

Agassiz Village 2026 IMPACT REPORT

The Impact you have made



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

Impact Snapshot

What You Made Possible in 2026

Because of your generosity, Agassiz Village provided life-changing experiences to children and teens who needed it most.



Your Impact at a Glance



361

youth experienced a transformative overnight summer



77

children remained on our waitlist due to overwhelming demand



85%

of campers identified as BIPOC



34%

of youth faced homelessness, foster care, domestic violence, or parental incarceration



83%

qualified for USDA food assistance



7,630

meals served



64%

of all campers were teens ages 14-17



150+

teens participated in ITHRIVE



78%

of campers showed measurable Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) growth



20%

Maine youth participation increased to 20%

Every number represents a child who felt safe, supported, and seen – because of you.

Your Gift at Work

You Rock



Your generosity created a summer where young people:



- Found safety and belonging in a community that welcomed them exactly as they are
- Received three nutritious meals a day during a time of rising food insecurity
- Built confidence and resilience through ropes course challenges, swimming, arts, and outdoor adventure
- Developed leadership skills through iTHRIVE workshops, mentoring, and hands-on roles
- Formed friendships that helped them feel connected, valued, and supported
- Discovered strengths they didn't know they had
- Experienced joy — pure, childhood joy — in a place designed for them

Your support ensured that no child was turned away due to financial hardship.

You made camp possible!



Letter from the Executive Director

Dear Agassiz Village Family,

Because of YOU, hundreds of young people arrived at camp this summer ready to learn, connect, and grow. They spent two weeks discovering new strengths through swimming, canoeing, ropes course challenges, climbing wall adventures, sports, creative arts, archery, and more. They learned to ACT - Achieve goals, Connect with others, and Thrive - because you made it possible.



Lisa Carter with campers

Your generosity mattered more than ever. This year, 361 youth attended camp, 83% qualified for USDA food assistance, and more than one-third faced homelessness, foster care, domestic violence, or parental incarceration. **These numbers reflect deep need - and the extraordinary impact of your support.**

You provided safe housing, nutritious meals, leadership development, social-emotional learning, and a community where every child felt safe, seen, and valued. The successes in this report belong to you as much as they belong to our campers.

Thank you for helping us change the lives of these children forever. We could not do this work without you.

With sincere gratitude,

Lisa Ferrari Carter

About Our Youth Enrichment Programs

About Agassiz Village

For 91 years, Agassiz Village has prepared youth for life's journey. Your generosity ensures that children from under-resourced communities — most of whom are survivors of trauma — have access to experiences that build confidence, leadership, belonging, and opportunity. Our programs combine outdoor adventure with social-emotional learning, leadership development, and college/career readiness. At camp, young people discover their strengths, build supportive relationships, and develop skills that help them thrive in school, at home, and in their communities.



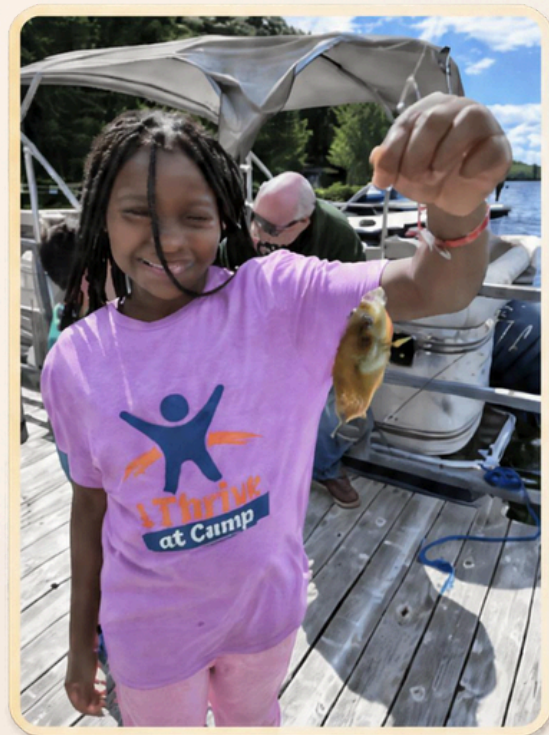
Our Programs

Overnight Summer Camp (Ages 8-13)

Campers spend two weeks immersed in a safe, supportive community where they build life skills through hands-on activities — hiking, swimming, canoeing, ropes course, arts, sports, and more. They receive housing, transportation, nutritious meals, and guidance from trained staff who help them grow in confidence, connection, and resilience.

iTHRIVE Summer Program (Ages 14-17)

More than 150 teens participated in our leadership program, developing character, teamwork, positive decision-making, and community responsibility. Teens explore interests, set goals, practice leadership, and serve as role models for younger campers.



iTHRIVE Year-Round Program (Ages 14-17)

Teens engage in workshops focused on leadership, social change, financial literacy, college readiness, and career exploration. Many gain early employment experience as junior counselors, lifeguards, and kitchen assistants. During the school year, youth participate in virtual sessions and in-person retreats, including college visits and career pathway exploration.

Measuring Our Impact:

Overnight Summer Camp Results

This summer, Agassiz Village partnered with Hello Insight, a nationally recognized, evidence-based assessment platform, to measure how campers grow in social-emotional learning (SEL) during their two-week experience. Campers complete a baseline assessment when they arrive and a post-assessment before they leave, allowing us to track measurable gains in confidence, belonging, perseverance, communication, and emotional regulation.

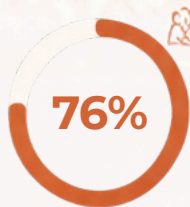


A Powerful Finding: Campers Arrived Behind National SEL Benchmarks — and Left Meeting Them

In just 12 days, campers grew enough to meet national SEL benchmarks.

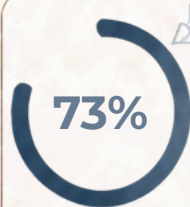
That level of growth — in such a short period — is rare. It speaks to the power of a safe, supportive, relationship-rich environment. It speaks to the dedication of our staff. And it speaks directly to your impact. Because of you, campers didn't just have fun. They caught up. They grew. They thrived.

KEY OUTCOMES FOR 2026



Engage Authentically

Campers improved their ability to communicate effectively, share ideas, ask for help, and build trusting relationships with staff and peers.



Challenge Growth

Youth demonstrated increased perseverance and willingness to try new things — foundational skills linked to confidence and resilience.



Promote Peer Bonds

Campers strengthened friendships, felt more included in their cabin groups, and developed a deeper sense of belonging.



Combined SEL Growth

Overall, 78% of campers showed measurable growth across at least one core SEL domain — belonging, confidence, perseverance, and goal-setting.

Why This Matters

These outcomes are not just numbers. They represent children who arrived carrying heavy burdens — and left feeling capable, connected, and confident.

They represent teens who discovered leadership and purpose. They represent families who saw their children return home transformed.

And they represent your impact.

Because of you, campers didn't just experience camp — they experienced measurable growth that will shape their futures.

Measuring Our Impact: iTHRIVE Teen Summer Camp Results

Heading into summer 2026, Agassiz Village set a goal to enroll 123 campers in our summer iTHRIVE program. However, the exponential growth pushed enrollment beyond 100 campers.

OUTCOMES FOR OUR iTHRIVE CAMPERS



Manage Goals

Improved in managing goals, including setting personal goals, sticking with tasks, and following through skills that support academic success and leadership development.



Promote Peer Bonds

Create an environment in which young people feel safe and supported by one another.

A Critical Gap: Teens Have Nowhere Else to Go — But You Give Them a Place to Belong

Across Boston and many surrounding communities, most youth programs age out participants at 13 or 14. That means thousands of teens lose access to structured, safe, supportive environments at the exact moment they need mentorship, belonging, and positive opportunities the most.

Agassiz Village is one of the very few places where teens can continue growing — not just for one summer, but year after year.



Macaria (16)

A message to you from an iTHRIVE camper, Macaria, who has spent five summers with us.

When I think about Agassiz, I think about the people I've met, the experiences I've had, and how much I've grown over the years. Along the way, I've built relationships that feel like family and found a place that feels like home. Coming back each summer is exciting because I get to see people I care about, try new things, and continue becoming more confident in who I am. Even after six summers, there's always something new to look forward to, and that's a big part of why I keep coming back.

Kids need Agassiz because not every kid has a place where they feel completely comfortable being themselves. Agassiz gives kids a chance to try new things, meet people who they might never have met otherwise, and discover things about themselves that they may not have known before.

For me, Agassiz has been a place where I can be myself, make mistakes, learn, grow, and still feel supported. It has helped me become the person I am today, and I know the things I've learned here will stay with me long after my summers at camp are over.

There are many kids like me who need Agassiz Village. On behalf of all Agassiz kids, thank you for supporting us. It means so much to us to know that people care about our future and are helping make experiences like this possible.

Measuring Our Impact: iTHRIVE Teen Beyond-Summer Results

More than 30 teens continued their growth beyond the summer through our year-round iTHRIVE program — a number that has doubled since 2022.

These teens meet monthly for:

- Leadership workshops
- Financial literacy
- College readiness
- Career exploration
- Mentoring
- Community service
- College tours
- Winter and spring camp experiences

Most of these youth are now high school seniors, and 80% are applying to college. We will continue tracking their progress through college and career building long-term impact that extends far beyond camp.



Yanlewis (16)

"Before camp, I never really opened up to people. But at Agassiz, I felt safe enough to do that. Camp helped me learn how to connect with people and be myself."

Yan's Story: From Camper to Leader

Yanlewis "Yan" first came to Agassiz Village as a quiet 10-year-old who rarely opened up to others.

"Before camp, I never really opened up to people. But at Agassiz, I felt safe enough to do that, I shared.

Over six summers, Yan discovered confidence, connection, and a sense of belonging. He learned pottery, built a birdhouse, conquered the climbing wall "at the speed of a snail," and earned the nickname Aquaman as he strengthened his swimming skills. These activities revealed strengths he didn't know he had.

One moment stands out. At age 13, during a cabin circle, Yan's Village Leader taught the group how to process anger and understand others' perspectives. "That conversation stuck with me," Yan said. "Now, when I'm angry, instead of immediately lashing out, I try to put myself in the other person's perspective."

This summer, Yan returned as a Leader in Training, fulfilling a dream he'd carried since childhood. "I loved my campers like they were my little brothers," he said.

If Yan had three words for Agassiz Village, they would be special, connection, and growth — the same values he now models for the next generation of campers.

What Made Us Proud in 2026



Above: Our campers enjoying the new aqua park installed this summer and our teens experience our first ever winter camp.

In 2026, campers built confidence by taking positive risks whether performing on stage, tackling a ropes course element, or trying an outdoor activity for the first time. These experiences helped youth recognize their strengths and develop a sense of capability they will carry well beyond camp.

They also formed friendships that were authentic and supportive. For many campers, especially teens, camp was one of the few places where they felt free from social pressure and able to connect with peers in a genuine way. These relationships helped them practice communication, empathy, and teamwork.

60+%

overall
growth in
our teen
program
since 2022

64%

of youth
served are
teens

★ Here's what we're most proud of:



Launching our first teen winter program: In February, we introduced a three-day winter session where campers took part in snowshoeing, sledding, and—for most—walking on a frozen lake for the very first time. In addition to new recreational experiences, teens engaged with community mentors, learned valuable financial literacy skills, and strengthened peer connections in a place where they feel safe and supported.



Serving more teens than ever before: Teens represented 64% of all campers served. While many youth programs age out participants around age 14, Agassiz Village continues to expand programming for older youth. Today, the majority of our campers are teens, ensuring they have continued access to leadership development, college and career readiness, and other experiences that support their transition into adulthood.



Strengthening our impact measurement: Our program outcomes continue to exceed national benchmarks. In 2026, we began implementing Hello Insight, a nationally recognized social-emotional learning (SEL) assessment platform, to deepen our ability to measure camper growth, engagement, and long-term impact. The results of these assessments are included in the Final Report – Measuring Our Impact section.

Joshua, father of three campers, shared:

“My children came home more confident, more communicative, and more willing to try new things. Safe places where teens can grow, connect, and feel supported are rare in our community. Agassiz Village gave my children stability, encouragement, and opportunities they wouldn't have had otherwise. Thank you for creating a place that helps young people thrive.”

Your generosity made this possible.

What's Next

Building the Future Together

Your support is helping us build a stronger, more sustainable Agassiz Village.

- Renovating 17 camper cabins and adding showers, AC and comforts of home
- Restoring the historic dining hall and boathouse
- Improving staff housing
- Building a year-round teen center
- Expanding enrichment spaces
- Protecting our 400-acre lakefront campus
- Ensuring every child can attend camp regardless of financial hardship

Together, we are preparing youth for life's journey — today and forever.



Thank You for Changing Lives

Because of you, children found safety, belonging, confidence, and joy. Because of you, teens discovered leadership and purpose.

Because of you, families felt hope.

Thank you for believing in Agassiz Village.

Thank you for investing in our youth.

Thank you for changing lives.

With heartfelt gratitude,
Agassiz Village

