

It is Camp Time!

By Kimberly S Chaney
Kimberly S Chaney, CPA

Summer Camp season is right around the corner! Can you hear the happy sounds of children yet?

This summer, the Y will offer over 40 camp options for children and their families, serving 1,000 children PER DAY throughout our many locations. Our camps include the traditional adventure and day camps, as well as specialty and excursion camps like Horsemanship, Counselor in Training options, and Kids Unlimited Camp for children with special needs.

Throughout our camps, as we do in all YMCA programming, we focus on healthy living, youth development and social responsibility. Ryan Murphy, Youth Development Program Director, says "in our camp world, we have three intentional focus areas for the campers we serve - achievement, relationships and belonging. We encourage campers to step out of their comfort zone, try new things and see what they can achieve. We believe in cultivating healthy relationships between our campers, staff and families. We also strive to create a sense of belonging for all our campers in an inclusive, positive and encouraging environment."

Today, creating achievement, building relationships and developing a sense of belonging make camp more vital than ever, and, as with all our programs, we never turn away those in need. During the summer of 2018, 150 – 200 children PER DAY will be attending on a full or partial scholarship. This extrapolates into about \$100,000 of scholarship services provided. Our Annual Campaign and interest from our endowment scholarship funds are our two main sources for funding camp scholarships.

Your charitable contributions to the Annual Campaign and to the Endowment Fund will help increase the number of happy voices that we hear and the number of children and families that we can serve. Thank you for your contributions to our Summer Camp programs!

Should you or a loved one be interested in learning more about giving options at the YMCA of Frederick County, please contact Tom Clingman at (301)663-5131 or tclingman@frederickymca.org