

Camp Bangor Summary Report 2008

In 2008, United Way of Eastern Maine continued to facilitate Bangor Maine children attending summer camps throughout Maine, thanks to the generosity of The Libra Foundation. We continue to hear appreciation and praise for The Camp Bangor Program and The Libra Foundation from children, families, camps and schools. Children attending camp using their Camp Bangor scholarship continue to learn new skills and increase their abilities all while making new friends and strengthening their self esteem.

Camp Bangor Comparative Statistics for Summer 2008

	2008	2007	2006	2005	2004	2003	2002	2001
Total Eligible Students (all Bangor Public school children enrolled in grades 3-6)	1045	1077	1052	1097	1154	1305	1310	1258
%/# of eligible students who were approved for Camp Bangor	89% (925)	87% (936)	90% (944)	86% (944)	87% (1009)	82% (1075)	87% (1137)	94% (1180)
%/# of approved students who registered for camp	90% (831)	93% (871)	89% (839)	89% (837)	91% (916)	91% (976)	90% (1022)	87% (1035)
% of total eligible students (all Bangor Public School 3-6 graders) who registered for camp	79% (831)	81% (871)	80% (839)	76% (837)	79% (916)	75% (976)	78% (1022)	82% (1035)
Total Libra dollars allocated to Camp Programs	\$583,000 (69%)*	\$677,000 (\$70%)*	\$707,152 (67%)*	\$698,585 (64%)*	\$747,222 (65%)*	\$784,000 (60%)*	\$792,921 (61%)*	\$790,000 (63%)*

School	Grade	# of Eligible Students	# of approved students	% of approved students	# of students who registered with camp	% of approved students who registered with camp	% of eligible students registered
3rd grade totals	3rd	246	213	87%	189	89%	77%
4th grade totals	4th	257	235	91%	204	87%	79%
5th grade totals	5th	257	225	88%	203	90%	79%
6th grade totals	6th	285	252	88%	235	93%	82%

* - Percent of total possible dollars (# of eligible children times their scholarship limit)

Camp Bangor Summary Report 2008

In 2008, we continued to enlist Margaret Clancey's (*recently retired 6th Bangor school teacher*) skills and relationships in the community to reach out to at-risk families with the goal of helping get their children to summer camp. Margaret worked part time providing extra support directly to Camp Bangor Families. Extra support included initial and ongoing contact by Camp Bangor, follow-up help with applications, one-on-one meetings with parents (through both office and at-home visits), arrangement of medical physicals, coordination of transportation and other camp-related details.

- 189 Camp Bangor students and their families received extra support during spring and summer of 2008.
- Out of the 189 students receiving extra support, 99 (52%) registered with camps.

This year, we again attempted follow up contact with every one of the 95 approved students, who despite our efforts, did not register for camp. The results are as follows:

Follow up responses/ reasons for not using Camp Bangor scholarship	# of students
No Contact - parent unreachable, phone disconnected or family moved	58
Changed mind or no follow through by parent (parent received help and then indicated they were all set but child did not attend camp)	25
Child did not want to go to camp	7
Busy Summer / child away for the summer	3
No appropriate camp setting / availability for child w/ special need	1
No transportation: bus or taxi not appropriate	1

The following stories are accounts of Camp Bangor students who, with support, enjoyed a great summer of camps thanks to their Libra Scholarship. Written by Margaret Clancey and reported in the first person.

Two Girls and a Grandmother

The first situation that presented itself for assistance was actually a carry over from 2007. Sara Yasner had received a call from a grandmother in the winter requesting assistance in attaining the scholarship for her granddaughters. Sara called me and the process began. I had tried to contact the mother innumerable times during the summer of 2007 to no avail. I might talk with someone and they would tell me they would call me back, but never did. I would call again in a week or so and go through the same routine. There seemed to be some interest, but no follow-through. At some point in the fall I read the death notice of this mother. This hit an uncomfortable cord with me as to a possible reasons for our inability to connect for the girls. When Sara's call came in about the grandmother wanting to get the process started for the girls, needless to say I was very pleased.

This grandmother, as it turns out, is a step-grandmother, who has only been involved in the lives of these two girls for about two or three years. Her son had good intentions, but couldn't quite get all the pieces of the puzzle together for the girls. So the grandmother became the glue that would hold this family together. She personally delivered the scholarship application to her son and waited while he filled it out and then returned it to me. I worked with the principals to get approval without sending the forms to the schools. We did not want to take any chances on losing the forms. The grandmother then came in to arrange for the girls to go to Camp Jordan. She felt they desperately needed a summer experience that would be special for them, and she was going to make sure it happened.

Camp Bangor Summary Report 2008

The final note here is that the girls both had two weeks at Camp Jordan and fully enjoyed the experience. Without the tenacious concern of their grandmother we might never have managed to get these two girls off to camp. Happy ending to a very sad year for two young ladies. My only regret is that I did not have that grandmother's name a year earlier.

One Mother, Two Autistic Children

The phone call comes to United Way that a mother wonders if someone can help her get her daughter registered for camp. She has a disease that is creating brain lesions and when this happens she loses her ability to read and write. Her husband is away in Vermont working so she is pretty much on her own.

The mother arrives at the United Way office, and we find a camp that will work well for her third grade daughter. She hopes we can help with her son, but he is too young for our program. The camp we choose has scholarships for some campers, but her son is too young by days. This parent is working hard to maintain the disciplines necessary for life with two autistic children. She had some strategies in place that seemed to work quite well, and it was reassuring to know that her daughter would attend a camp, with behavioral specialists on staff, that would make her summer much more enjoyable.

Boy United with Mother after Seven Years

This young man arrived in Bangor in late spring. He had been living in Malawi, a small African nation, with his grandmother while his mother came to this country to study. It is a very common practice in some countries for the grandparents to take the children while the parent pursues an education out of the country. Although he spoke English, there were many cultural, as well as language barriers, for this young boy. Summer camp would be the perfect place for him to hone his interpersonal skills this summer. His mother and I agreed that this was a good idea, but Duke was not so sure. He did not understand the concept of summer camp and balked at our suggestions that he would have a great time at a variety of camps. He is a very athletic young man and will find his niche, I am sure, in the sports programs offered in the Bangor area.

Three days later, when he realized just how boring the summer was going to be with his mother at work, he had changed his tune about trying out a camp. In the end we signed him up for two weeks at Camp Emerson, one week at Husson All Sport as an overnight camper, and a week at Husson Soccer camp. The overnight we are sure would be a success since he was in the same class as the camp directors' son and they assured me that their son and his friends would take Duke under their collective wings.

The last time I spoke with Duke's mother she said that Duke wanted to know the name of that nice lady who wanted him to go to camp. He thinks Bangor is a wonderful place, where people care about others and make sure they have a good summer. I guess that in this case I get all the credit and praise. It would be much too difficult to explain the Libra Foundation, Owen Wells and Elizabeth Noyes to this young man. His mother, however, understands the breadth of our program.

*Stories submitted by
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