



Friends Camp Association of PA, Inc.

Camp Onas Annual Report

October, 2016 to September, 2017

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Our Incredible 2017 Summer

We had a wonderful summer. Relatively mild weather, an experienced and caring staff, and fun-loving campers made the 2017 summer a memorable one for new and returning campers alike.

Our Theme Weekends ... were once again outstanding; incorporating incredible, well-planned, (and even choreographed!) skits, transformative Dining Hall decorations, spot-on costumes, and creative ways to support themed plots through fun-filled activities. Our counselors pulled out all the stops to create engaging, memorable theme weekends. The 2017 theme weekends were: Justice League, Mulan, Phineas and Ferb, and The Wizard of Oz.

Our performances ... The Drama and Music programs graced the stage each session, and along with skit nights, lip syncs, and other performances, our community was brought closer together through taking turns entertaining one another. Campers wrote their own sketches for some of the performances,



"Sheephole Day" remains a beloved Onas Tradition. Above, Campers play in the creek.

and the Onas Band wowed everyone each session through their collaborative efforts.

Nature ... Our Nature Directors were very thoughtful and creative about finding ways for campers to get out, experience our
(Story continues on page 2)



4th session Weekend: Toto and Dorothy arrive in Oz, and encounter the Wicked Witch of the West.

From the Directors

As we reflect on the past year at Camp Onas, we feel thankful. We are thankful to the **campers** who joined us with open hearts and unbridled excitement. We are thankful to our young, talented, and energetic **staff** who work tirelessly to create an unforgettable and amazing experience for our campers. Thankful to the **parents** who put their trust in Onas. Thankful to the **teachers, school administrators, and group leaders** who brought nearly 1,000 people to experience Camp Onas this "Off-Season." We are thankful to our **Board Members** who keep Camp Onas true to its mission while positioning Onas for a bright and successful future. And we are thankful to the many **friends and donors** who recognize the value Camp Onas holds for young people by investing their money, time, energy, and enthusiasm into Camp Onas. **Thank you!**



Matt and Holly Hecht, Camp Directors

Off-Season Group Use

Group Type & Number of Groups	# people served
Schools-10	533
Friends Schools-3	126
Recreation and Retreats-5	236
Faith Based Groups-4	177
Young Friends Week-long gathering	27
Onas Sponsored	172
Family Camp Weekend	117
Older Camper Weekend	55
Total groups served-21	1,118

Our Incredible 2017 Summer

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natural surroundings, learn about nature, make art from nature, and more. Participating in some of our counselors' creative and fun nature activities continues to be a highlight that campers report on their end-of-summer surveys.

The Pioneer and Junior Pioneer ... our Pioneer (overnight adventure) trips ran smoothly this summer. All four full pioneers went out this summer, as did three out of four Junior Pioneers (2nd session was cancelled because of a heat wave). Pioneers and Junior Pioneers continue to be beloved and memorable experiences for campers. Those who participate consistently list the Pioneer as a favorite experience from their time at Camp Onas.

Service ... Our older campers volunteered once again at Manna on Main Street in Lansdale, where they

helped prepare and clean up for a meal, and stocked and organized the food pantry. This marked our fifth summer sending older campers to volunteer at Manna on Main Street, and it has become a favorite, much-looked-forward-to trip among campers and staff.



Mackinac campers and counselors in front of their tent.

Our Upcoming Nature Center Renovation

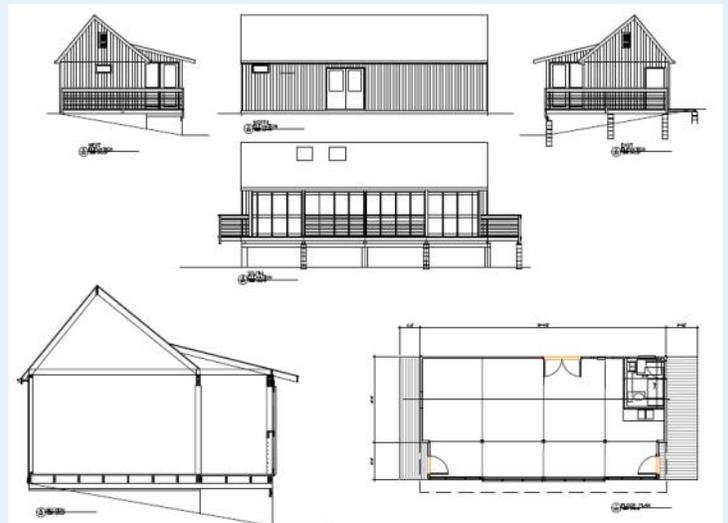
We are in the initial planning phases of updating and renovating the Camp Onas Nature Center.

We envision a remodeled space where campers and off-season guests will feel invited to learn more about our surroundings, and encouraged to get out and explore our natural setting.

The Nature Center renovation will include updates to the structure, making it more open and welcoming, but the overall footprint will stay the same. The new design calls for extending the roof over the former deck, replacing the back wall with windows, and moving the bathroom to more universally accessible location.

In addition, we will be working on improving the interpretive tools and resources in the Nature Center, helping campers and other guests connect with and understand our natural surroundings.

We will be pursuing grants and mounting a capital campaign to support the renovation. We look forward to sharing updates about this project as it develops.



Proposed Nature Center Renovations. View them larger at camponas.org



Friends Fundraising for Onas

This year, four friends of Onas put their love for Onas into action through their own personal (and tremendously successful!) fundraising efforts.



Friends gathered at Quakertown Monthly Meeting for Lydia's luncheon benefitting the Camper Aid Fund.

Camper Lydia George organized a pasta luncheon at Quakertown, NJ Monthly Meeting, where she is a member, to raise money for the Camper Aid Fund. With the help of her parents and volunteers, Lydia planned the menu and prepared food, wrote a press release for the event, and helped serve food. **Her efforts raised \$765 for the Camper Aid Fund.**

Lydia embarked on this effort together with her mother, who is a member of the Camp Onas Board. The Onas Board of Directors set a goal this year that each member would raise \$500 for the Camper Aid Fund, and Lydia saw this as an opportunity to help her mother reach her goal, because she loves Onas.

When asked if she had advice for anyone else trying to mount a fundraising effort like this one, she said "Make it fun!"

Lizzy McNeill, a former Onas camper and staff member, first started raising money for the Camper Aid Fund when she was 16 by selling friendship bracelets. At a young age, she identified that, "through raising money, I was able to use my love for

Onas in a productive way and help others experience what I was so lucky to have as a camper."

Lizzy volunteers as a Big Sister at a Philadelphia public school. Believing a session at Camp Onas would be a positive experience for her "Little Sister," she launched a fundraising campaign to get her "little" to Onas. Lizzy was driven to do so because she knows camp helps kids **"build confidence in themselves so when they're back home they know how to tackle an issue in a proactive way."**

Lizzy identified that for many children, a session at Camp "is the first time children learn to deal with conflict in an emotionally safe environment. The life lessons they learn help mold campers into leaders and ambassadors for the values Camp Onas embodies."



Lizzy, as a counselor, celebrating the 4th of July with campers (2013).

In 2017, Lizzy set a new goal of helping two campers attend camp. **She raised \$1,500 for the Camper Aid Fund, and additional funds to help purchase camp gear and clothing for the campers**

When asked about her personal experience with these fundraising endeavors, Lizzy said "Raising

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With Gratitude

This summer, we held a “gratitude” activity with campers. During the activity, we reflected on what we are thankful for, and wrote some notes to people in our lives, to let them know how we felt. Some campers chose to write to the people who support the Camper Aid Fund, below is one of those letters.

“Camp Onas is a place that I look forward to coming to every single year. This place means so much to me and every day I spend here is a blessing.

Rain or shine, camp is a place that makes every moment fun, and every day an adventure. I’m so thankful that I get to spend this time here in a place I refer to as my second home. That’s why **I’m also so thankful for all of you who help children come to camp, because what you donate is not just money, it’s happiness.** The friendships that are built here and the memories that are made here are **so beautiful.**

As someone who had been raised to know that everyone deserves to be happy, no matter their financial situation, **knowing that other kids can have this experience makes me proud to be a part of Onas.**

I hope you know how much of a difference you make in the lives of the **children to whom you give a sacred second home for life.**

Thank you, and Onas forever,

—A Grateful Onas Camper”



A drawing on another letter, written by an Onas counselor.

Camper Enrollment

	2017	2016	2015*
Total enrollment	581	588	603*
% full	99%	99%	101%
Boys	288	299	303
Girls	293	289	300
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)	469	471	497
Boys	238	240	255*
Girls	231	231	242
One week campers	27	27	36*
Boys	13	14	18
Girls	14	13	18
*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)	330	322	353
Boys	177	163	189
Girls	153	159	164
Two session campers (4 weeks)	112	122	107
Boys	48	61	48
Girls	64	61	59
Returning campers from '16	326	341	344
% of eligible campers	86%	85%	86%
Boys	82%	80%	84%
Girls	90%	87%	87%
% of eligible Friends	92%	89%	87%
New campers	143	128	153
New Boys	89	65	83
New Girls	54	63	70
Number of Friends	85	74	91
% Friends	18%	15%	18%
Graduating Campers	99	93	86
# of Friends Graduating	15	13	25

Friends Fundraising for Onas

(continued from page 3)

money for the Camper Aid Fund has given me the ability to have Onas wherever I go in life, even if I am not physically there. **It makes me happy to know that someone else is hearing the crickets at night while their counselors sing to them after a long, fun day of camp.** If you are thinking about raising money for camp, I really recommend just jumping in and going for it. Every dollar counts!”

And saving the best for last: Former Camp Onas Directors Jane and Russ Neiger celebrated their 65th Wedding Anniversary this year. Reflecting on what a big part of their lives Onas has been, and how special it remains to their families and fiends, they chose to mark their anniversary with a special celebration at Camp Onas. It was wonderful to have friends reunite to honor Jane and Russ in a place

that is so special to them. Jane and Russ asked guests to make contributions to the Neiger Gould Camper Fund instead of bringing gifts. An anonymous donor offered a \$1,000 matching donation.

Jane and Russ raised nearly \$4,500 for the Neiger Gould Camper Fund through their special celebration.

“Three Big Ones” for Jane, Russ, and their family for finding yet another fun way to benefit Camp Onas Campers!



Russ and Jane Neiger

Quaker Camper Enrollment

Bucks Quarterly Meeting Number of Meetings Represented - 10	
Bristol-0	Newtown-5
Buckingham-4	Plumstead-1
Doylestown-7	Quakertown-2
Fallsington-0	Solebury-2
Lehigh Valley-3	Southampton-0
Makefield-0	Wrightstown-1
Middletown-10	Yardley-6
Total number of campers from BQM: 2017-41	
2016-43	2015-52
2014-50	2013-40

Friends Meetings outside of BQM 23 meetings represented by 44 campers		
Abington-5	Arch St.-1	Brooklyn (NY)-7
Centre, NC-2	Chestnut Hill-1	Downingtown-2
Fifteenth St-1	Gwynedd-2	Haverford-1
Horsham-1	Langley Hills (VA)-1	London Grove-1
Media-1	Pittsburgh-1	Plainfield-1
Princeton(NJ)-2	Sandy Spring (MD)-3	West Chester (PA)-1
West Grove-2	West Hartford (CT)-1	Westfield (NJ)-1
Westtown-1	Willistown-2	
Total Friends Meetings represented, including Bucks Quarter Meetings: 2017 - 33		
2016-30	2015 - 39	2014 - 44
		2013 - 35



Donations & Camperships

2016-2017 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 2017:

Alumni, Board Members, & Friends:	\$19,153
Camper Families:	\$6,750
Camp Store Purchases:	\$2,749
Friends Meetings:	\$7,741
SCOPE Grant:	\$1,300
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: \$109,214. The fund increased substantially thanks to the special fundraising effort of Jane & Russ Neiger and their friends and family.

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 - \$1,420

26 campers received \$500 or more

16 campers received less than \$500

Aid Awarded in 2017

From Camper Aid Fund	\$24,069
From SCOPE	\$1,300
From Annual Fund & Other Revenue	\$2,098

Total Aid Awarded 2017 **\$27,467**

Total Aid Given in 2016 — \$23,854

Total Aid Given in 2015 — \$27,385

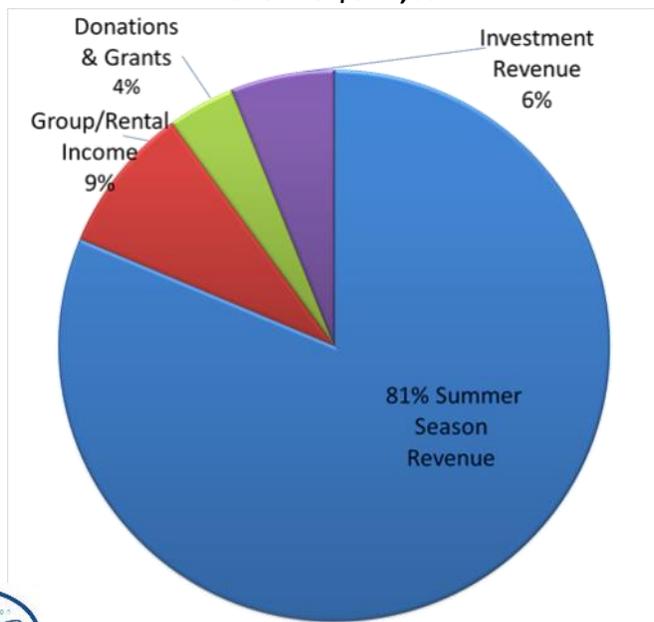
Total Aid Given in 2014 — \$25,923

Total Aid Given in 2013 — \$23,980

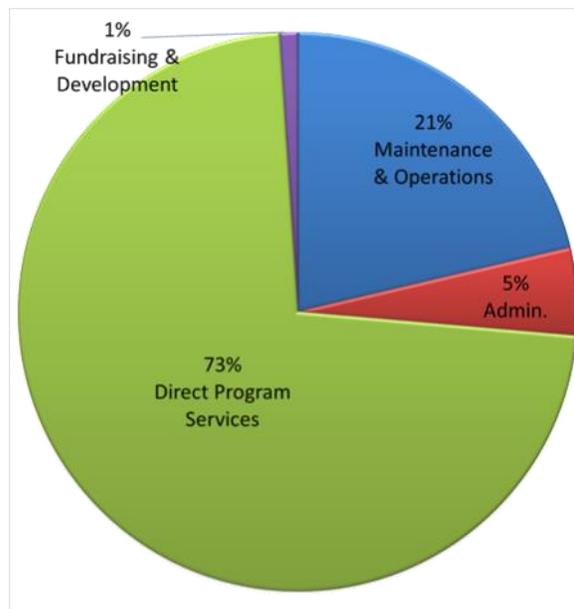
Finances at a Glance

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, and the potential needs of the future, so the greater part of expenditures goes to providing a quality program at a price families can afford.

Revenue-\$974,657



Expenditures-\$791,823



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