

Heads Up! Hartford

Bloomfield, Connecticut

2016 Annual Report





About Us

How did Heads Up!
Hartford get its name?

In 2003, the first year of camp, Denny Moon, Basil Mahoney, Macy Reid, Al Williams, and Al's pastor at the time were contemplating what to name the camp. Denny blurted out "Heads Up! Hartford" and all agreed to use it as a working title until something better came along. In the end, the name stuck because of its multiple meanings. A word of encouragement: "Keep your head up Hartford, you're good." A warning: "Look out, Hartford, something is happening here." And a biblical allusion to the passage: "Lift your heads, O gates! And be lifted up O ancient doors, that the king of glory may come in." (Psalm 24:7)



Dear Friends,

This summer we celebrated the 13th summer of Heads Up! Hartford (HUH!), held on June 23 – 30. This faith-based, week-long service camp is licensed by the state of Connecticut and serves urban and suburban youth from in and around Hartford. This purpose of this non-profit 501(c)(3) volunteer organization is to build bridges across our many differences and develop leadership capability in your people through community service, recreation, worship and education.

This year, we shared our camp experience with 54 campers, 30 full-time volunteers, and many more part-time volunteers. Together we donated over 3000 hours of service to local organizations.

The Youth Advisory Board, comprised of experienced campers, took on a much bigger role in both planning for an running camp. They created the Sunday ecumenical worship service, ran an evening program, took on strong leadership roles within their teams, and showed everyone the value of a youth led camp.

Faithfully,
The HUH Operations Committee





Worksites

Our Community Work Partners are located in and around the Hartford, CT area. At these sites, we give back to the community through direct service during camp week.

Our 2016 work partners included...

ABC House, Glastonbury
Charities of Hope, Hartford
Chrysalis Center, Hartford
Connectikids, Hartford
CRT Early Care and Education,
Multiple Sites
End Hunger NE
Family Life Education, Hartford
FoodShare
Meadowbrook of Granby
Metacomet and Higley Village
North United Methodist Church
Seabury, Bloomfield
West Hartford Fellowship House





Activities

Mixed in with a lot of hard work, we participate in a variety of activities that foster team building, educate about diversity, and enhance the skills of future leaders. These take place at our residential site of St. Thomas Seminary in Bloomfield, CT as well as throughout the Hartford area.

Speakers:

- Elizabeth Thomas: *Poet*
- Niyonu Spann: *Tribe 1*



Activities:

- Collection for local food banks at 8 local grocery stores
- Sunday Worship
- Bench build for local charities
- Food Packaging Event
- Field Day
- Hoops Tournament
- Talent Show
- Silent Service
- Park Day





Partnering Youth Organizations

Heads Up! Hartford is a partnership of church and youth organizations who agree to support our efforts by sending their youth to camp. They also support us through the work of volunteer adults who help run the camp in a variety of ways: as advisors, operations committee members, daily monitors or members of the board. Partners also contribute financially to HUH efforts. We thank them deeply for without them, we would not exist.

- Breakthrough Magnet School, Hartford
- Buckingham Congregational Church, Glastonbury
- East Granby Congregational Church, East Granby
- First Calvary Baptist, Hartford
- First Church of Christ, Glastonbury
- Grace Worship Center, Hartford
- North United Methodist Church, Hartford
- St. James Episcopal Church, Glastonbury
- St. Luke's Episcopal Church, Glastonbury
- South Congregational Church, Granby
- Trinity Episcopal Church, Collinsville
- Trinity Episcopal Church, Hartford
- Two Rivers Magnet School, Hartford



The Macy Reid Award

2016 Awardees:

Jonathon Ude

Kachi Onoh

Shquia Moore-Thomas

Emmanuel Forbes

Brie Brodeur

Jestina Gilbert

Jamie Crane

Amira Gilbert



Again this year, we distributed awards in memory of Macy Reid, one of the founders of HUH. Macy passed during the summer of 2007. In her honor, we recognized 8 students who displayed:

-A deep faith in God. Macy trusted the Spirit to show up even when it looked like things wouldn't work out.

-A passion for compassion. Macy lived her life to help others.

-A sense of humor, even in tough times. When HUH! was hanging on by a string, Macy could crack a joke and see the absurdity of it all.

-A strong sense of justice. Macy could not tolerate oppression and unfairness and had no problem getting angry over them.

-A willingness to work very hard toward a shared goal. Macy worked long hours helping to create Heads Up! Hartford from thin air.



Volunteers

In addition to those listed below, more than 30 more volunteers donated their time in a wide variety of roles that included : part-time counselors, tool managers, front desk coordinators, carpenters, slide – show creators, photographers, referees, afternoon supervision, check-in and check-out assistants, transportation coordinators, and numerous other roles that contribute to the magic that is HUH!



Director:

Assistant Director:

Nurses:

Spiritual Director:

Nolan Dionne

Anna Tansi

Helen Rice

Cheryl Jacques Turner

Rev. Dawn Karlson

Rev. Linda Spiers

Full Time Staff:

Andrew Aramini

Brian Barnett

Briannon Chester

Patti Cole

Rachel Conte

Jonathan Corey

Chuck Davis

Shelby Demke

Krista Dionne

Dominic DiTomasso

Fred Dudley

Annabelle Duva

Jillian Edwards

Pete Eze

Pat King

Samantha LaFargue

Shirley Murant-Johnson

Theresa Murawski

Stephen Francis

Sam Giguere

Joel Hamilton

Rev. Dawn Karlson

Katie Lynn

Jim Pestana

Eddie Serrata

Rev. Linda Spiers

Morgan Tiroff

Gayle Wilcox



Operations Committee

This group works year round to plan and execute every portion of camp, as well as carry out two Youth Advisory Board (YAB) workshop weekends, as well as two or three Super Youth Groups. The members of the operations committee spend hours and hours of volunteer work that comes from the heart.



Nolan Dionne - Camp Director, Music Director

Anna Tansi – Assistant Director, Staff Training Coordinator

Cheryl Turner -- Camp Nurse

Gayle Wilcox - Volunteer Coordinator, YAB Advisor, Staff Training Coordinator

Jim Pestana - Finance Coordinator, YAB Advisor, Technical Advisor

The Rev. Linda Spiers - Evening Events Coordinator, Staff Training Coordinator

Fred Dudley - Church Rep Coordinator, Survey Master, Outreach Coordinator

Patti Cole - Coordinator For Work Sites, Wood Project, Food Collection

Erika Demke – Registration Coordinator

Rev. Rowena Kemp, Shelby Demke, Rev. Dawn Karlson, Latoya Watson, Briannon Chester, Theresa Murawski – Ops Team Members



Board of Directors

The Board of Directors of Heads Up! Hartford, Inc. is a small group of faith-based individuals dedicated to the continuation and success of the organization. Our short term goal is to achieve financial strength to fund HUH's current projects and programs. Our longer term goal is to enable the expansion of programs in our own Hartford area communities and possibly beyond. To achieve these ends, the board plans to continue to review and increase BOD membership, create an Annual Fund Raising event, and continue key committee initiatives.



Adah Dionne, President
Dennis Scarpa, Vice President
Basil Mahoney, Treasurer
Taylor Coon, Secretary
Nolan Dionne, Camp Director
Anna Tansi, Assistant Camp Director
Tyron Harris, Member At Large
Bobby Nims, Member At Large
Stacy Kot, Member At Large
Rev. Linda Spiers, Member At Large
Gayle Wilcox, Member At Large
Mr. John Reid, Legal Consultant
Rev. Denny Moon, Founder

In 2005, the Board was formed and HUH! became a registered 501c3 charity under the guidance of founder Rev. Denny Moon. In 2008, the board was restructured and since then it continues to take a more strategic and future-focused approach that will enable HUH ! to thrive now and grow and expand. We began our current efforts with a formal review of the role of a non-profit board of directors, and took inventory of our existing infrastructure, strengths and opportunities. In the years since the new board began, we have made great strides to enable HUH to flourish now and in the future.

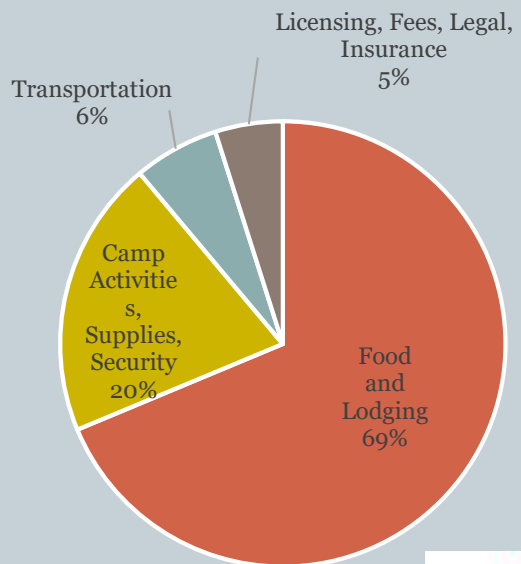
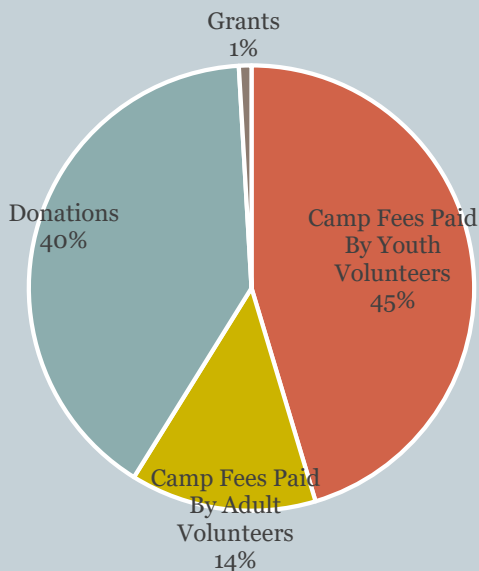


Financial Report

October 1, 2015 – September 30, 2016



Revenue		
Camp Fees Paid By Youth Volunteers	\$19,883	45.4%
Camp Fees Paid By Adult Volunteers	\$5,915	13.5%
Donations	\$17,637	40.2%
Grants	\$400	0.9%
Total	\$43,835	100.0%
Expenses		
Food and Lodging	\$37,662	68.7%
Camp Activities, Supplies, Security	\$11,062	20.2%
Transportation	\$3,400	6.2%
Licensing, Fees, Legal, Insurance	\$2,687	4.9%
Total	\$54,811	100.0%



What Campers Say About Their HUH Experience



Heads Up! Hartford has changed me and made me a better person. I mean it. Every day that I have been there, I've had moments where I've had to take a step back and reevaluate how I see the world, and how I see other people. The people at Heads Up are also some of the most amazing that you will ever meet; in my opinion, they are a good part of what makes it so worthwhile. Even though we are such a diverse crowd, filled with people of all races, cultures, sexual orientations, genders, and even religions, at the end of the day, we are all a family.

--**Jamie Crane**

HUH has taught me about other people and that there are a lot of different types of people with different beliefs. But it's also taught me that no matter how different you are from someone, you can always find something you share with them. HUH has taught me that by finding those similarities, you can unite the world. We all have more in common than you might initially think, but that's why you need to make an effort to go out and truly get to know people.

--**Ceci**

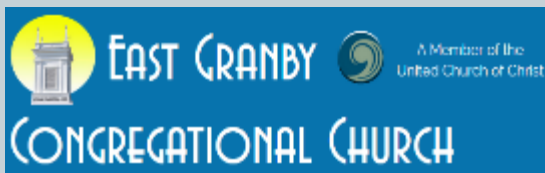


Final Thoughts...



We ended a wonderful 2016 season with our first annual celebration and fundraiser. More than 45 guests donned the fall themed event. Guests experienced a wonderful evening a hor d'oeuvres, wine, beer, and exciting silent auction items. Five entities sponsored the event, including lead sponsors from **Jade Marketing Group, Fiduciary Investment Advisors, Gayle Wilcox in honor of East Granby Congregational Church and Carmon Community Funeral Homes.** The Fall Festival was a fantastic success, raising over \$3,000 to support the campers for 2017!

Premier Sponsors



Sponsor a Camper



See you at Camp next year: June 22 - June 29, 2017!

