

SUMMER LASTS A LIFETIME



2022 ANNUAL REPORT



87 YEARS OF AGASSIZ VILLAGE



I knew what it would mean to them to roam the green fields...I pictured them in the woods on winding paths, with their curiosity awakened by strange finds and new experiences...I saw them rambling over green grass and soft dirt roads, forgetting their usual haste...I saw them sing from sheer joy.

-Harry E. Burroughs, founder



87 YEARS of empowering kids to reach their full potential in a safe and nurturing environment

Thank you for being a part of our Village that believes in the power of camp, and its ability to empower kids to become the best versions of themselves.

In 2022, 462 kids enrolled in our summer program were given the opportunity to experience that power. These kids may not otherwise have been able to attend a summer camp due to the high costs of other camp programs. With over \$700k provided in scholarships last year alone, youth had a place to call home for the summer where they could...

- (1) **HAVE FUN** and enjoy icon camp activities like archery, swimming and fire-building.
- (2) **EXPLORE** new adventures, take healthy risks and try activities they never experienced before like fishing, sleeping on an island, rock wall climbing or yoga.
- (3) **COLLABORATE** and form bonds with counselors who are positive role models and make new friends.
- (4) **THRIVE** in a positive environment learning leadership and social and emotional skills to better understand themselves and their emotions, see the potential in themselves and set tangible goals to build more positive relationships.

Agassiz Village is a place where kids can count on a warm bed each night, food on their plate three times a day, and an adult they can turn to when they need support. It's a place where kids facing extraordinary challenges at home can just be kids – even if it's just for a few weeks. Thank you for giving kids a home away from home where they feel loved and supported and can learn to be their best selves.

Yours in gratitude,
Lisa F. Carter, Executive Director

*A message from
our Executive
Director*

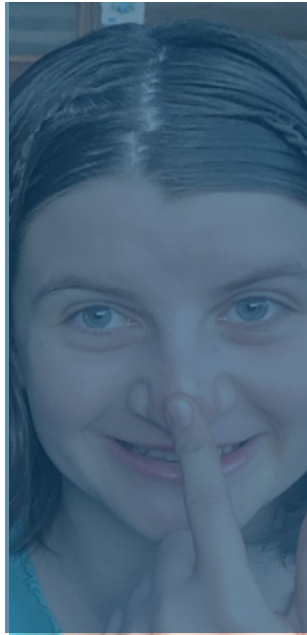
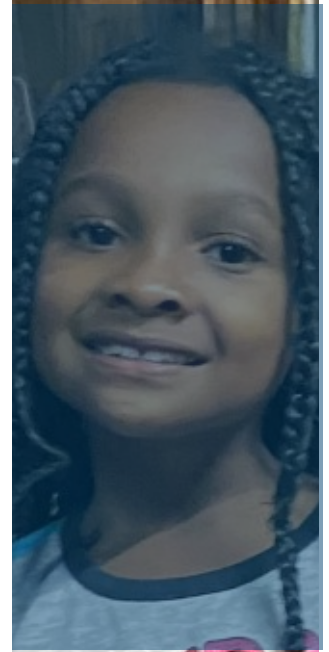


MISSION

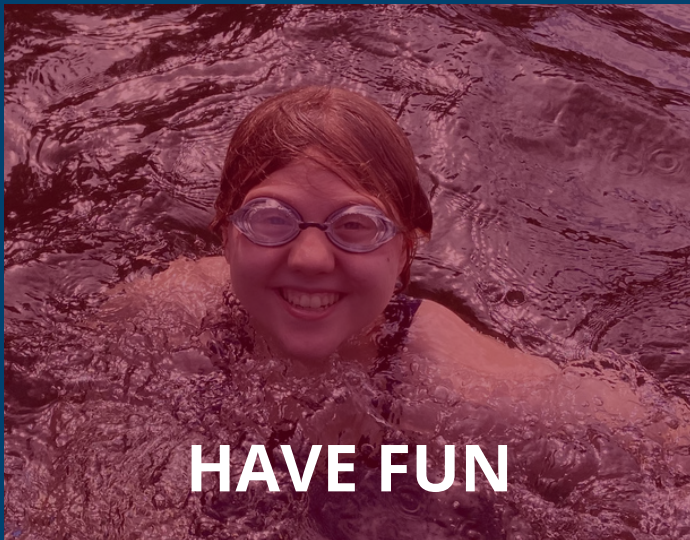
Established in 1935, Agassiz Village is a nonprofit youth development organization whose mission is to **“prepare youth for life’s journey.”** Our exceptional, 87 year-old overnight summer camp program in Poland, Maine and our newer year-round Leaders-in-Training program for teens offer youth opportunities to develop and practice critical life and leadership skills that positively impact their futures.

VISION

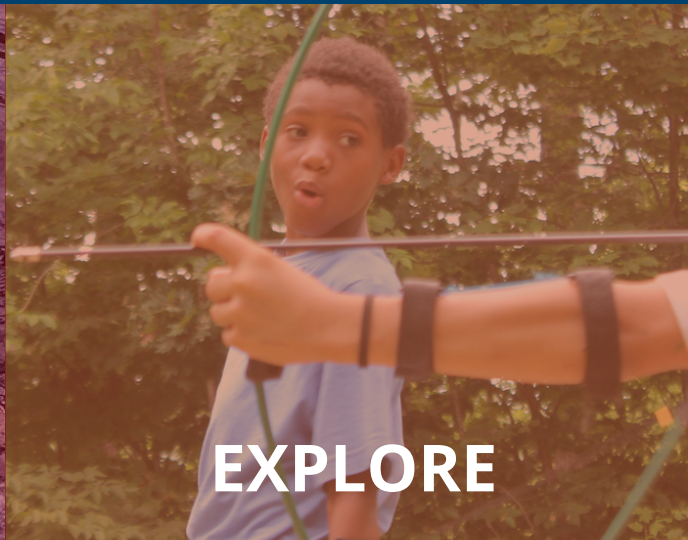
Children from Massachusetts to Maine, regardless of economic opportunity, experience Agassiz Village’s joyful, welcoming, and diverse community that inspires and enables them to explore new experiences and create the futures they envision.



VALUES



HAVE FUN



EXPLORE



COLLABORATE



THRIVE

HAVE FUN

creating positive identity through vibrant, joyful experiences

“Agassiz Village is a very fun and active place. There are a lot of different activities and it’s a chance to make friends. I like archery because it involves a lot of skill and dexterity and it’s fun trying to hit the target... [I have] memorable moments, like when I went banana boating; falling off the boat and going until you fall off is really fun. I’m always going to remember that.”

-Mahkyi, age 12





We know, through research and the lived experience of our campers, that play, and fun, are natural tools that help youth develop key skills like resilience, relationship-building, positive self-identity, and emotional regulation – and can even set kids up for academic success. We also know that not all kids get equal opportunities for fun and play. Many of the children we serve face extraordinary challenges and stressors in their home lives – which is why **at Agassiz Village, we intentionally place joy at the core of all our programming.** Creating purposeful opportunities for play, joy, and fun is a critical component of our Social Emotional Learning model, but it also allows kids who may face adult worries at home to, well, **just be kids.**

HAVE FUN

EXPLORE

expanding horizons through investigation and challenge



82%

of youth served
reported developing new
interests at camp this summer

AV programs are designed to offer youth the opportunity to understand and realize their full potential through investigation, exploration, and adventure as part of our Social & Emotional curriculum. Every summer, hundreds of kids – regardless of their background or home circumstances – attend Agassiz Village for two-four weeks and immerse themselves in nature, try new things and learn different skills, and develop a love for the outdoors.

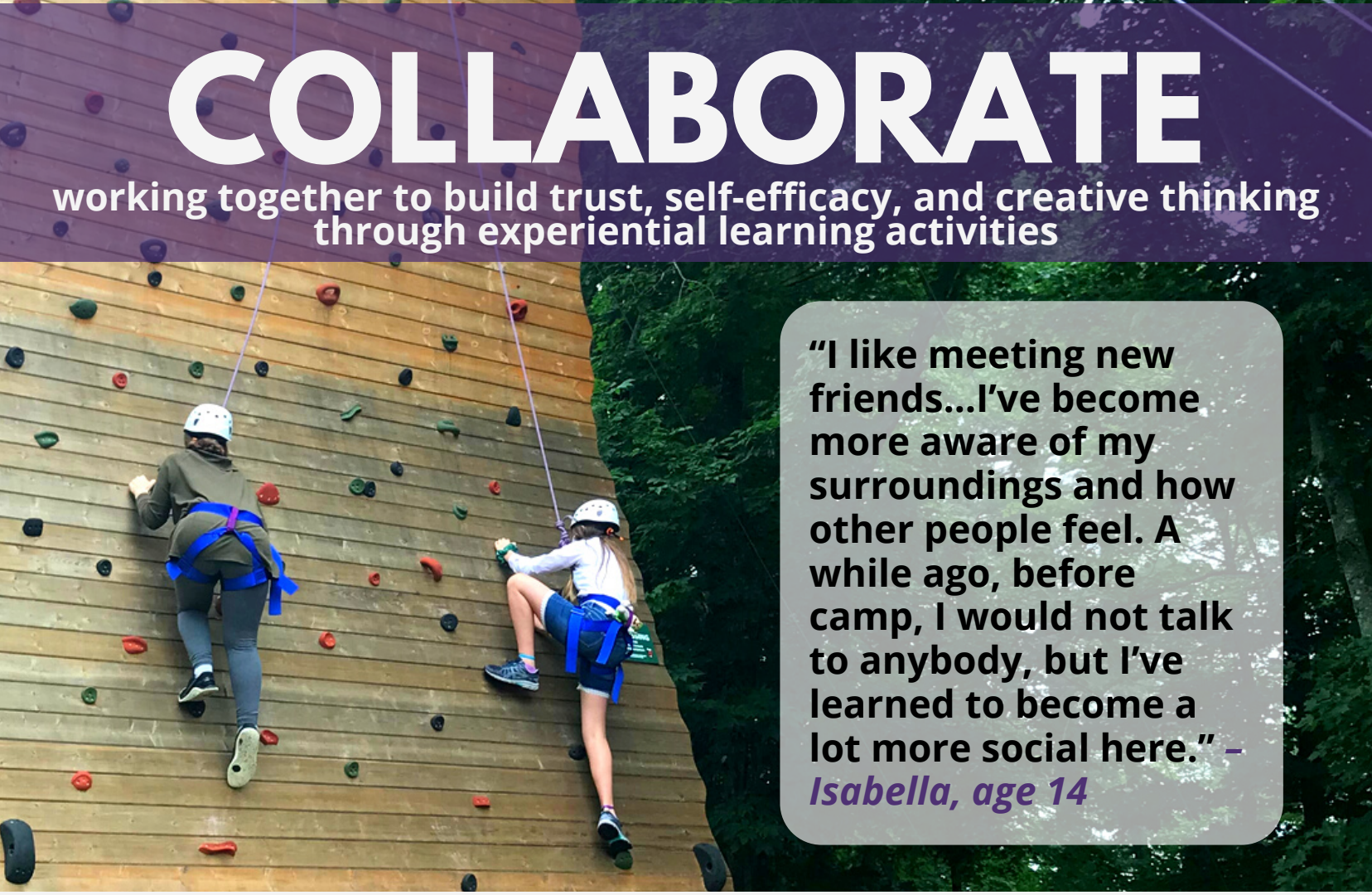
Our 2022 summer Nature Instructor, Yari, recalls one young first-year camper this summer who, during her first nature activity block announced, **“I don’t like being outdoors and I don’t like bugs.”** She watched nervously from the doorway of the Nature Cabin as Yari explained to the rest of the group that insects are only scary because they are unfamiliar. Once he showed the girls a spider up close, they became interested and began to catch spiders themselves. By the end of the period, encouraged by watching her cabinmates interacting with the spiders, our timid, insect-wary, first-year camper had joined in, picking up spiders with her bare hands. She and the rest of her cabin spent the remainder of the session collecting different insects from around camp and identifying all the different species they found. **Nature soon became one of their favorite activity periods**, where they spent the two-week session learning about moths, beetles, ants, butterflies and spiders, as well as other outdoor skills like fire and shelter building and navigation. In addition to nature, campers participate in archery, high ropes and challenge courses, swimming, canoeing, fishing, dance, drama, STEAM, and sports.



EXPLORE

COLLABORATE

working together to build trust, self-efficacy, and creative thinking through experiential learning activities

A photograph of two people climbing a wooden rock wall. The wall is made of horizontal wooden planks and is covered with various colored climbing holds (red, green, black, blue). The person on the left is wearing a grey long-sleeved shirt, grey pants, a white helmet, and a blue harness. The person on the right is wearing a white long-sleeved shirt, blue shorts, a white helmet, and a blue harness. Both are secured by ropes. The background shows a dense green forest.

"I like meeting new friends...I've become more aware of my surroundings and how other people feel. A while ago, before camp, I would not talk to anybody, but I've learned to become a lot more social here." –

Isabella, age 14



When we ask campers, staff, and alumni what makes the Village so special, or why they keep coming back, two words always come up – the people. Agassiz Village nurtures a supportive community of contributors, built on healthy peer-to-peer and peer-to-mentor relationships. We encourage collaboration based on connection and mutual trust and respect, and incorporate this value into daily life at camp is dozens of ways – from team-building activities at our high ropes challenge course to group cabin cleanup time each morning. Our objective is to empower youth through collaboration and relationship-building to empathize with others from diverse backgrounds, work together, and recognize resources and supports.

COLLABORATE

THRIVE

building strong leaders who achieve their potential

“When I come
here, I feel
important...I
feel like I
matter.”





One thing we've learned from welcoming countless returning campers and staff back to AV year after year is that the time a child spends at Agassiz Village is so much more than just a few weeks at summer camp. Watching a child thrive and blossom from a timid first-year camper into a staff member then leave to make their mark on the world has shown us that the skills they develop here, help kids lead meaningful, happy lives as adults.

Ernestine Hallowanger, affectionately nicknamed "Pookie", is one of those individuals who has grown up and grown into herself at the Village. Pookie first arrived at Agassiz at age 15 as a camper. She quickly fell in love with the community, and says that the leadership workshops we offer our teenage campers in addition to traditional activities still benefit her today. Pookie, now a college freshman, participated in our Leaders-in-Training program and served as a staff member for two summers before beginning her first year of college in the fall of 2022. When we asked Pookie why AV is important to her, she said **"Agassiz, for me, is a safe haven...it's a way to get away from everything, and I feel important, I feel like I matter."** Pookie first joined AV staff in 2021. **"To be there to help the kids, I really enjoy it...because I was once that camper who needed this place."**

THRIVE



“Kids need Agassiz because Agassiz really shows you that you can be something in this world. It’s really difficult nowadays to believe in yourself, but when you come here and you try out all the activities and you see yourself as somebody important and valuable to the world, it really encourages kids to know that they can be something. It gives them a different view on life...I’m a first generation immigrant. My parents didn’t finish college, but coming to Agassiz and seeing all of these teachers who are amazing at what they do, it put a lot into perspective. Every kid needs Agassiz.”

**We hire 72 summer staff ages 17-28.
32% are former campers.**

THRIVE

BY THE NUMBERS: Our Impact in 2022

462

youth enrolled
in summer 2022
programs

Top Enrollment
Cities:

Boston, MA
Malden, MA
Brockton, MA
Lowell, MA
Lawrence, MA
Portland, ME

696

total hours of
summer
programming

80

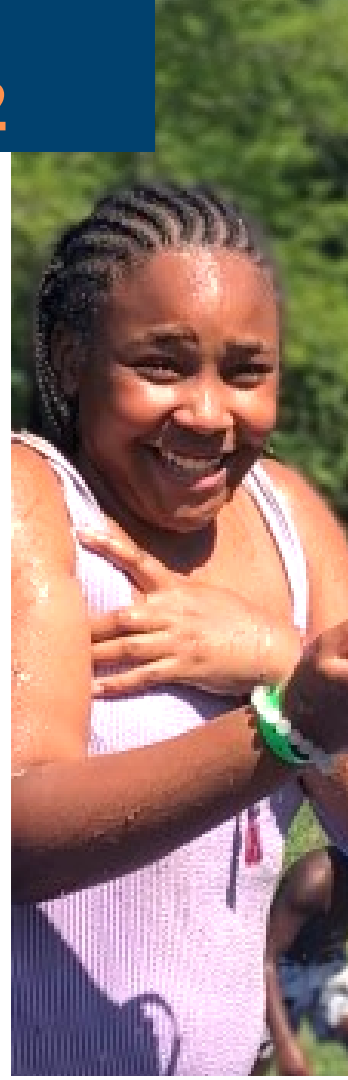
percent of youth
qualify for
free/reduced
lunch and/or live
at/below 185% of
the federal
poverty line

90

percent of youth
identified as
people of color

98

percent of
youth received
financial aid,
with families
paying on
average \$133
per 2-week
session



BY THE NUMBERS: **Our Impact in 2022**



79

percent of youth
demonstrated
growth in at
least one SEL
capacity

82

percent of
youth tried
new things and
reported new
interests

89

percent of youth
felt supported
and encouraged
when working
through difficult
problems

over
62

percent of youth improved
their self-management,
academic self-efficacy,
and/or social skills

100

percent of participants
in the Leaders-in-
Training program felt
they received useful
career advice

86

percent of youth
felt supported to
learn about one
another, both
similarities and
differences

2022 HIGHLIGHTS



Responding to the Rise in Youth Social, Emotional, & Mental Health Needs

Young people are increasingly facing mental health challenges. In 2022, AV addressed these concerns with increased social-emotional supports at camp. Volunteers worked tirelessly to renovate our camp library into the Serenity Cabin, which serves as a safe space for campers and staff to unwind, and houses our Social Worker, Social Work Interns, and SEL Coordinator. Social Emotional Learning is also embedded into all camp activities and helps youth process and regulate emotions.



Year-Round Leadership Development

Our new year-round Leaders-in-Training program completed its first year! LITs attended career, college readiness, and life/leadership skill workshops throughout the year before stepping into a variety of staff roles at camp during the summer. 100% reported satisfaction, leading us to extend the program from 12 to 24 months.



Welcoming International Staff Back to the Village

After a successful first in-person summer after the onset of COVID-19, we were thrilled to bring international staff back to the Village for the first time since 2019. 28 counselors joined us from 15 countries!

2022 HIGHLIGHTS



3 Events | \$312,000 for AV

We held 3 fundraisers for Agassiz Village in 2022 - the 12th Annual Maine Course, Annual Golf Outing, and 5K for Kids.



The Ultimate Agassiz Weekend

In May, we hosted the Ultimate Agassiz Weekend at our campsite in Poland, Maine, which combined our annual Volunteer Weekend, 5K for Kids, and a Facility Master Planning charrette (read more on the next page). The jam-packed weekend was a smashing success, with the 5K raising over \$12,000, volunteers completing renovations across camp, and more!

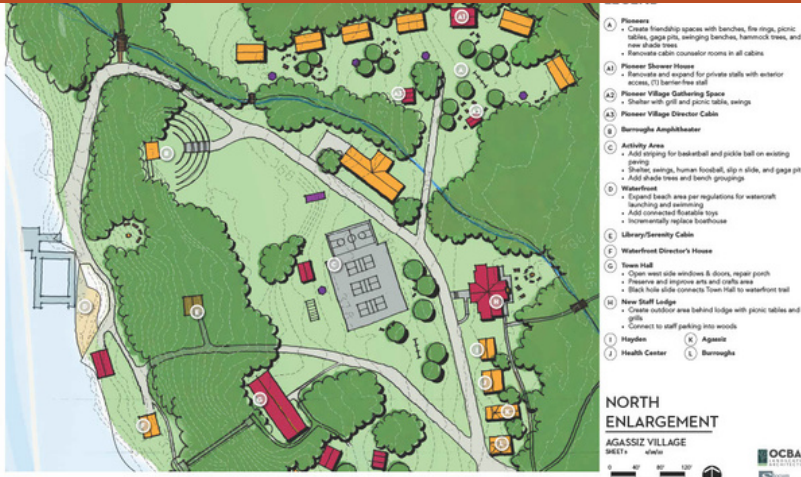


40 sponsors and over 200 participants turned out to support AV, collectively raising over \$312,000. We can't thank you enough!

Corporate Engagement for a Better Camp

We are fortunate to have excellent corporate partners dedicated to helping our camp and kids thrive. THANK YOU to Machias Savings Bank & Walmart Lewiston-Auburn for volunteering your time and labor to spruce up camp for the summer. THANK YOU to our long-time partner Loomis, Sayles, & Company and employees for your financial support and to our new partners L.L. Bean and PwC for helping us send more kids to camp.

FOCUS ON FACILITIES



HOWER HOUSE RENOVATIONS AND SIGNAGE
AGASSIZ VILLAGE
SHEET # 2/10



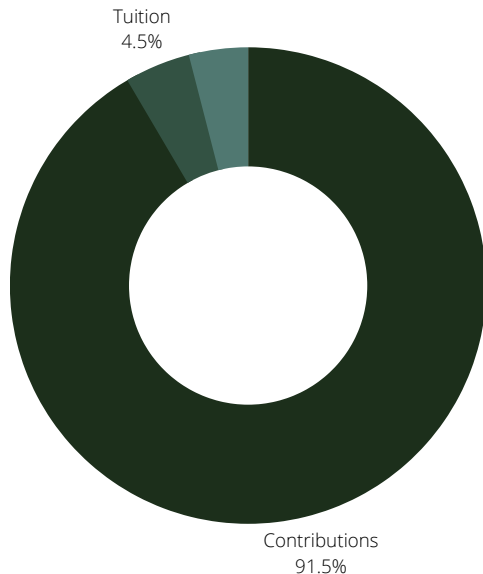
New Facility Master Plan

Our 40+ buildings and 330 acres serve as a powerful place for kids to experience personal growth, form meaningful friendships, and create lasting memories. While we value maintaining the rustic feel of our camp, it is imperative to update antiquated structures and respond to changing needs of campers and staff to continue providing the best experience possible for our community. Our new facility master plan developed in 2022 is an investment in our facilities and programs that will ultimately result in increased camper retention and satisfaction as well as improved camper experiences. Interested in helping us fund our new plans? Call Lisa Carter, our Executive Director at 781-860-0200 and look for more information to be released soon.

FINANCIALS

**STRONG COMMUNITY SUPPORT LEVERAGED BY
STRONG FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP**

R E V E N U E



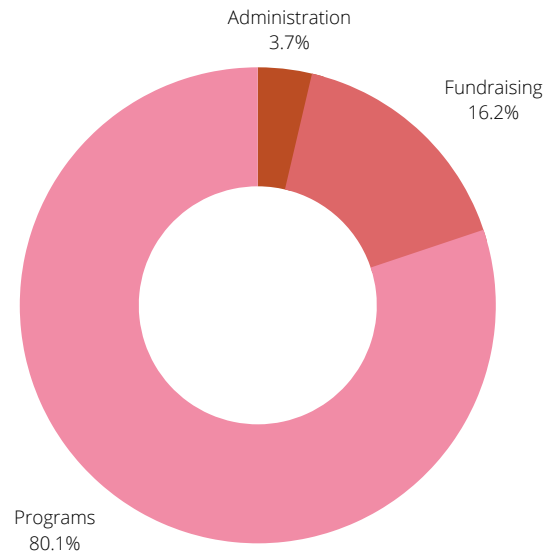
Contributions: \$1,118,395

Tuition: \$54,484

Earned Income: \$49,026

TOTAL REVENUE: \$1,222,026

E X P E N S E S



Administration: \$94,886

Fundraising: \$200,726

Programs: \$992,991

TOTAL EXPENSES: \$1,288,604

***These are unaudited 2022 financials. Audited financials will be available in May 2023.**

2022 DONORS THANK YOU

Agassiz Village is honored to recognize the corporate, foundation, and individual donors whose generous contributions make our work possible.

\$50,000 +

Adelaide Breed Bayrd Foundation
Anonymous
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Ronald Fielding & Susan Lobell
William F. Burdett Trust

\$25,000 - \$49,999

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\$1,000 - \$2,499

Stephan Braun
Davis Clayson
Patrick Constantine
Deloitte
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Matt Eng
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OUR VILLAGE

*Members of an elite group
who sponsored one or more
camper's tuition in 2022*

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Wendy Horn & Mike Piispanen
William & Kathleen Truscott

How you can support Agassiz Village



LEAVE A LEGACY

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



CONTINUE YOUR SUPPORT

Your donations give kids from under-resourced communities the opportunity to attend Agassiz Village and continue our programs for decades to come.



LEND A HAND

We are actively recruiting people dedicated to our mission to join our board and board committees including finance committee, engagement committee, or facility committee.

Please visit agassizvillage.org or contact Lisa Carter, Executive Director, at 781-860-0200 x1006 or lcarter@agassizvillage.org to learn more.



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