WITH KING CHARLES AND QUEEN CAMILLA IN 2022

In the summer of 1991, a wide-eyed 18-year-old named Stephen Barnibas stepped through the gates of Agassiz Village for the first time.

Fresh off a solo journey from London, he arrived with a suitcase full of nerves and dreams—and unknowingly began a journey that would shape the course of his life and touch thousands more.

Assigned to Cabin 2 in the Rangers Section, Stephen dove headfirst into camp life as a counselor for Rhythm and Drama. His accent quickly became a playful target among his campers, but laughter broke the ice and forged the first threads of belonging. That summer, the Agassiz Olympics sparked his competitive spirit, and the skits in the dining hall became his stage for creativity, connection, and purpose.

Stephen would return to Agassiz for six unforgettable summers, eventually leading the Rangers and his beloved

drama program. But the most enduring lesson he carried wasn't theatrical—it was deeply human.

"Each moment with a young person was so valuable," he reflects. "You might not be there to witness the impact of your words, but they matter. You matter."

That revelation ignited a calling. When Stephen returned to the UK, he left behind dreams of acting and marketing to become a residential social worker.

Over three decades later, his work in youth engagement has spanned social services, youth justice, and—after a tragic personal loss—the founding of Project Zero WF, a community youth center devoted to preventing youth violence and promoting inclusion.

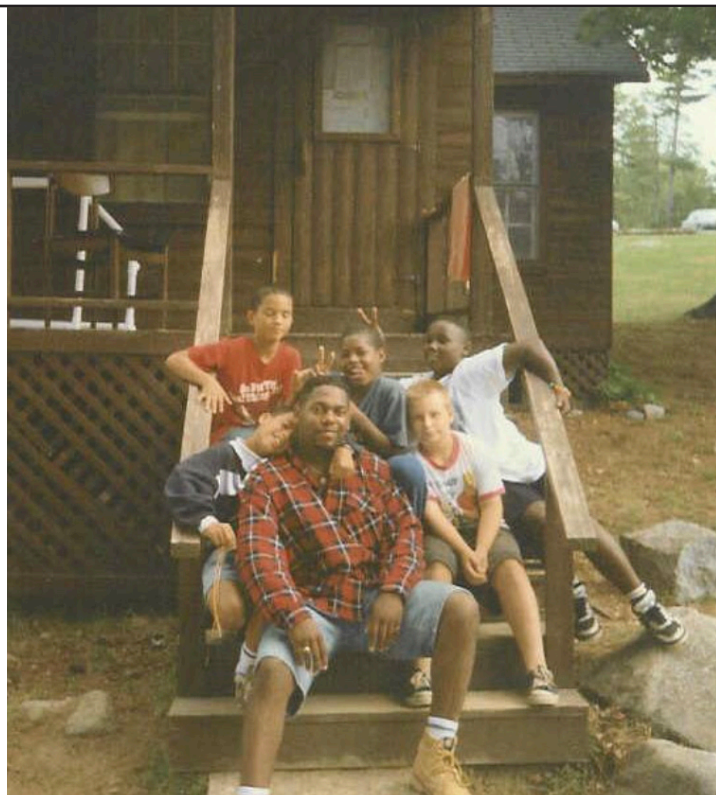
In 2022, King Charles and Queen Camilla visited the center to recognize its remarkable success. In April 2025, Stephen received the British Empire Medal for his service to young people.

From cabin counselor to community changemaker, Stephen credits Agassiz Village as his turning point. “It gave me clarity, a foundation, and the belief that I could make a difference.”

Now the proud father to seven children—many raised through fostering—and a grandfather of seven, Stephen embodies the Agassiz spirit: nurturing, courageous, and transformational.

His story is not just one of success, but of full-circle impact—proof that a single summer can launch a lifetime of purpose.

From cabin counselor to community changemaker, Stephen credits Agassiz Village as his turning point. “It gave me clarity, a foundation, and the belief that I could make a difference.”



STEPHEN AT AGASSIZ VILLAGE

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CAMPER PROFILE: THE SIBLINGS



Among the current campers at Agassiz Village are three sisters and a brother who have faced some serious issues in their young lives: homelessness, food insecurity, and the fear of separation.

Meet Biadorina, Mourino, Dorline, and Jessica. Since 2022, they have become a treasured part of the Agassiz Village family, bringing joy to campers and staff alike.

The story of how they came to camp is this:

To escape the violence in their native land of the Democratic Republic of Congo, the children's father brought his family to America. Their mother was unable to join them at the time.

Arriving in Portland, Maine, the family was given shelter in the basement of a church. However, that arrangement was only meant to be temporary. The father had been frantically trying to find a job and other accommodations where his children could stay, but was having no luck at all. The day before they

had to move out, he pleaded for help, not wanting his children to be separated and sent to different shelters.

The school coordinator at Portland Public Schools contacted Agassiz Village asking if the children could stay for a week while their father searched for another place to live.

Agassiz Village was able to welcome the children to camp not just for one week, but for the entire summer. The siblings were together, in a safe environment, with cozy beds, three meals a day, and a host of staff and counselors caring for them.

Since then, Biadorina, Mourino, Dorline, and Jessica have returned to Agassiz Village each summer. They are happy and they are thriving, and their father now has a network of friends and supporters who care about his family.

The siblings were facing an uncertain future when they first

arrived in America. But thanks to the support of Agassiz Village, they were given a safe haven to call home, stability, nourishment, and hope when they needed it most.

Since coming to Agassiz, Mourino has joyfully participated in camp activities, with soccer his favorite sport to play. He has learned how to swim, progressing from a red band (shallow end) to a yellow band (5-foot-deep area). His goal this year is to earn the coveted green band (deep zone).

What he loves best, though, is being in the company of the many friends he has made during his summers here. He treasures the time he can spend with them.

Dorline can be seen enthusiastically running around the athletic field playing soccer, engaging in arts and crafts, and hanging out at the waterfront, where she first learned to swim.

But her favorite spot? That is the dining hall. Each day she excitedly waits in line for breakfast, lunch, and dinner,

wondering what the chef has on the menu for the day.

For Biadorina, being with her brother and sisters is what makes her happiest. Very quiet and withdrawn when she first came to camp, she has since embraced camp life and all its activities, secure in the knowledge that her siblings are always nearby.

For big sister Jessica, summer brings great joy. Seeing the huge smiles on her younger siblings' faces as they stroll into camp fills her with such happiness. She is grateful that Agassiz not only allows them to be together during the summer, but also that they can put their worries aside and just have fun—as kids are supposed to do.

We know that Biadorina, Mourino, Dorline, and Jessica will be back with us for several years to come. In fact, Mourino has already stated that when he gets older and has progressed through Agassiz' overnight camp, he would like to be a counselor and help other kids like him!



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PARENT PROFILE: TRACEY BANKS



THREE OF TRACEY'S CHILDREN AT AGASSIZ

Twelve years ago, while searching online for summer camps, one mother stumbled upon Agassiz Village—and it has changed her family's life ever since.

As a devoted mom to nine children—five adopted and four biological—Tracey Banks was looking for a place that was more than just a camp. She needed a safe, supportive, and joyful environment where her kids could grow, have fun, and be understood.

“Some of my children have ADHD and anxiety,” she explains. “What made Agassiz different is they didn’t send my kids home after the first challenge. They worked with them. They cared.”

With a large family, sending even one child to camp can be financially overwhelming, let alone nine. But Agassiz made it possible for every one of her kids to attend, year after year.

“That support meant everything,” she says. “They got to have fun, make friends, and be kids.”

The changes she’s seen in her children since attending Agassiz have been remarkable.

“When they come back from Agassiz, they’re kinder, more patient with each other, and more interested in helping others—especially kids with disabilities.”

Her children—Milloy, Milon, Jaicion, Azareya, Jenyha, Amiyah, Adrien, and Adonnys—have all been deeply impacted by their summers at Agassiz. Some of them now count down the days until they’re old enough to become counselors themselves.

Last year, Milloy and Milon stepped into that role. “They absolutely loved it,” Tracey says. “They loved getting the kids up in the morning, making the day exciting, and

helping them settle down at night. If they weren't busy with sports this summer, they'd be back in a heartbeat."

She's also noticed the camp improving year after year.

"My kids used to complain about the food—but now they say it's great! The staff has always been kind and supportive, and the campus just keeps getting more beautiful."

For this mom, Agassiz is more than just a camp—it's an essential part of her family's year.

"My kids look forward to it every summer. And me? I get a much-needed break to recharge for the school year—because nine different personalities takes a lot of energy!"

When asked to describe Agassiz Village in one word, she can't pick just one:

"Awesome! Wonderful! There's not one word—you all are just getting better and better every year. Kids are lucky to have you. I know my family—the Banks family—is."



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90th Anniversary!**
We look forward to seeing all you achieve this year.



SUMMER PROGRAMS

Agassiz's Transformative Summer Camp



Agassiz Village's summer programs are more than just camp—they are sanctuaries where children and teens find joy, support, and the tools they need to thrive. Our Overnight Summer Camp Program and iTHRIVE Summer Program provide transformative experiences that help youth build resilience, leadership, and social-emotional skills, leaving them better prepared to face life's challenges and seize its opportunities.

Overnight Summer Camp Program (Ages 8–13)

For children in the Overnight Summer Camp Program, every day is a chance to explore new horizons, make lifelong friendships, and grow into confident individuals. Through activities like hiking, swimming, canoeing, ropes courses, climbing walls, creative arts, field sports, and archery, campers learn teamwork, communication, and perseverance.

Our integration of social-emotional learning (SEL) sets this program apart, enabling campers to develop critical life skills in a safe and fun environment.

The impact is most powerfully illustrated through personal stories like Kaili's:

"Throughout my summers at Agassiz, I've noticed that it has shaped me in many ways. It has pushed me to work on my advocacy and leadership skills, shaping my understanding of myself and the world around me in profound ways. The camp's diverse array of activities plays a crucial role in my personal development. For example, in arts & crafts, I've learned to be confident in expressing myself. I love to be creative and let my ideas come to life. In archery, I've learned to be courageous and determined and to keep trying even

when things get tough. In rope climbing, I'm able to show the daredevil side of me while also cheering on my peers. In performing arts, you can often find me singing on the microphone as if I'm performing at a concert. And during water activities, I feel the most joy. I've learned how to fish, how to sail a boat, how to snorkel, and this summer, how to dive! These experiences have taught me resilience and self-confidence, and I have realized that I am capable of much more than I had previously known."

iTHRIVE Summer Program (Ages 14–17)

The iTHRIVE Summer Program builds on the foundation of the overnight camp, challenging teens to become leaders in their communities and role models for their peers. Through activities such as goal setting, teamwork, compromise, and community service, teens grow into thoughtful, collaborative, and determined individuals. iTHRIVE helps teens turn dreams into achievable plans.

For Alijah, this program was transformative:

"At 16, Agassiz Village showed me that heroes weren't far-off figures—they were the counselors and staff helping me feel happy and safe even when things were hard at home. That summer, I set my goal to return as a staff member to help other kids, just like those counselors helped me. This summer, as Activities Director, I taught kids who didn't like participating to try new things. Watching them grow made me prouder than ever. I finally feel like I'm doing something meaningful with my life."

The Power of Social and Emotional Learning (SEL)

Agassiz Village's enhanced SEL curriculum is woven into every aspect of camp life, enabling youth to ACT:

- **Achieve:** Campers learn critical thinking and perseverance, connecting daily actions to long-term goals.
- **Connect:** Campers develop social awareness and teamwork, forming supportive relationships that extend beyond camp.
- **Thrive:** Campers master self-regulation, understanding their emotions and owning their actions.

This framework enables campers to grow measurably in SEL skills such as communication, empathy, and decision-making.

Changing Lives, Building Futures

At Agassiz Village, every camper is given the opportunity to grow, connect, and thrive, no matter what their background.

For children living in poverty, facing instability at home, or navigating other challenges, this camp is a lifeline—a place to feel safe, valued, and empowered to dream big.

Through the generosity of donors and the dedication of staff,

Agassiz Village ensures that youth can access these life-changing experiences for free or at deeply discounted rates. Every camper leaves with new skills, deeper connections, and the confidence to navigate life's journey.

Agassiz Village changes lives. Changes families. Changes communities.



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YEAR-ROUND iTHRIVE PROGRAM

Empowering Teen Leaders



In 2021, Agassiz Village expanded its transformative mission with the launch of the iTHRIVE Year-Round Program. Recognizing the need for connection and impact beyond the summer, this initiative was created to support teens year-round, empowering them with leadership skills, emotional intelligence, and the tools they need to thrive.

The foundation of iTHRIVE lies in its name—a set of values that nurture personal growth and community engagement:

- **T - Trustworthiness and Teamwork:** Teens learn to value trust and teamwork as essential elements of leadership and personal success.
- **H - Heart and Humility:** By fostering empathy and humility, teens are taught the importance of understanding others and valuing diverse perspectives.
- **R - Resilience and Responsibility:** Skills in resilience help youth overcome challenges, while responsibility ensures they take ownership of their decisions and actions.

- **I - Inspiration and Inclusivity:** iTHRIVE inspires teens to embrace inclusivity, welcoming diverse voices and creating a supportive environment for all.
- **V - Vision and Values:** Encouraging personal growth and ethical leadership, teens develop vision and values to guide their futures.
- **E - Emotional Intelligence and Empowerment:** Teens gain emotional intelligence to understand and manage emotions while empowering themselves to create positive change.

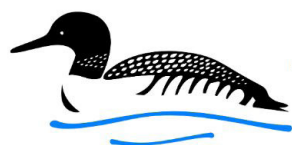
The year-round iTHRIVE program builds on the principles established during summer camp and transforms them into deeper, sustained development. Teens participate in workshops, community service initiatives, and leadership training, all designed to equip them for success in school, careers, and their personal lives.

Expanding Horizons and Building a Community
iTHRIVE is more than an enrichment program—it's a blueprint for building the leaders of tomorrow. Teens

enrolled in iTHRIVE set goals, learn decision-making strategies, and cultivate teamwork skills that are vital for their success.

In addition to the hands-on activities, iTHRIVE is paving the way for exciting future developments. Agassiz Village envisions the construction of a dedicated teen community center, a permanent hub for iTHRIVE and summer programming. This space will offer expanded resources, such as mentoring opportunities, group collaboration zones, and leadership workshops, helping teens create meaningful connections and engage in impactful work.

As we continue to build on the enrollment of this program, iTHRIVE remains at the heart of Agassiz Village's mission—to ensure that every teen has the opportunity to grow, lead, and thrive.



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Why Agassiz Village Is Important Today



For many children, opportunities like a summer camp experience can be the foundation for lifelong success. At Agassiz Village, we believe every child deserves a safe and nurturing environment to grow, learn, and unlock their full potential. For nearly 90 years, we have been a sanctuary for children from under-resourced communities, offering them access to opportunities often reserved for those with greater means.

A Safe Haven for the Most Vulnerable

Agassiz Village serves children who face extraordinary challenges in their daily lives:

- 31% of campers are refugees, homeless, in foster care, or have an incarcerated parent
- 92% of campers live in poverty
- 87% of campers identify as a race other than white

In these statistics lies the story of why Agassiz is so vital. For children living in poverty, opportunities for enrichment are rare, and the barriers to access are many. Families often cannot afford participation fees, and transportation to programs is another hurdle. Yet these opportunities can be life-changing.

“When kids get off the bus at camp, their faces are filled with joy at seeing their friends after a long school year,” says Lisa Carter, Executive Director of Agassiz Village. “They’re relieved knowing they’ll have a warm bed, three healthy meals, and a place to call home for two, four, or six weeks. And they find comfort in knowing Agassiz Village is a safe place filled with positive role models ready to help support them.”

The Cost of Lost Opportunities

A groundbreaking study by the American Educational Research Association in 2024 revealed that access to enrichment opportunities like music, sports, and summer camps can help overcome issues of poverty and lead to success. The study followed 814 children from birth to age 26 and found stark disparities in opportunity:

- Most affluent children had access to 10 or more enrichment opportunities by adulthood, while low-income children often had only one.
- For low-income children, gaining access to just four opportunities increased their chances of graduating college from 10% to 50% and boosted their annual earnings by approximately \$10,000.

But the barriers remain significant. Youth of color are only one-third as likely as their peers to participate in outdoor programming, and middle-class children are eight times more likely to engage in enrichment activities outside of school hours. This disparity perpetuates cycles of inequality, depriving low-income youth of the very experiences that could alter the trajectory of their lives.

Breaking Barriers with Agassiz Village

At Agassiz, we break down the barriers of affordability and access. Thanks to the generosity of our donors, 100% of our campers attend at little to no cost. Free round-trip transportation ensures that every child can make it to camp, no matter where they come from. Agassiz is one of the few summer camps in New England offering this kind of experience to children from diverse and underprivileged backgrounds.

Here, children discover more than just the joys of outdoor exploration—they learn critical life skills, develop leadership abilities, and build confidence. From our summer camp to our year-round iTHRIVE program, Agassiz equips youth with tools to graduate



high school and pursue higher education or fulfilling careers.

Changing Lives, Changing Futures

The impact of Agassiz extends far beyond its 330-acre lakeside property in Poland, Maine. Agassiz changes lives, changes families, changes communities. Children leave camp with the friendships, mentorship, and self-belief that fuel their growth and success.



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“Our programs are more than just summer activities,” Carter says. “They’re investments in the potential of every child who steps off the bus. Every meal, every workshop, every smile—it all starts here at Agassiz, a place where kids have the freedom to simply be kids and dream big about their future.”

Despite our efforts, every year, there is a waiting list—a reminder that there are still children left behind, unable to access opportunities they so desperately need. We refuse to settle for this reality.

Our Plan for a Better Tomorrow

To ensure that no child is left behind, Agassiz Village has launched an ambitious \$8 million capital campaign to restore and renovate over 40 camp buildings and to expand access and enhance the camper experience.

With the continued support of our donors, the Heart of the Village Capital Campaign will be the most significant undertaking in our 90-year history and will be the transformative catalyst Agassiz Village needs to continue its legacy long into the future to ensure that all children receive the opportunities they deserve.



BMW Riders of Southern Maine

would like to congratulate
Agassiz Village
on 90 years of helping
children reach their dreams

Our group loves hosting our annual event at Agassiz Village! It has been an amazing partnership and we look forward to many more years to come!

The BMW Riders of Southern Maine were founded in 1988, and are proud to be Charter Club #183 of the BMW Motorcycle Owners of America, as well as Charter Club #206 of the BMW Riders Association. Although the Club is "BMW-centric", we are also "brand agnostic", and we welcome ANY AND ALL motorcycle enthusiasts, regardless of what brand of motorcycle they ride.



THANK YOU *Agassiz Village!*

for enriching the lives of countless
children over the last 90 years.

Here's to the next 90!

The Leary Family

Wishing you
much success!

Ellen Andre



Jay Antonetti
Silk Screen & Embroidery Services



Phone:

978-732-6357

Email:

jay@jasportsapparel.com

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The Future of Agassiz Village

The Heart of the Village Capital Campaign



A NEW TEEN ENRICHMENT CENTER IS PLANNED AS PART OF THE CAPITAL CAMPAIGN. IT WILL BE A HUB FOR LEADERSHIP, COLLABORATION, AND LEARNING.

Agassiz Village has always been more than just a summer camp. For nearly 90 years, it has been a place where dreams are nurtured, where every child and teen—no matter their background—has the chance to grow, thrive, and unlock their full potential. As we celebrate this incredible milestone, we are not just looking back at all that we have accomplished, but forward, to the exciting possibilities that lie ahead.

The future of Agassiz Village is bright, filled with opportunities to create an even greater impact on the lives of the young people we serve. As executive director, I feel an immense sense of pride in what we've achieved so far and an equally strong determination to take our mission to new heights. Together, we have already made great strides, but there is so much more we can do.

When I see the joy in the faces of campers as they step off the bus, it reminds me why we do this work. We are not

just providing a camp experience—we are opening doors to opportunity, to self-discovery, and to belonging. That's why the future of Agassiz matters—it's about continuing to change lives, one camper at a time.

What's Next for Agassiz Village?

We are embarking on an ambitious journey to ensure that every child and teen has access to transformative opportunities. Here's what lies ahead:

1. Expansion of the Overnight Summer Camp Program

We continue to increase enrollment in our summer program year over year, and it is our hope to restore several cabins and build one new cabin so we can serve even more kids each summer.

2. Expansion of the iTHRIVE Year-Round Program

As we grow enrollment in our year-round iTHRIVE program, we envision creating a dedicated Teen Community

Center at camp—a hub for leadership, collaboration, and learning. This new space will empower teens to engage in meaningful projects, connect with peers, and build the skills needed to succeed in school, careers, and beyond.

3. The Camp Restoration Plan

Our ambitious four-phase Camp Restoration Plan will breathe new life into over 40 camp buildings, ensuring that every camper has the best possible experience in an environment that is safe, inspiring, and conducive to growth. These renovations are not just about infrastructure—they are an investment in the future of our youth.

It's not just about buildings; it's about what happens inside them. Every cabin, every dining hall meal, every campfire represents moments where campers discover their strengths and connect with others. Restoring and modernizing Agassiz means ensuring hope and possibility for generations to come.

As the need for programs like Agassiz grows, we remain committed to ensuring that no child is left behind. We aim to increase camper participation from 600 annually to even

more, breaking down barriers and making our life-changing programs accessible to all.

Our focus will remain on creating not just summer memories, but lifelong skills and connections. Whether it's through our enhanced social-emotional learning (SEL) curriculum, expanded leadership opportunities, or a supportive community of mentors, we are ensuring that every camper leaves Agassiz with the tools to succeed in life.

Our Board President, Ben Kern, sums it up best: "Agassiz is more than a moment in a child's life—it's a launchpad for their future. Every camper who finds their voice, builds resilience, and learns to lead here carries those skills with them for a lifetime. That's the legacy we're building. Agassiz changes lives, changes families, and changes communities. The next 90 years will be about deepening this impact, strengthening our programs, and giving every young person the chance to shine. Thank you for being part of this journey—our best days are still ahead."

Together, we can ensure that every child, every teen, and every family continues to feel the transformative power of this special place.



Happy 90th
Agassiz Village!



Wishing you much fun,
friendship, and happy camping
in the years ahead!

The students and staff of
Poland Regional High School



It Takes a Village—And You Are the Heart of It!

As you've read through the pages of this book, you've seen the extraordinary people who have shaped Agassiz Village over the past 90 years. Their passion, dedication, and generosity have kept our mission alive. But this Village is not built on history alone—it is sustained by those who continue to believe in its power.

With Your Help, More Children Can Experience the Magic of Agassiz Village

Agassiz Village is more than a camp—it is a life-changing opportunity for children who would otherwise never experience the joy of summer camp, the confidence gained from leadership programs, or the lifelong friendships that shape their futures.

For nearly a century, we have provided a safe, nurturing environment where kids can grow, dream, and thrive. But we can't do it alone. Agassiz Village relies on the generosity of people like you—people who believe that every child deserves the chance to succeed, no matter their circumstances.

You Can Be the Difference

Your support ensures that Agassiz Village remains a place of belonging, transformation, and possibility for generations to come. Consider making a gift today to ensure that a deserving child gets to experience the joy, adventure, and growth that only Agassiz Village can provide.

Scan the QR code to donate now—every dollar makes a difference.

Join us in making history. Your generosity today will shape the next 90 years and beyond.

Thank you for being part of Our Village and Our Vision—and for keeping Harry Burroughs' legacy alive and ensuring a bright future for Agassiz Village.





Agassiz Village Founded by Mr. & Mrs. Harry E. Burroughs

HEADQUARTERS

9 Vernon Street
Framingham, MA 01701

SUMMER CAMP

71 Agassiz Village Lane
Poland, ME 04274

781-860-0200

www.agassizvillage.org