



Friends Camp Association of PA, Inc.

Camp Onas Annual Report

October, 2015 to September, 2016

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Our Incredible 2016 Summer

We had a wonderful summer, filled with Onas traditions, new and old friendships, and memorable experiences for campers and staff.

Our Theme weekends were truly outstanding this year – from skits, to Dining Hall decorations, to costumes and plots supported by camp-wide games, each and every Theme Weekend this summer was an incredible, magical experience for campers. The theme weekends were: Finding Nemo, The Princess Bride, Road to El Dorado, and Wreck it Ralph.

Our performances ... The Dance, Drama, and Music programs graced the stage weekly, and along with skit nights, lip sync, and other performances, our community was brought closer together through performance. We held “Onas Stock” twice in 2016, it continues to be a beloved Evening Activity. (Onas Stock combines live music, games, and carnival-type activities, and sometimes ends with a small firework display).



Proud Leprechaun House builders, with their excellent construction.

Swim Lessons this summer were well-run, fun, and well-attended. For the second summer in row, we had enough advanced swimmers (and qualified staff) to offer a basic water safety course.

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Scenes from Princess Bride Theme Weekend

From the Directors

For many in our community, 2016 has been a year marked by uncertainty and unease. We recognize that, and we are looking at the year ahead as an incredible opportunity to do what Camp Onas has done each and every summer for nearly a century: Provide kids a chance to get away from the bigger world, to play and be kids, and to build the kind of community they want to be a part of—a community that makes them feel good.

Kindness and love are cornerstones of the program at Camp Onas, and always have been, because of the Quaker values on which our mission and program are built. In general, we all try our best to get along. We strive to find the good in everyone, and when we mess up, we acknowledge it, face-to-face, and we move forward. It’s comforting, it’s enjoyable, and it’s important. (And it’s something children are actually quite good at!)

The 2017 summer is already setting up to be a great one, and the excitement is beginning to build. We look forward to soon hearing the sounds of young people singing, sleeping under the stars, building friendships, making memories, and continuing the Onas tradition of building community.



Thank you for being a part of the work we are doing here, and for helping campers experience Camp Onas!

Our Incredible 2016 Summer

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The Pioneer Program ... Our Pioneers braved intense weather, storms, and rushing (and low & slow) waters to complete all four pioneers (with one rain delay). We continued to use Nockamixon State Park and Lake Nockamixon for the Junior Pioneer program this summer when the water on the Delaware was too high or low to send inexperienced canoers out. It made for a fun and more approachable adventure trip for young campers.

Service ... Our older campers volunteered for a fourth summer at Manna on Main Street in Lansdale, where they helped prepare and clean up for a meal. Our graduate campers also prepared one simple lunch for the whole camp, where we ate a simple vegetarian lunch using minimal flatware, napkins, cups, etc. The meal served as a backdrop for conversations about waste, conservation, food scarcity, and simplicity.

Beating the Heat ... Temperatures soared during 3rd and 4th session, and we were impressed with how well campers and staff did at keeping cool and staying in good spirits. Everyone was good about staying hydrated, wearing sunscreen, using the pool and sprinklers, slowing down, and dressing appropriately for the heat.



Waiting for a game of Capture the Flag to start.

Room to Grow: Renovating the Camp Garden

Camp Onas was awarded a grant to renovate our camp garden this year. Together with donations from individuals, the work of volunteers, and our board members, the grant helped us create our dream garden. We received news that we were getting the grant in March, and we were able to get the garden up and running by early summer.

Our renovated garden features raised beds, a water line run directly to the garden with a drip irrigation system, weed barrier fabric on all the beds, and a picnic bench at which campers can work and visit while enjoying the garden. The end result was a more productive and camper-friendly garden where campers can have a bigger role in planting, tending and harvesting food that is enjoyed in our Dining Hall. With our improved garden, Onas is eager to make the garden a bigger part of our campers' experience.



To see a lot more pictures of the camp garden renovation, please visit our Camp Onas Facebook page. There is an album showing the progression of the project posted there.

Most of the funding for this project was through a grant by The Kathryn and Charles Avison-Miriam Avison Charitable Fund at the Boston Foundation. Grant-making decisions are handled by the Avison Fund Committee of the Friends Meeting at Cambridge.





Goofing off for the 4th session Silly Photo

Operations & Improvements

Camp Operations ran efficiently and effectively this year. Camper enrollment for the summer was once again full, and we were joined by 497 individual campers throughout the summer.

Our summer staff was once again comprised almost entirely of former campers and counselors, who continued the Onas tradition of young people working together to create wonderful, memorable experiences for our campers.

We maintained our accreditation with the American Camp Association (ACA), and our Summer Maintenance staff did strong work to keep camp in top shape, including re-staining Dellview porch (which looks great!), adding siding on the utility room of the Girls Side Showerhouse, and deck and railing repairs on the Gazebo.

Other improvements included: Repainting all of the bedrooms and bathrooms in the Texas Building, replacing nearly all of the metal camper beds along with about 20 mattresses, and replacing the roof on the Penn Pavilion.

In the year ahead, we will be updating all of the fixtures in the Texas Building bathrooms, re-doing the kitchen in Dellview, and drawing up plans to renovate the Nature Center — we look forward to updating our friends on these projects!

Off-Season Group Use 2016	
Group Type & # of groups	people served
Schools-8	471
Friends Schools-2	123
Recreation and Retreats-4	154
Faith Based Groups-3	161
Young Friends Week-long gathering	26
Onas Sponsored	293
Family Camp Weekend	128
Total groups served-21	1,079

A note from a 2016 Parent

I just wanted to write to say thank you so much for such a hugely successful first time camp experience for my twins. They could not have loved camp more.

From their stories, I can hear that Camp Onas has so much heart.

As soon as we picked them up they asked if they could stay for a month next year.

Since they've been home, they have sang 50 new songs and talked non stop about camp -- from

"philosophy class" to cleaning the shower house ... we have heard it all.

From their stories, I can hear that Camp Onas has so much heart. It sounds like such a simple, joyful and timeless place.

Because of the supportive community you have created, my kids rose to the challenge of being away from home and transformed ever so slightly into independent beings.

I'm so grateful for their experience.



My Happy Place

In this school essay, a 2016 camper captures the freedom and joy that she experiences at Camp Onas — We were struck by the timelessness of her experience. It reminded us of our own time as campers, and we thought it could have just as easily been written in the 60s, 70s, 80s, 90s ... straight through to 2016.

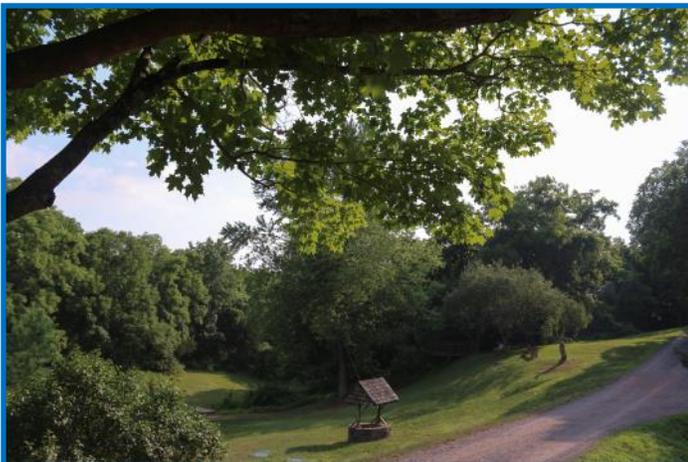
My happy place is in a camp called Camp

Onas. It is a sleepaway camp. My favorite place in there is my cabin, Playwicki.

Our cabin always looks like...a mess! We have a boring cabin clean up after breakfast, but in the morning, the good old cabin is a mess! In the morning, we have to get to breakfast at the dining hall on time, so we usually are in a rush, trying to find clothes. One girl in my cabin looked like a chipmunk trying to dig a hole. She was trying to find her clothes one day that we were late!

Our cabin sounds like...a bunch of girls gossiping away! We love to chatter about previous times at Camp Onas, books, the latest fashions, and so much more! Also, lots of kids from other cabins and counselors visit our little bunk. During rest hour, we are not allowed to talk, so we whisper. Also we write letters to our

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Camper Enrollment

	2016	2015*	2014*
Total enrollment	588	603*	606*
% full	99%	101%	101%
Boys	299	303	294
Girls	289	300	312
Based off of 593 spots (566 2-week and 28 1-week). * Previous years have used different enrollment goals to determine capacity.			
Number of campers (individuals)	471	497	489
Boys	240	255*	243*
Girls	231	242	246
One week campers	27	36*	42*
Boys	14	18	15
Girls	13	18	27
*In previous years, we have tried different numbers and sessions for one-week campers, before landing on our current goal of 2 one-week sessions, each with 14 campers.			
One session campers (2 weeks)	322	353	334
Boys	163	189	180
Girls	159	164	154
Two session campers (4 weeks)	122	107	113
Boys	61	48	48
Girls	61	59	65
Returning campers from '15	341	344	319
% of eligible campers	85%	86%	85%
Boys	80%	84%	81%
Girls	87%	87%	90%
% of eligible Friends	89%	87%	91%
New campers	128	153	170
New Boys	65	83	86
New Girls	63	70	84*
Number of Friends	74	91	94
% Friends	15%	18%	19%
Graduating Campers	93	86	88
# of Friends Graduating	13	25	13

My Happy Place

Essay by a 2016 Camp Onas Camper, Continued from page 3

parents, so you hear a lot of the paper we use rustling. During 2 hour free time, we love to paint each other's nails and pick berries, screaming and shouting at the time. I am glad it is far away, surrounded by pines, oaks, junipers, and blackberry tree and big plants because we are so loud.

My bunk smells like...all of us mixed together! We all have unique and different smells, so in all, we smell wonderful! Perhaps we smell of berries and honeysuckle, because we pick these items to make our cabin smell better. We also smell like sweat because we are usually worked to the core.

And lastly, my cabin makes me feel ... like I am a dog without a leash! Here at Camp Onas you have a lot of choices. You could, say, have the choice of gimp, tie dye, soccer, or you could play Bears. You can pick any of them! And to make it funnier, the counselors put on hilarious skits to convince campers to go to their activities. At night, after EA (EA can be soccer, prisoner's base, flag tag, capture the flag and more!) Your counselors will sing you to sleep in your cabin.



Above: Campers, Counselors, and Mackenzie enjoying some shade

Every other weekend, there is theme weekend. Last year, it was finding nemo. It is so fun. You should go. When I am there, I feel, happy, relaxed, and excited about the next thing! This is why Camp Onas is my happy place.



Quaker Camper Enrollment

Bucks Quarterly Meeting		
Number of Meetings Represented - 9		
Bristol-0	Newtown-4	
Buckingham-6	Plumstead-3	
Doylestown-7	Quakertown-2	
Fallsington-0	Solebury-5	
Lehigh Valley-4	Southampton-0	
Makefield-0	Wrightstown-0	
Middletown-7	Yardley-5	
Total number of campers from BQM:		
2016-43		
2015-52	2014-50	2013-40
	2012-48	

Friends Meetings outside of BQM		
19 meetings represented by 31 campers		
Abington-3	Arch St.-1	Brooklyn-4
Centre, NC-1	Chestnut Hill-1	Downingtown-2
Fifteenth St-1	Germantown-1	Haverford-1
Horsham-1	London Grove-1	Louisville, KY-1
Media-2	Moorestown-1	Pittsburgh-1
Plainfield-1	Plymouth Mtg.-1	Princeton-1
Purchase, NY-2	West Grove-1	Westtown-1
	Willistown-2	
Total Friends Meetings represented, including		
Bucks Quarter Meetings: 2016 - 28		
2015 - 39	2014 - 44	2013 - 35
	2012 - 32	

Donations & Camperships

2015-2016 Contributions

Thank you! Our donors helped us offer Camper Aid to every camper who requested it, and devote resources toward some much-needed improvements. **Thank you to all who contributed — your support helps Camp Onas provide a fun, safe, and inclusive program for kids.**

Contributions to Camp Onas in 2016:

Alumni, Board Members, & Friends:	\$19,153
Camper Families:	\$8,790
Camp Store Purchases:	\$2,023
Friends Meetings:	\$920
SCOPE Grant:	\$1,300
Garden Grant from Avison Fund:	\$2,950
TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS:	\$35,118

The Neiger Gould Camper Fund was not used to help with any special projects this year, and at the end of our Fiscal Year, the fund stood at: \$91,568.

Camperships

We were again able to help every family who requested financial assistance this year.

42 Campers attended Camp Onas with the help of the Camper Aid Fund.

Range of aid: \$100 - \$1,330

19 campers received \$500 or more

23 campers received less than \$500

Aid Awarded in 2016

From Camper Aid Fund	\$18,119
From SCOPE	\$1,300
<u>From Annual Fund & Other Revenue</u>	<u>\$3,892</u>

Total Aid Awarded 2016 **\$23,312**

Total Aid Given in 2015—\$27,385

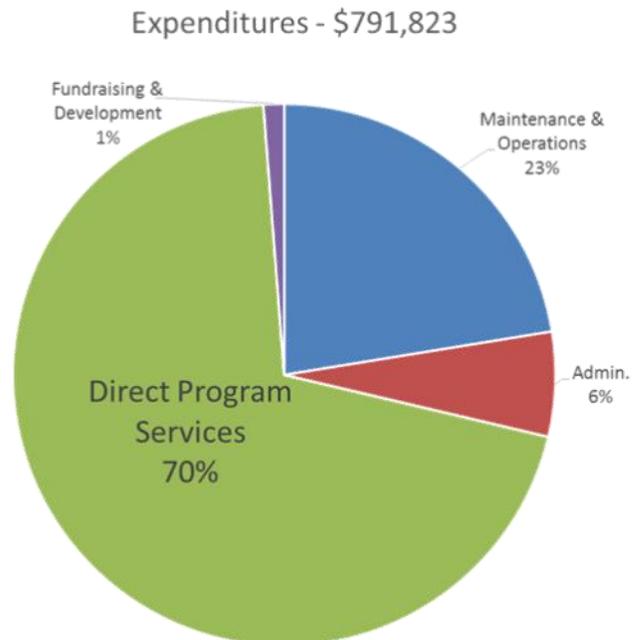
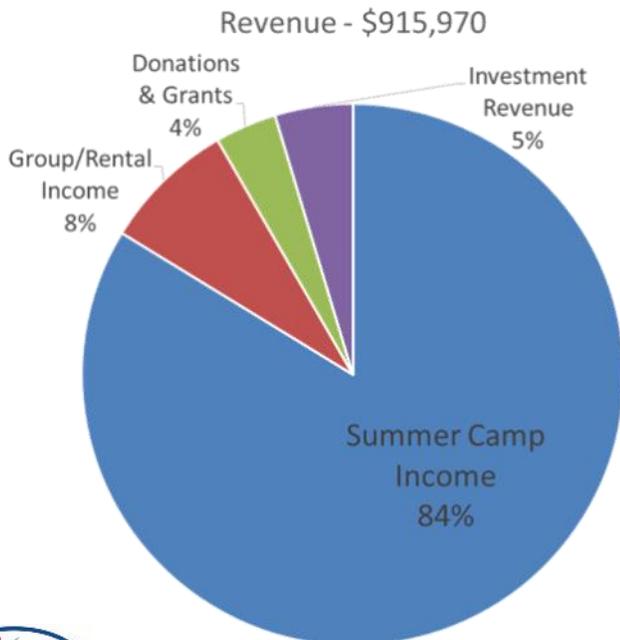
Total Aid Given in 2014 —\$25,923

Total Aid Given in 2013—\$23,980

Total Aid Given in 2012—\$20,500

Finances at a Glance

We are committed to careful stewardship of our resources. Our goal is to balance the requirements of operating and maintaining our camp with the needs of our program so the greater part of expenditures goes to providing a quality program at a price families can afford.



Camp Onas is proud to be an accredited member of the American Camp Association.