

90

Years of Preparing Kids for Life's Journey
Honoring Our Past. Building Their Futures



2025 ANNUAL REPORT

A Milestone Year

For 90 Summers Agassiz Village Has Been More Than a Camp...

It's been a launching pad for life. Since 1935, we've welcomed thousands of young people into a community rooted in belonging, challenge, and joy. Here, kids discover their strengths, build lasting friendships, and begin to envision futures filled with possibility.

This milestone year is a celebration of all who've walked our trails, sung around our campfires, and grown through our programs. It's also a recommitment to the generations ahead — to creating safe spaces where every child feels seen, supported, and inspired.

As you read this report, we invite you to reflect on the legacy we've built together and the future we're shaping — one camper, one summer, one life-changing experience at a time.



From Our Executive Director



Dear Friends,

2025 marked a milestone year for Agassiz Village — our 90th anniversary — and with it came a profound reminder of why this place has mattered for generations of children. At its heart, Agassiz Village has always been a refuge: a home away from home where young people can step out of the challenges they face and step into possibility.

This year, I was especially moved by two young siblings who arrived at camp after spending months living with their family in a box truck outside a Home Depot. At camp, they weren't defined by homelessness. They weren't worrying about where they would sleep or what they would eat. They were simply kids — laughing, swimming, making friends, and discovering parts of themselves that hardship had pushed into the background. Their story is not an exception. Many of our campers come to us navigating homelessness, food insecurity, parental incarceration, poverty, or the pressures of gangs and community violence. Here, they find safety, stability, and belonging.

Our 90th Anniversary Celebration brought this full circle. Alumni returned to campus — now teachers, social workers, parents, and community leaders — and shared how Agassiz Village shaped their lives. They reminded us that what happens here doesn't end when summer ends. It echoes forward.

As we look to the future, I am filled with optimism. Thanks to a successful launch of our \$8 million Heart of the Village capital campaign, we will begin renovating every cabin on campus, ensuring that our children have the facilities they deserve. We are also embarking on a new strategic planning process with the Harvard Community Action Partners (CAP), positioning us for even greater impact over the next five years. And because the need among teens is urgent and undeniable, we are expanding our iTHRIVE leadership program so more young people can build the confidence, resilience, and purpose that will carry them into adulthood.

Ninety years in, Agassiz Village remains what it has always been: a place where children can breathe, grow, and imagine a future that feels within reach. Thank you for standing with us, for believing in our mission, and for helping us ensure that every child who comes through our gates leaves with hope — and the tools to build a brighter tomorrow.

With gratitude and warm wishes for the year ahead,

Lisa Carter

Where We Started...to Today

1903



After running away from his home in Russia, 12-year-old Harry Burroughs arrives alone in America. He survives by becoming a newsboy in Boston. Eight years later he wins a scholarship to the Suffolk School of Law.

1927



Harry never forgets his life as a newsboy. After building a successful law practice, he buys the old Elks Lodge at 10 State Street in Boston and establishes the Burroughs Newsboys Foundation.

1935



Wanting his boys to have a summer home where they could experience the beauty of nature, Harry enlists the help of philanthropist Maximilian Agassiz, who gives him the final \$10,000 needed to buy a 330 acre camp in Poland, Maine, which becomes Agassiz Village.

1938



Work begins on Agassiz's iconic dining hall. Although the original architect estimated 60,000 feet of logs would be needed, the final amount was 250,000 feet. The hall opened on July 8, 1939. The total cost of the build was \$38,000.

1946



Herbert C. Fielding becomes Director upon the death of his uncle, Harry Burroughs. He would go on to lead the camp until 1953.

1957



A program for boys with varying abilities is established with the first group of campers coming from the Cotting School for Handicapped Children in Boston.

1935-2025

1962



Agassiz Village receives a check in the amount of \$250 from a longtime supporter of the camp—John F. Kennedy, who at the time was serving in office as the 35th President of the United States.

1973



A new era for Agassiz is ushered in when the camp invites girls to be campers. Over the next fifty years, girls will comprise nearly half of the total camper population.

1984



First Lady of the United States Nancy Reagan is given a rousing welcome by campers, staff, and guests when she visits Agassiz. Mrs. Reagan tours the campus and spends time with campers.

2019



Agassiz Village is featured on the DIY Network show *Maine Cabin Masters*. Chase and his crew add a brand-new floor to the gazebo, update a camper cabin, contribute a new totem pole, and much more.

2020



New leadership and a 5 year plan for the future establishing a year-round program for teens, creating a new facility master plan and launching an \$8 million capital campaign for the future of Agassiz Village.

2025



Agassiz Village celebrates 90 years of preparing over 45,000 youth for success in life. The iconic celebration includes unveiling the new history walk, Wendy Horn Memorial Garden and commemorative video.



Summer 1991

How Agassiz Village Shaped a Lifetime of Purpose

Stephen Barnibus: From Rhythm & Drama to Royal Recognition

In the summer of 1991, an 18-year-old named Stephen Barnibus stepped through the gates of Agassiz Village for the very first time. Fresh off a solo flight from London, he arrived with a suitcase full of nerves, ambition, and possibility—**unaware that the path he was about to walk would shape not only his future, but the futures of thousands of young people.**

Assigned to Cabin 2 in the Rangers Section, Stephen threw himself into camp life as the Rhythm and Drama counselor. His British accent quickly became a source of playful teasing from his campers, but laughter soon turned into connection, and connection into belonging. The Agassiz Olympics awakened his competitive spark, while the dining hall skits became his stage for creativity, confidence, and community.

Stephen returned to Agassiz for six unforgettable summers, eventually leading both the Rangers and his beloved drama program. Yet the lesson that stayed with him wasn't about performance—it was about people.

“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 insight became his compass. When Stephen returned to the UK, he set aside earlier dreams of acting and marketing and stepped into the world of youth work. Over the next three decades, he built a career rooted in service—spanning residential social work, youth justice, and ultimately, the founding of Project Zero WF, a community youth center created in response to a devastating personal loss. Its mission: prevent youth violence, build inclusion, and give young people a safe place to grow.

Project Zero's impact has been extraordinary. In 2022, King Charles and Queen Camilla visited the center to recognize its achievements. In April 2025, Stephen was awarded the British Empire Medal for his service to young people.

Through every milestone, he carries Agassiz Village with him.

“It gave me clarity, a foundation, and the belief that I could make a difference.”

Today, Stephen is the proud father of seven children—many welcomed through fostering—and a grandfather of seven. His life reflects the very heart of Agassiz Village: nurturing, courageous, transformational.

Stephen's story is more than a personal success. It is a full-circle testament to the power of one summer, one community, one spark. A reminder that for 90 years, Agassiz Village has been preparing young people for life's journey—and in Stephen's case, inspiring a lifetime of purpose that continues to ripple outward.

Year: 2025



A Weekend of Inspiration 90th Anniversary Celebration



A SPECIAL RECOGNITION FROM THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

Governor's Citation

August 9, 2025

On behalf of the residents of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, I am pleased to confer upon your camp this Governor's Citation in recognition of its 90th anniversary. As we celebrate this joyous milestone, we commend founder Harry E. Burroughs for his life dedicated to providing underserved children on the streets of Boston with the opportunity to better their lives and honor your camp's ongoing effort to keep his legacy and mission alive. May you continue to help children in Greater Boston prepare for life's journey.

This Nineth Day of August in the Year
2025

Maura T. Healey
Governor

Partnerships that Inspire Youth

This year, Agassiz Village was proud to deepen our partnerships with three iconic New England organizations whose values align closely with our mission: the Red Sox Foundation, the Maine Celtics Foundation, and the New England Patriots Foundation. Each partnership brought unforgettable experiences to our campers and teens – moments of joy, confidence-building, and connection that will stay with them long after summer ends.



The Red Sox Foundation brought baseball to life on our fields this summer, leading hands-on clinics that introduced campers to the fundamentals of the game.



Agassiz Village Board Member and former camper, Theresa O’Bryant, was honored at Gillette Stadium as a Patriots Foundation Difference Maker. Her award is a powerful reminder of the impact one person can have on hundreds of young lives.



The Maine Celtics Foundation brought incredible energy to camp, spending time with our teens, sharing stories about leadership and resilience, and of course, playing a little basketball.

The Youth Your Generosity Supports

34%

are homeless, in foster care, refugees, or have an incarcerated parent

95%

of families are living in poverty (Average family income of \$39K)

100%

of youth from underresourced communities

86%

of children identify as a race other than white

Top enrollment cities by state

Massachusetts: Boston, Malden, Lowell, Cambridge, Lawrence, Brockton

Maine: Androscoggin County, Portland, and Lewiston

New York: New York City





The Difference Opportunity Makes

Access to high-quality out-of-school opportunities—like summer camp—is one of the strongest predictors of long-term success. Research shows that while children from higher-income families typically experience ten or more enrichment opportunities, children from low-income backgrounds often have only one. This gap shapes futures.

By opening the door to immersive summer programming, Agassiz Village is helping to change those trajectories. Studies show that when young people gain access to sustained out-of-school learning, their likelihood of graduating from a four-year college can rise from 10% to 50%, and their annual earnings can increase by approximately \$10,000. When youth are given the tools, relationships, and space to grow, they rise. Our responsibility—and our commitment—is to rise with them, ensuring every child has the opportunities they need to thrive on their journey into adulthood.

*Data based on a 2024 study by the American Educational Research Association.

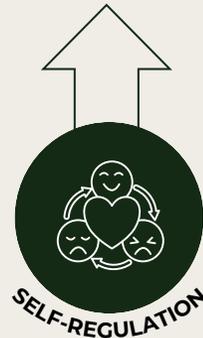
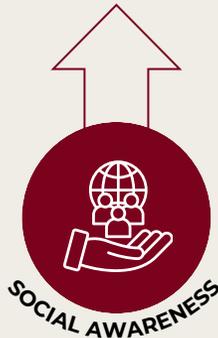
Overnight Summer Camp

Growing Confidence and Unlocking Potential

Our immersive residential summer program is designed to help under-resourced youth build the pro-social skills they need to thrive—confidence, resilience, empathy, teamwork, and responsible decision-making. By weaving a research-based Social-Emotional Learning (SEL) curriculum into every aspect of camp life, we create an environment where children feel safe, supported, and empowered to grow into happy, healthy, and kind young people.

SEL research shows that children learn best when they have opportunities to practice managing emotions, setting goals, building positive relationships, and making thoughtful choices. Throughout each session in summer 2025, we collected data to measure individual growth and overall program effectiveness. The results were clear: campers demonstrated meaningful gains across key SEL domains, reflecting the power of a nurturing community, consistent mentorship, and intentional skill-building woven into daily camp experiences.

Our participants showed significant increases in the following SEL areas:



476 kids
enrolled in
overnight
summer camp

What One Week at Camp Can Do

The Story That Touched Us All

For more than a year and a half, three children and their mother have been living in the parking lot of a local superstore—inside a converted box truck. They have done everything they can to make the truck feel like a home but despite their resilience, the reality is harsh.

“When the opportunity arose for them to attend an overnight camp, I expected excitement at the mention of their own beds, showers, and a chance to spend days by the lake, but the children were cautious. Eventually, they agreed to try one week at camp,” said their social worker. When they came back, their first question was, “Are we going back next week?” Unfortunately, we were fully booked, but in that one week, each child discovered something new about themselves.

The 2nd grader lit up when she talked about being surrounded by girls her own age. She proudly displayed the arts and crafts she made and celebrated how hard she worked at swim class. She said she loved swimming most of all—the encouragement from her coach and the confidence it gave her. Since camp, she has worked hard to keep improving, proudly saying, “the lessons really worked!” She stated that their encouragement made her feel that she could really do it. She also shared the thrill of climbing the rock wall all the way to the top; she didn’t get to jump from the top, but she made it! The calming room was “so nice,” as was playing endless games of gaga ball and having her own bunk. She made many new friends and said the kindness of the people there made her feel safe. The only downside, she admitted, was missing her mom.

The 9th grader said he liked swimming, too, but what stood out most was how “chill and kind” the people were. **Camp gave him the freedom to be himself—he didn’t have to carry the weight of his story or the stigma he sometimes feels at school.** He made many new friends, enjoyed being around peers who accepted him, and said the food was extremely good. (He said this multiple times.) The food was something every camper agreed on.

For a family living out of a box truck, this week at camp was more than just a summer activity. It was a rare chance for the children to feel normal, safe, and free—to laugh, create, and imagine a different kind of life.

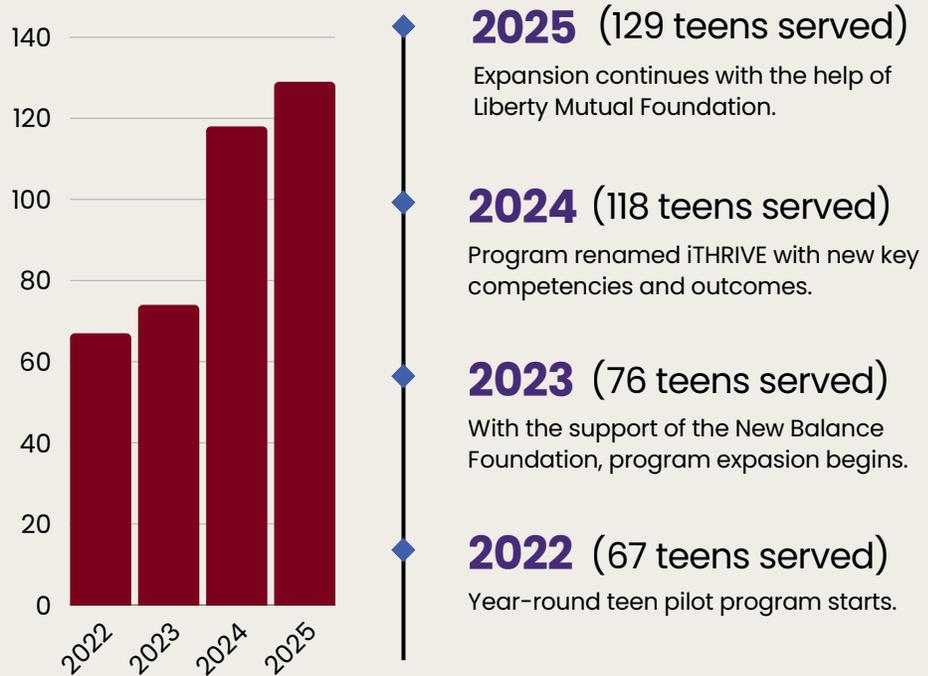


iTHRIVE Teen Enrichment Summer Program

Persistence and Preparation

iTHRIVE empowers teens ages 14–17 to persist through high school graduation and prepare for college, careers, and life. Through hands-on workshops and leadership opportunities, teens build confidence, skills, and a sense of purpose while mentoring younger campers and contributing to the AV community.

The need for teen programming continues to grow. With most Boston-area programs ending at age 13, iTHRIVE fills a critical gap, providing older youth with structure, support, and meaningful summer opportunities. Demand has surged from 67 teens in 2022 to 129 in 2025, and we maintain a waitlist each year.



iTHRIVE Year-Round Program

Equipping Teens with Essential Skills

Our iTHRIVE Year-Round Program equips teens with essential skills for success in college and beyond. After completing an intensive summer camp program, teens continue their journey with monthly workshops on college readiness, financial literacy, career development, and leadership empowerment. These sessions offer valuable insights from working professionals as well as a platform for personal growth and continued social-emotional learning, crucial for preparing youth for post-secondary aspirations and the workforce.

In addition to workshops, the program has retreats in Boston and at our Poland, Maine, campus, and offers participants the opportunity to visit local colleges and universities.



30 teens
enrolled in our
iTHRIVE
Year-Round
Program



Preparing a Family for Life's Journey

12 Years, 9 Kids, 1 Village

Twelve years ago, while searching online for summer camps, Tracey Banks discovered Agassiz Village — and unknowingly found a community that would help shape the future of her entire family. As a mother of nine children — five adopted and four biological — Tracey needed more than a traditional camp. She needed a place where her kids could feel safe, supported, and understood.

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

For a family of her size, sending even one child to camp would have been financially out of reach. But Agassiz Village made it possible for all of her children to attend — year after year.

“That support meant everything,” Tracey says. “They got to have fun, make friends, and just be kids.” What happened next is the heart of Agassiz Village’s mission.

Her children didn’t just enjoy camp — they grew through it.

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



As they got older, several of Tracey's children joined the iTHRIVE year-round leadership program, building confidence, social-emotional skills, and a sense of purpose. They graduated high school, returned as camp counselors, and began giving back to the next generation — becoming the role models they once looked up to. Today, some have launched careers shaped by the values they learned at Agassiz.

And the youngest? They're still counting down the days until summer. For Tracey, Agassiz Village has become an essential part of her family's rhythm — a place that grows with her children at every stage.

“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 choose.

“Awesome. Wonderful. There's not one word — you all just get better every year. Kids are lucky to have you. I know my family is.”

For 90 years, Agassiz Village has prepared young people for life's journey. For the Banks family, that journey has been nothing short of transformational — proof that when a village surrounds a child, a whole family can thrive.



Heartfelt Thanks to Our Donors

Agassiz Village is honored to recognize the donors whose generous contributions make our work possible.

\$50,000+

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apologies.**

With Gratitude for the Partners Who Help Us Reach Kids Who Need Us Most

For 90 years, Agassiz Village has prepared young people for life's journey — and we have never done it alone. Our community partners are the trusted schools, agencies, and nonprofits who stand on the front lines with underserved children every day. They know their stories, their struggles, and their strengths. With their guidance, we are able to reach the kids who need us most and give them a place to grow, heal, and thrive.

MASSACHUSETTS PARTNERS

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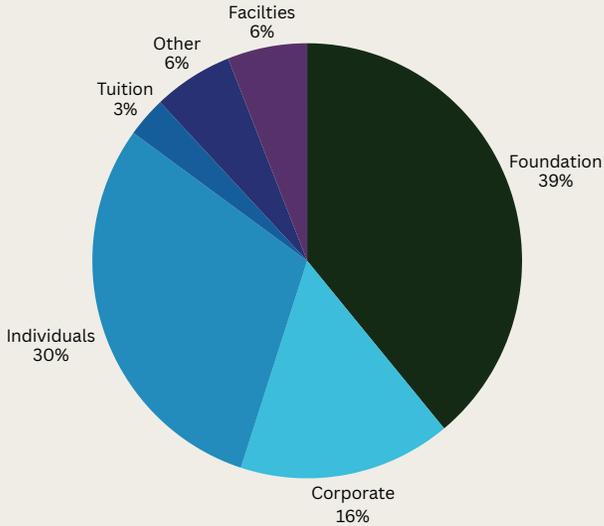
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2025 Financials



TOTAL REVENUE: \$1,652,416

Contributions: \$1,484,223

Tuition: \$55,539

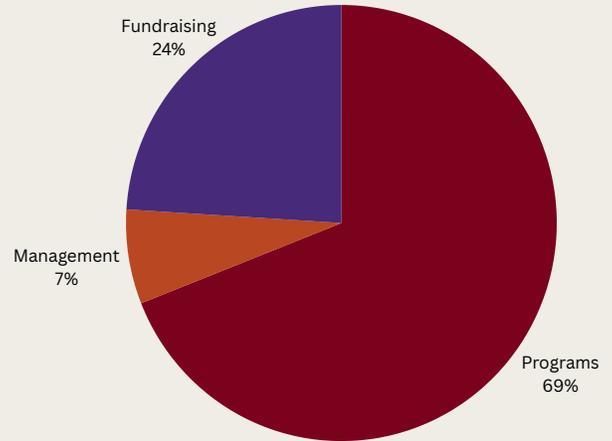
Facility Rentals: \$99,427

EXPENSES: \$1,488,188

Management: \$109,522

Fundraising: \$358,890

Programs: \$1,019,776



*These are unaudited financials for 2025. Audited financials will be available in May 2026.

Planning for the Future!

As we honor nine decades of preparing young people for life's journey, we are equally focused on the future. The momentum of the past year has positioned Agassiz Village for bold, meaningful progress in 2026. Our plans reflect a simple truth: when we strengthen the Village, we strengthen every child who walks through our gates.

What's Ahead

- **Deepen and enhance our world-class programming**, with an even stronger emphasis on character building through our social-emotional learning (SEL) curriculum and our iTHRIVE leadership pathway
- **Expand our iTHRIVE program** so more teens can access the mentorship, academic support, and real-world experiences that prepare them to graduate high school and step confidently into college and careers.
- **Renovate and modernize our aging cabins**, creating safe, welcoming spaces that allow us to serve more campers and staff while preserving the spirit of the Village.



Transforming Camp For the Next 90 Years - One Building At a Time



Before

Thanks to extraordinary early generosity, **Agassiz Village** has already raised \$4 million in the first year of the quiet phase of our \$8 million **Heart of the Village Capital Campaign**. This

transformational effort is modernizing our 90-year-old campus—one building at a time—so we can continue preparing young people for life's journey for generations to come. Capital

improvements are already underway, bringing new life, safety, and possibility to the spaces where children learn, grow, and discover who they can become.

After



Alongside the annual giving that sustained our year-round programs in 2025, donors also contributed generously during the quiet phase of our **Heart of the Village** capital campaign, helping to fund the much-needed renovations that are transforming our campus for future generations.



Capital Campaign Donors

We are immensely grateful for these kind hearts

- Anonymous
- Adelaide Breed Bayrd Foundation
- Doris L. Benz Trust
- Lori Berkowitz
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- Stephen MacQuarrie
- Lark & Annie Madden
- Marty & Tristen Mannion
- Jody Miller
- Kevin Milton
- O'Bryant / Prince Family
- Optimized Insurance Planning
- Mark & Melanie Pearlstein
- Mabel Louise Riley Foundation
- Richard Rothman & Melissa Salten
- Diane Sammer
- Nimish Shah & Maitri Patel
- Donald Smith
- St. Andrew's Episcopal Church
- Arnie Stewart
- Sean & Heidi Toland
- Wendy Warren
- Michael Warren
- Ronald P. Weyland
- The Zelten Family

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Ben Kern
Board President

Jonathan Gillim
Board Vice President

Cheryl Dalrymple
Board Treasurer

Jennifer Ginsburg
Board Clerk

Allison Burroughs

Ellen Corbett

Che Elwell

Amanda Karomba

Jon Levy

Lark Madden

Theresa O'Bryant

Nimish Shah

Arnie Stewart

Sean Toland



Congratulations to our Board President, Ben Kern, who received the National Points of Light Award in 2025 for his commitment to volunteerism and community support!

Thank You to Our Board and Staff



Behind every child's journey at Agassiz Village stands a team of remarkable leaders. To our board and year-round staff—thank you for your steadfast commitment to underserved youth. Your work makes every success story possible!

YEAR-ROUND STAFF

Lisa Carter
Executive Director

Michael Smith
Development Director

Judith Emmert
Director of Communications
& Grants

Christina Kaake
Camp Director

Alexis DiFillipo
Development & Community
Engagement Coordinator

Ryan McAllister
Facilities Director



Join Our Village

It takes a village to ensure that the kids who come to us have the best possible experience. There are three ways you can support our continued efforts to give them the camp they deserve.

1

Leave a Legacy

Consider including Agassiz Village in your estate plans. Whether left as a gift to support operations or designated toward a specific fund, legacy gifts are essential for a sustainable future.

2

Volunteer Your Expertise

We are actively recruiting people who are dedicated to the Agassiz mission to join our Board of Directors and our committees, including Capital Campaign, Events, and Land Innovation.

3

Continue Your Support

Your donations provide our kids with the opportunity to attend Agassiz Village and support our programming that helps them learn, grow, and unlock their full potential for a brighter future.



Scan here to go to our Support Page

If you are interested in giving a legacy gift or joining our Board of Directors, please contact Executive Director Lisa Carter at 781-860-0200 Ext. 1006 or lcarter@agassizvillage.org.



YEAR-ROUND OFFICE

9 Vernon Street, Framingham, MA 01701

SUMMER CAMP

71 Agassiz Village Lane, Poland, ME 04274

PHONE

781-860-0200

WEBSITE

www.agassizvillage.org

*A special thanks to Ned Warner Photography for donating your time and providing many of the photos in this report.