



The Salvation Army Summer Day Camp in the City

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By James McNeil Summer Camp Director

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Program Philosophy

We believe that children should be in a safe, healthy, nurturing and stimulating environment. We believe that each child is an individual and the childcare setting needs to accommodate and plan for those differences. Our program provides



children with a variety of experiences. Children learn to cooperate in a group and experience many different recreational sport and creative activities. Field trips and guest speakers give children the chance to learn more about their community and the world around them. Also daily devotions help them to learn more about God and

biblical character. Children in our program benefit from a well – trained and professional staff. These caring adults not only provide a multitude of activities, but also are available to listen, and to meet the needs of each child. Staff and parents work cooperatively for the benefit of the children.

Summer Education



Our 7-8 year olds making paper mache volcanoes for Science class.

One of our goals here at summer camp is to keep the kids as sharp as possible for the upcoming school year with classes like:

- 1st Hand Science, Fun with Numbers
- Reading-is-Fun-to-Mental
- Geography, Health & Nutrition

The staff does a great job of keeping the educational components of the program interesting so that the campers have fun while they learn....

Message!!!!

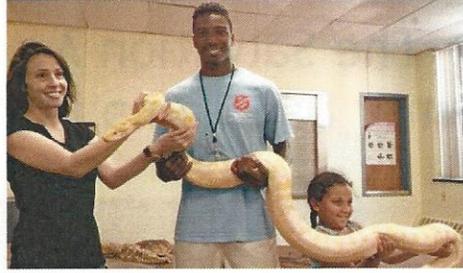
"If poverty is a disease that infects an entire community in the form of unemployment and violence falling schools and broken homes, then we can't just treat those symptoms in isolation.

We have to heal that entire community. And we have to focus on what actually works" – Barack Obama, July 18, 2007

Message!!!!

"Quality camp experiences help children develop the healthy emotional and social skills necessary to grow into strong, considerate, competent adults." – Tom Holland, CEO American Camp Association

Special Classes & Training



Keeping the kids active, physically and mentally, is the key to having a successful summer program. Every summer we try to expose our campers to new and exciting

experiences with classes such as: Gym, Art, and Chorus. The campers even get to learn about insects and wild life with the help of Animal Adventures. With basketball training and different fun games in the gym as well as art projects that allow our campers to be creative and a Salvation Army

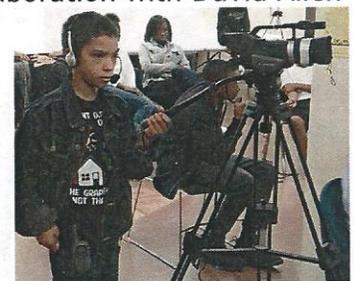
Summer Camp Choir, we really get the kids to open up and enjoy new activities that they normally don't get a chance to experience.



TV & Radio Broadcasting Class



This class is run in collaboration with David Allen a local radio host from Power 96.5, who is in the Buffalo Radio Hall of Fame and founder of D.A.P Entertainment Multi Media. This class teaches our 9-12 year olds about a career in TV and radio broadcasting. The kids learn everything from set designs, how to be a camera person and how to properly conduct an interview on TV or radio.



Our 9 through 12 year olds also had the opportunity to get a tour of the Apollo Theater here in Buffalo and got to see how a green screen is used and how messages get relayed from the engineer room to the camera person to the actual host. One of channel 4 News cameramen came in to work with the kids and give them advice on how to set up for a good shot.

Message!!!!

"We cannot always build our future for our youth, But we can build our youth for the future." – Franklin D Roosevelt

Message!!!!

"Children must be taught HOW TO THINK, not what to think."

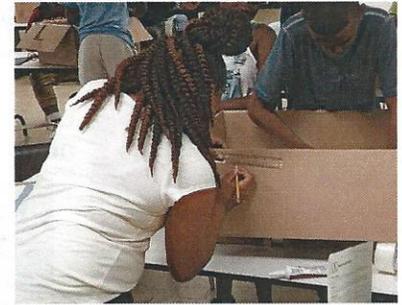
- Margaret Mead

National Fuel Training



This training has been a part of our camp for 3 years and every year we expand the program. This year we had the instructor build houses out of cardboard with the campers. Once the houses were finished they were tested for air flow and temperature. Both of these issues can be a problem in your home.

For example, if your gas bill is really high you might have too much air flow in your home, and if your home doesn't cool down quick enough, your home may not have enough air flow. The kids learned a lot about energy conservation in this class that might even save their parents a few bucks.



Microsoft Training "How to Start your Own Business"



10 campers were selected this summer to be part of the Microsoft training program on "How to Start your Own Business". The kids worked on Marketing and Fundraising ideas to get their business off the ground, as well as to design their own products.

The campers had to develop and present a PowerPoint presentation on Business ideas that they created!!



This has been the second year that The Microsoft store at the Walden Galleria has invited us to bring campers for training. This collaboration has been a great opportunity for our campers to get the chance to understand the different steps that are required to start a business.



Getting our youth to think about having a career and not just a job is important for a child's state of mind and to never limit themselves. Think big and work hard and

whatever dreams and goals they have will come true.

Message!!!!

Being Healthy isn't about inches, pounds, or How kids look. It's about how they feel and making sure they feel good about themselves. So rather than focusing on appearance, it's important to emphasize to kids that when we feel better, and we can perform better in everything we do, from athletics to academics. – Michelle Obama

Message!!!!

"You can buy children anything in the world, but nothing compare to the memories you make with them."

Message!!!!

"Exercise is a Celebration of what your body can do. Not a punishment for what you ate."

La' Movement Fitness G.U.G.A Get Up & Get Active



Physically active children have a better chance of being physically active adults. Teaching the kids to eat healthy and stay active is key to living a healthy lifestyle.



La' Movement Fitness is an organization that prides itself on getting everyone no matter how old or young to **"Get Up and Get Active (G.U.G.A)"**.



When it comes to exercise, at times we all need a little extra motivation and G.U.G.A. is a great way to start. With different levels of instruction, this is a fun way to get in shape for all ages. From choreographed dance moves to more traditional aerobic type movements you'll be in shape in no time.



The campers and The Salvation Army staff had a great time doing G.U.G.A. Some kids at first were a little shy but once the music got going and the instructors got them moving they had a wonderful time under the sun "Getting Up and Getting Active".



Message!!!!

"We need to encourage our kids to love, to eat real food-honest, nutritious, healthy food. Less fast food Less junk food and they need to see us eating healthy by example." – Karen Salmansohn

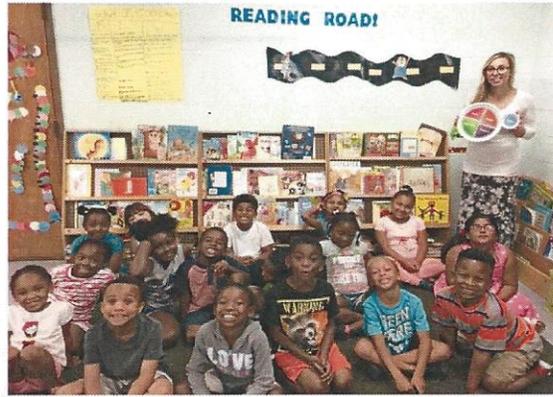
Message!!!!

"When you start eating food without labels, you no longer need to count calories." – Amanda Kraft

Message!!!!

"My Priority is to turn people – especially kids – on to sports and being active so they don't even have to think about it being good for their health. If people participate for the fun of it, and believe me-it is fun, then fitness programs will be much more successful." – Alan Thicke

4H Eat Smart Health and Nutrition Class



Teaching the kids what is good to put in their bodies and what is not, as well as what goodies you can eat in moderation, the 4H Eat Smart Program comes out every summer to work with every group to talk about how to read labels and how many calories a person should consume in a day. The campers and staff got to see how much sugar is added to their favorite beverages and the kids were

shocked.

They got to try out some healthy snacks that taste good too. The healthy way of living is not always easy but these classes made the campers more aware of how to eat right and how to enjoy doing it.



Tennis Lessons

Staying with our theme for the summer, another awesome way to teach the kids about staying active while having fun is through the game of tennis. Mrs. Julie Shaw, a Salvation Army Volunteer, donated her time and her knowledge this summer to get the kids excited about tennis and she did exactly that. With brand new rackets donated by Thermo Fisher our camp kids got to learn the fundamentals of tennis.



Message!!!!

"Music gives a soul to the universe, Wings to the mind, Flight to the imagination, & life to everything." – Plato

Message!!!!

"Much of what young children do as play – singing, drawing, dancing – are natural forms of art. These activities engage all the senses and help wire the brain for successful learning." – David A. Sousa "How the Brain learns"

Message!!!!

"I would teach children music, physics, and philosophy: but most importantly music, for the patterns in music and all the arts are the keys to learning." – Plato

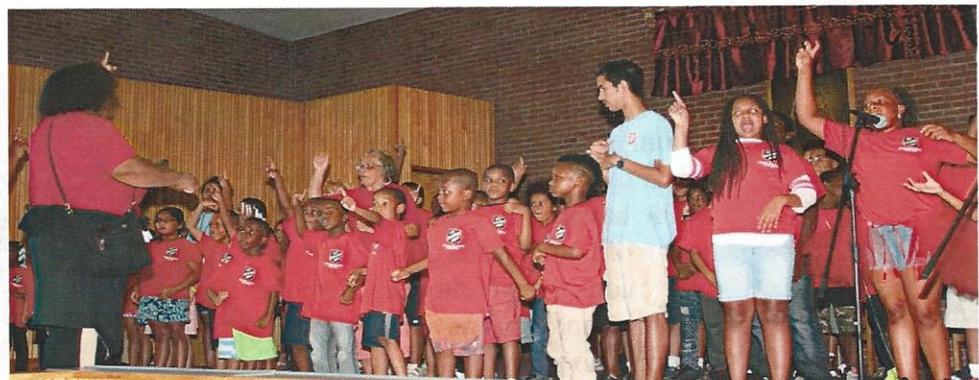
The Salvation Army Summer Day Camp Choir



Bringing out the best in our youth is what we strive to do and our summer day camp choir helps us do this. Our youth got the opportunity for the third



straight year to be a part of our summer camp choir. They practiced all summer for 2 different concerts. The first was "Christmas in July" where they sang Christmas carols to the seniors in the Golden Age Center and a second gospel concert to open up the events for our "Summer Spectacular Celebration". From the youngest to the oldest "all hands were on deck," when it was time to sing and the kids put on an outstanding show. Even the summer camp staff revealed some of their hidden talents and came together to create a live band that could play with the kids. The sound was amazing! The music program is a component of the summer program and there is a lot that goes into selecting the songs and the practice times in order to be ready for our performance for the parents every summer. None of this would have been possible without our Salvation Army volunteer Mrs. Diane McNeil. Mrs. McNeil is a full time nurse at ECMC and was the youth choir director for Bethesda World Harvest International Church for many years. Her musical expertise and joyful attitude is why the kids are always ready to sing when Mrs. McNeil walks into the building.



Message!!!!

"Coming together is the beginning. Keeping together is progress. Working together is success." – Henry Ford

Message!!!!

"I can do things you cannot, you can do things I cannot; Together we can do great things." - Mother Teresa

Message!!!!

"The Best way to find yourself, is to lose yourself in the service of others.



The Salvation Army Summer Day Camp in the City Basketball Classic

The Salvation Army Vs. The Buffalo Police Dept.

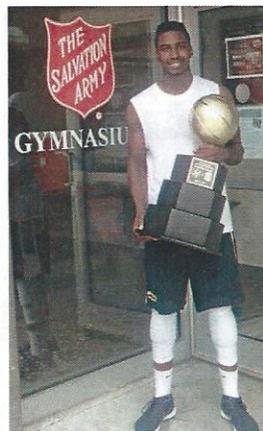


The Salvation Army 69 **Buffalo Police Dept 62**

Building a relationship with our local Police dept can help bridge the gap between our community and the men and women who have sworn to protect it. The Buffalo Police have always been a key contributor to our camp, from bringing in a K-9 for demonstrational purposes, as well as talking to the staff and campers about how to ensure your safety during traffic stops. This year we played a friendly game of basketball for our campers to watch and enjoy.

Officer Badger is a key member of community who understands that we have to do better as a nation for our youth. Saying yes to help plan a fun event like this for our campers was an easy thing to do.

Although there had to be a winner and loser for the game, everyone in attendance was a winner because the atmosphere in the gym was electric and the entertainment was outstanding. Although our campers welcomed our officers with open arms they didn't hold back any punches when it came to showing who they wanted to win.



Message!!!!

"Without a sense of caring there can be no sense of community." – Anthony J. D'Angelo

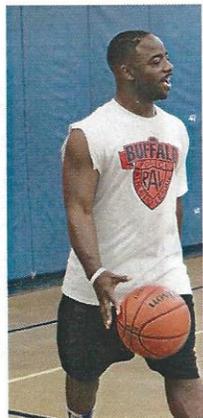
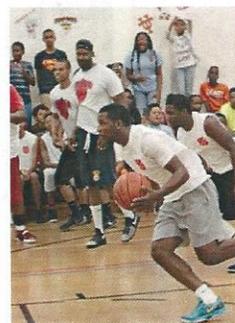
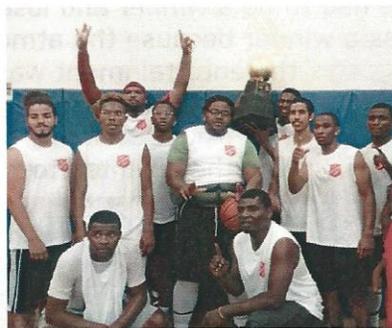
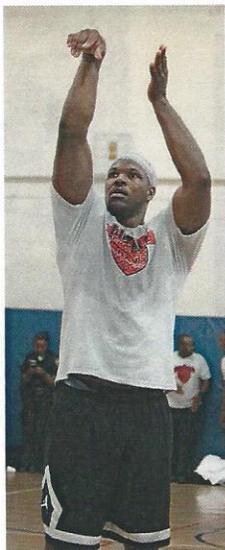
The game started off with a performance by The Divine Creation Dance Stars followed by the national anthem sung by our own Michael Payton and the Halftime show was performed by Belle Ragazze Drill team. The young ladies from Divine Creation Dance Stars and Belle Ragazze are part of the Salvation Army Drop-In Center Program. These young ladies practice here on



site every Mon,Wed,and Fri and they did a wonderful job!!!!



This was the first of many more games we will play with our BPD. Turning this event into a fundraising opportunity will be our goal next year when the BPD comes back for the rematch. Hopefully you will be there to cheer us on!!!!



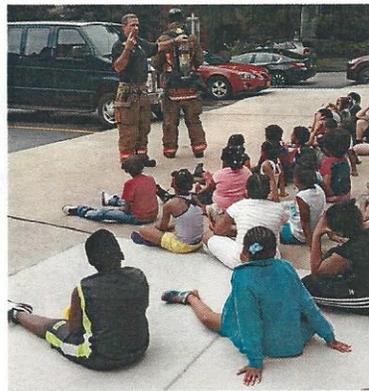
Message!!!!

"Practicing general fire safety and preparing and practicing emergency exit plans are essential aid in preventing fires and fire fatalities." – Teddy Wolfe.

Message!!!!

"Field Trips, including those that are virtual, enable teachers to create as many authentic, experiential experiences as possible. These spatial memories are embedded in the brain and need no rehearsal." – Fogarty, 2001

The Buffalo Fire Department & Fire Safety



Working with the community is one way to keep our camp fresh and new and the campers love it when the Fire dept. shows up! The campers know that they will get to go through the fire truck and sometimes they even get to use the fire hose and feel how much the water pressure is when it comes out of the hose.



Our fire fighters do an outstanding job showing the kids their gear and not to be afraid of them if they ever have to enter their homes to save their life or a loved one's.

Field Trips

Field trips are always the best part of summer camp for the kids and staff to enjoy. With our open door policy, parents love the fact that they are allowed to accompany their children on field trips if they choose. Every summer we try to pick the best field trips that we can merge fun and education into one. Going to places like The Niagara Falls Aquarium, Flips Gymnastics and the Niagara Rock Climbing Center is a great experience for our youth because a lot of our campers



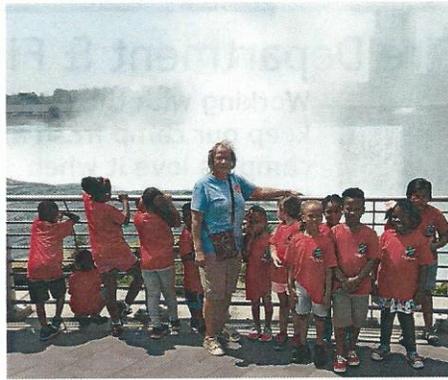
don't get to do things like this and some

may have very limited opportunities to do things like this again. Since health and nutrition is a key theme to our camp, selecting The Rainbow Rink is an easy choice because it's a fun trip the campers love to do. The Bisons' game is great for our baseball fans who like to go and cheer on their local team, but this year, Fantasy Island was the trip all the campers were waiting for.



Message!!!!

"We didn't realize we were making memories, we just knew we were having fun."



The kids got to see the Falls!!!

Fantasy Island Always Brings Smiles



At the Bisons' game. Unfortunately they lost but the kids still had a good time!



Message!!!!

"Summer Camp where strangers become friends and friendships last forever."



The Salvation Army Summer Day Camp in the City is a place where kids can be kids!!!!



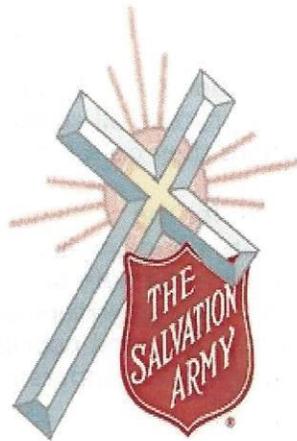
Message!!!!

"Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it. – Proverbs 22:5

Message!!!!

"Hungry children are distracted children. We want to make sure nothing gets in the way of our children performing well academically, including hunger. – Arne Duncan

Morning Devotion



Every morning after breakfast the campers head over to morning devotion with our very own Lt Raymond Arocho. He is our Salvation Army Pastor and he really enjoys working with the kids and



staff, teaching them simple biblical scriptures and stories that the kids themselves can break down and use in their own everyday life. Be Kind, Be Helpful, Be Obedient, Be Honest, are just a few of the themes that Lt. Arocho instills in our camp kids on a daily basis. "Give 100% to our youth before the wrong influences do" Lt. Arocho believes.

Meals Served



Nutritional meals are provided by The Buffalo Public School Lunch Program. We are able to serve our campers breakfast and lunch for 7 out of 9 weeks of camp through this program. The first and last weeks of camp breakfast and lunch is provided by The Salvation Army Golden Age Center. We also offer a light snack at the end of the day for all campers before heading home for the day.

Christmas and Halloween in July



Collaborating with different departments within The Salvation Army is key to running a successful program. With the help of our Golden Age Center (GAC), directed by Lisa Holmes, we were able to have an awesome time with our seniors.



Christmas was on Tuesday July 25th this summer in our Golden Age Center and our summer day camp choir put together a mini concert of Christmas carols for our seniors to enjoy. Without wasting any time, the following week on July 31st we celebrated Halloween in July with our seniors. The campers and staff got to dress up in their favorite customs and trick or treat here on site. Then they got to sit down and have lunch with the senior program.

Message!!!!

"A summer I'll always remember with people I'll never forget."

Message!!!!

"A mind that is stretched by a new experience can never go back to its old dimensions." – Oliver Wedell Holmes, Jr.

Message!!!!

"Play gives children a chance to explore their worlds, have new experiences, and express themselves." – Chris Byrne

Summer Spectacular Celebration



Our end of summer celebration is always a camp favorite for the campers and the parents as well.

The parents really enjoy this day because they get to come out and see their kids singing in The Salvation Army Summer Day Camp Choir. The kids practice all summer long for this event where they do a 5 song gospel concert. Parents

and staff are invited to come down for the performance. Once the campers are done singing the real fun for the campers begins. With the help of Titian Entertainment we are able to have a huge waterslide, 2 bounce houses, face painting, pony rides and popcorn and snow cone machines for not just the campers but the entire community.



for

Another reason the parents always look forward to this celebration is because of our "book bag give away" for our camp kids. Every child got to line up for a brand new book bag full of school supplies thanks to community support and collection sites all over town. Thank you donors!!.



This day, August 16th, was also the United Way National Day of Caring where different companies signed up to get out of their offices and help local organizations do something positive in the city. Our group did just that!

Citi bank signed up for The Salvation Army this year and did a wonderful job doing various assignments throughout the day. From painting to cutting down tree

limbs to stuffing school supplies into bookbags and cooking and serving food for our carnival, they truly made the day successful one.



Meet The Salvation Army Summer Day Camp in the City Staff

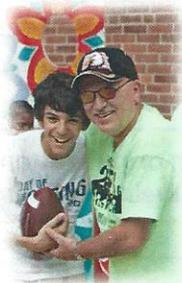


A picture says a thousand words and this picture is saying; I am a college graduate, I am a college student”, a high school student, a mayor’s summer youth worker on his or her first job. I am a retired pre-k and kindergarten teacher from the Buffalo Public Schools System. I am a basketball coach, a single mom, a single dad and grandparent. No matter how different each employee’s background may be, their differences are what made camp run so smoothly this year. The different skill sets of each staff member allowed us to be diverse with our programming which helps ensure every camper would have a favorite activity to look forward to.

On behalf of the kids and staff, I would just like to say:

Thank You!!!

To all the parents for trusting us with the development of your child over the summer and to our donors for ensuring that we have a scholarship program to make our camp feasible for most families to attend, we also say “Thank You!”





Ask The Kids



“This year summer camp was great because I did all kinds of art, math science and much more. Thank you for everything great that happened this year. I never thought these things would happen. I like the field trips the most this year. I liked the rock climbing, but I didn’t get to the top. Even though it was my first time here for camp I had a lot of fun”. **James from the 9&10 year old class.**

“The Salvation Army is the best summer camp ever. They have snacks, games, crafts, a playground and a gym. And the best part of summer camp is the education”. **Devin from the 9&10 year old class.**

“We got to go on a field trip every week and the kids here are really fun. We do fun experiments and the staff is really cool and I learned all my states in ABC order”. **Tyionna from the 11&12 year old class.**

“Summer camp is a lot of fun we got to play games and learn about God”. **Malik from the 5&6 year old class.**

This summer camp was amazing because we went rock climbing and I went all the way to the top it was so cool it was my first time ever there. **London from the 7&8 year old class.**

“This year summer camp was the best summer ever. I learned how to play basketball and how to draw new things and the carnival was cool but I liked the rock climbing field trip the best. It was so fun. All the new staff was cool and fun, too. Thank you for doing all of this.” **Talynn from the 9&10 year old class.**

“Flips Gymnastics was my favorite field trip and I learned nothing is hard with Jesus.” **Wade from the 5&6 year old class.**

“Field trips and Science are my favorite parts of camp”. **Imon from the 5&6 year old class.**

I made a lot of new friends and fun things happened every day and I learned how to make slime. **Daunte from the 11&12 year old class.**

“I would tell a kid that if you come to summer camp be prepared to have fun, learn and have a great summer”. **Jalen from the 11&12 year old class.**

This year summer camp was so much fun. I loved the field trips. I liked the game room, gym, outside, math, science and reading. I appreciate everything you have done. Thank you! **Derrick from the 9&10 year old class.**

"For more information on our Summer Camp, other programs, or how your organization can become involved - please call Laurie Krajna at 888-6213" www.BuffaloSalvationArmy.org