

CHESTER COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION GRANT PROPOSAL SUMMARY SHEET

One page only. This page will be shared electronically with Grant Committee Members & Fund Advisors.
Note: If Philanthropy Network Greater Philadelphia's Common Grant Application is used, the CCCF's Summary Sheet **MUST** accompany application. To obtain an electronic version of this application, visit www.chescocf.org

Date: 11/3/15

Contact Information:

Organization Name: Dragonfly Forest
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Phone: 610-298-1820
Website: www.dragonflyforest.org

Contact Name: Erin Royce

Contact Title: Camp Director
Contact E-mail:

Fax:
Year Incorporated: 2001

Has your nonprofit ever applied to the Community Foundation? Yes ___
No___ Not Sure_X_

Has your nonprofit ever received funding from the Community Foundation? Yes ___ No___ Not
Sure_X_
___ Donor Advised Fund(s) ___ Fund for Chester County ___ Don't know/Not sure

Field/s of Interest:

___ Arts, Culture & Humanities ___ Environment/Animal Welfare
___ Education
___ Health ___X_ Human Services
___ Religion

Organization Information:

Geographic Area Served (If not all of Chester County, specify primary Chester County regions served):

Children from Chester County, Delaware County, and Philadelphia

Describe Population Served and Annual Number of People Served:

Children ages 7-16 with autism, 22q11.2 deletion syndrome, persistent asthma, sickle cell disease, and hemophilia

Mission:

Dragonfly Forest provides traditional overnight camp experiences for children who are not afforded such opportunities due to their diagnoses. Dragonfly Forest aims to bring typical experiences to not-so-typical children in a safe and inclusive environment that celebrates children for who they are, and builds confidence surrounding their diagnosis.

Proposal Summary:

Due to the unique and individualized programming at Dragonfly Forest, the true cost per participant is \$1800. However, many camper families will pay less than \$300 to send their children to camp. The cost of camp is heavily subsidized by generous donations.

If Capacity Building Proposal:

___ Mission, Vision & Strategy ___ Governance & Leadership ___ Strategic Relationships
___ Fundraising & Development ___ Operations ___ Other: _____

Annual Budget \$ ___ 464,989 _____ # of Full-Time Equivalent Paid Staff
___ 79 ___ % of budget for program expenses ___ 6 ___ # of Board Volunteers
___ 11 ___ % of budget for administrative expenses ___ 219 ___ # of Active Non-Board
Volunteers
___ 10 ___ % of budget for fundraising expenses ___ 12,000 ___ # of Volunteer Hours
100 % total

Top 3-5 funding sources:

FORREST C AND FRANCES H LATTNER FOUNDATION INC
MONTGOMERY COUNTY FOUNDATION FOR HANDICAPPED CHILDREN
GENUARDI FAMILY FOUNDATION
RITE AID FOUNDATION
994 CHARLES B DEGENSTEIN FOUNDATION

Grant Amount Requested from CCCF: \$ ___ 7,500 _____

Vision and Mission

At Dragonfly Forest, we envision a future where more global citizens have the self-confidence to value diversity, embrace challenges, and strive for emotional maturity.

We provide overnight camp sessions for kids with autism and medical needs. Our program is a transformative experience because we give children the freedom and structure to succeed on their own terms. We teach kids specific skills that give them power and control over their futures.

Dragonfly Forest is extremely affordable for families. The generosity of individuals, corporations and foundations provides the financial resources to send children to camp. We are requesting \$7,500 from Chester County Community Foundation to support our camp. Most families pay less than \$300 for a week of camp (the true cost for us is \$1800 per camper, per week). Please consider supporting Dragonfly Forest in our 2016 camp season!

Our Program

We offer week-long overnight camp sessions for campers with Autism, 22Q Deletion, Sickle Cell Disease, Bleeding Disorders, Respiratory Issues, and Persistent Asthma. Our entire staff is trained by specialists to meet the needs of each group. We recruit doctors, nurses, and social workers to volunteer with us during each session, so we can provide 24-hour medical coverage for our campers. We have adapted our facility so that campers of all kinds can access the same great activities, such as the pool, archery range, ropes course, and zip-line.

All of these logistics occur in the background, so that our campers can experience a transformative week of safety, happiness, and friendship, without feeling like the odd one out. Our program is designed to help campers accept and appreciate their diagnosis as a unique and valuable part of who they are, instead of something to hide or feel embarrassed about. We value diversity in our campers and counselors, and our program is stronger because of it. We have been successfully operating for more than 10 years, and our program is well-respected in the community.

Hundreds of campers register for camp each year, and we accept as many of them as we can. Unfortunately, we have to turn away too many of them, because we do not have the funding to accept them all.

Outcomes

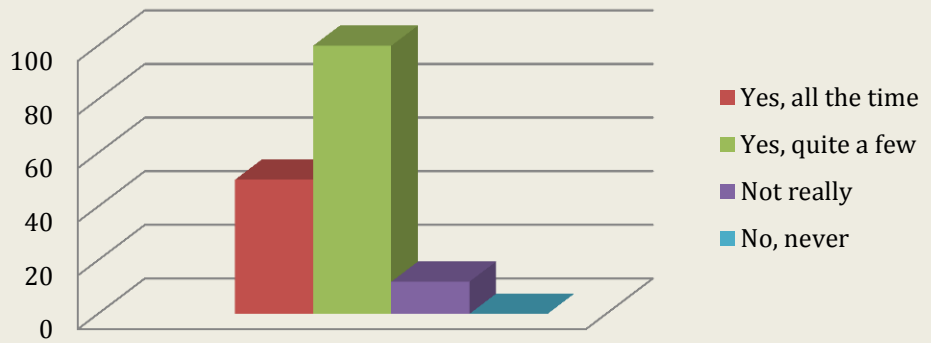
At Dragonfly Forest, we are invested in collecting data about the results of our program, so we can continue to improve it. We survey each camper and each family separately and then review our results during our program-planning season. We have been gathering data about our program since 2006, so we can analyze the experience of over 3,000 campers.

WHAT DO THE CAMPERS REPORT?

We are proud to report that the results of our surveys are overwhelmingly positive. Most of our campers state that camp helps them try new things, have more friends, and increase their self-confidence.

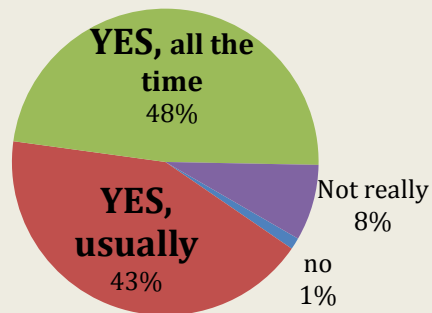
Do you try new things at camp?

New Experiences: Camper Responses



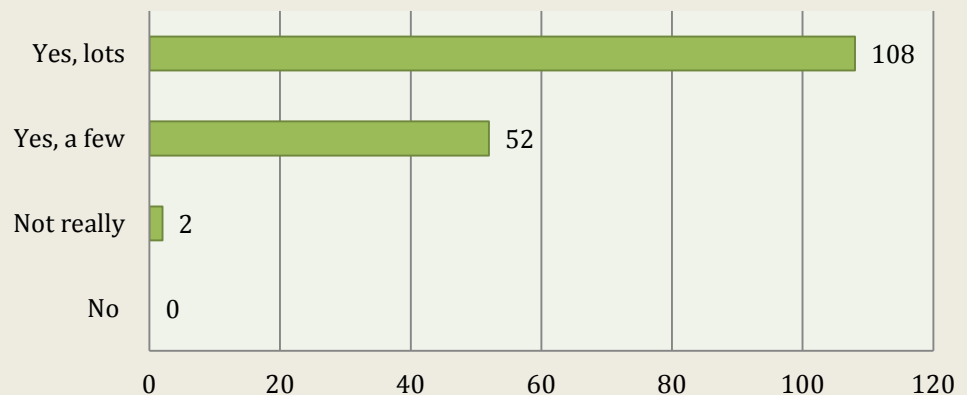
Does camp make you feel more confident?

Confidence: Camper Responses



Do you make new friends at camp?

New Friends: Camper responses

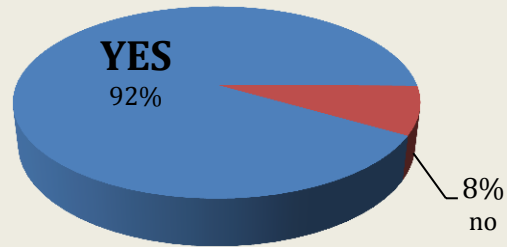


WHAT DO THE PARENTS REPORT?

We are thrilled to see that parents also report that our program has a positive overall effect on the confidence, independence, and happiness of campers after they return from camp.

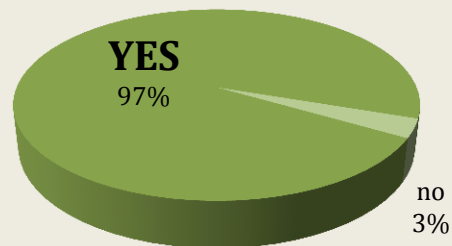
Does camp help your camper to be more independent?

Independence: Parent responses



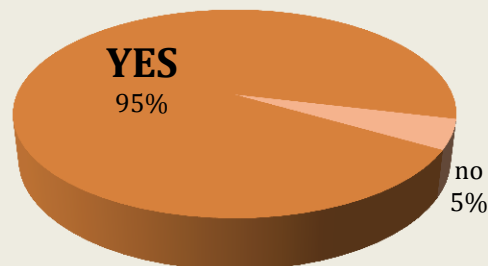
Does camp make your camper happy?

Happiness: Parent responses



Does your camper want to come back to camp next year?

Signing up for next year: Parent responses

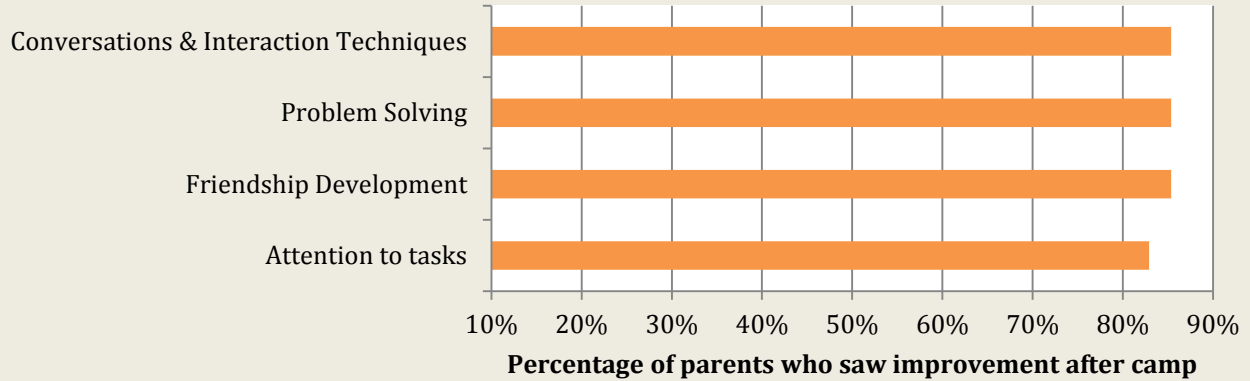


We design our program to promote happiness, independence and friendship, but we also teach specific life skills. We asked parents to report on their campers improvement in the following areas: friendships, problem solving, effective conversation, techniques for coping and staying calm, attention to tasks, transitioning between tasks, correcting their own mistakes, asking for help, tolerating change and many more. These skills are essential for young adults to become employable in our modern world.

SPECIFIC SKILLS

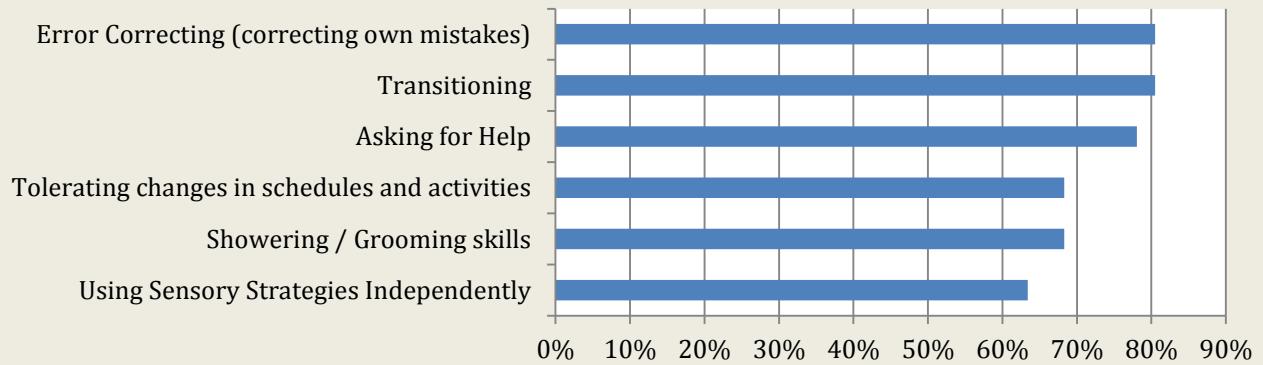
The top four skills that campers improve (according to their parents) are effective conversations, problem solving, friendship development, and attention to tasks. These skills will serve them well in social, academic, and professional settings.

Top four skills our campers learn



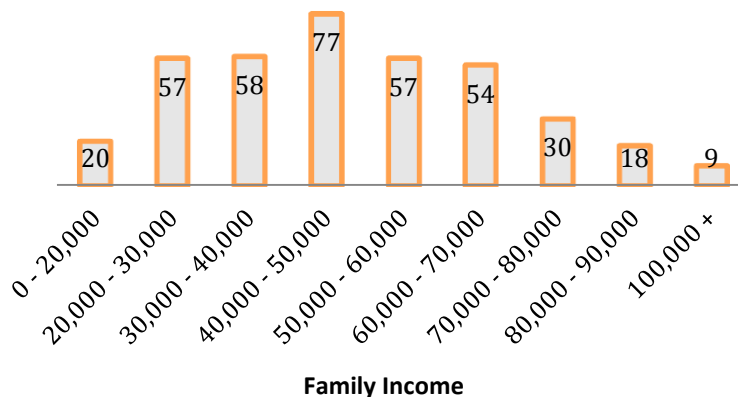
Parents also saw significant improvement in error correcting, transitioning, asking for help, tolerating change, and personal care skills.

Other skills with significant improvement



Demographics

Dragonfly Forest accepts campers into our program based solely on the child's disease or disorder, not the financial health of his or her family. However, a significant number of the campers we serve come from low to moderate socio-economic backgrounds.



Estimates Based on Average Zip Code Income Levels

34% of the campers who attend our program either live below the poverty line, or are considered severely low income. Additionally, many families who care for someone with a serious diagnosis experience a significant change in finances. Many parents' paychecks are reduced because of necessary time off from work due to excessive sick days, clinic visits and hospitalizations.