

Camp Achieve Annual Report

Epilepsy Foundation
Eastern Pennsylvania

2013

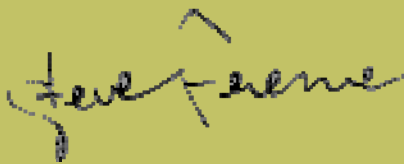
Dear Friends,

Camp Achieve is an extraordinary place. On the first day of camp, parents and campers arrive, blankets and pillows in tow, ready to embark on an adventure. Amidst the smiles and occasional tears is the realization that this is bound to be an experience unlike any other.

August 19, 2012 was my first day at camp. I thought I had planned for any scenario, but nothing could have prepared me for the overwhelming warmth and understanding our campers exhibited towards one another. In just a short amount of time the nearly fifty campers became a community in which seizures weren't feared, kids weren't isolated and campers could grow into the person they always had inside. As campers and counselors exchanged good-bye hugs days later, it was incredible to see how much the kids, the counselors, and the medical staff had grown in merely a week. To be a part of that transformation is our campers gift to me.

Our vision for Camp Achieve is bold. With a dynamic combination of educational programming, 24 hour medical supervision and good old-fashioned summer camp fun, Camp Achieve is the jumping off point for youths with epilepsy to succeed.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Steve Arnone". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "S" at the beginning and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Youth and Young Adult Coordinator
Epilepsy Foundation Eastern PA

Camp Achieve provides an exceptional experience for youth with epilepsy.

The Epilepsy Foundation Eastern PA believes no child should feel alone, ostracized or unsafe because of their epilepsy. We strive to alleviate the stresses and fears that many children with epilepsy suffer from by providing them access to all of the life experiences they deserve. Camp Achieve is an integral component in accomplishing this goal. From its humble beginnings 16 years ago, Camp Achieve has become a uniquely designed program tailored to the special needs of youths with epilepsy. Campers can enjoy all of the fun and community building that a summer camp offers because of our trained medical staff and counselors who provide a safe environment in which to grow. Combined with epilepsy education activities, Camp Achieve is a unique place both to learn new skills and make lasting memories.





“This is the one and only place
where I can feel **accepted for**
who I am.”

53

campers in attendance, the largest camp ever with 5 more campers than 2012.

18

new campers in 2013.

35

campers returned from previous years.



23

campers were granted full or partial scholarships for their \$325 fee, three more than the previous year.

0

campers turned away due to financial constraints

37

campers from Eastern Pennsylvania & 16 came from states like Delaware, New Jersey, & New York.



“It shows
kids that
they can do
anything”



Games and sports like basketball, softball, archery, and swimming provide a traditional summer camp atmosphere.

Uniquely designed “Activity Rings” integrate campers and counselors from different age groups together to strengthen the sense of community.



Whether at the top of the climbing wall or in a canoe on the lake, campers discover confidence & learn teamwork.

“Because I struggle with depression,
and a lot of the time during the
summer I spend on the couch. Camp
Achieve taught me that being active is
the correct way to live.”



“There’s NO bullying, no odd staring and uncomfortable looks. She didn't have to explain and defend herself because she wears a medical bracelet. Everyone knows everyone's name. And the medical staff are there because they know why they became nurses and doctors, *they volunteer because they care.*”



“It is a safe haven where kids with epilepsy can be just one of the gang and yet be in the safest environment possible.”

Everyone at Camp Achieve is safe and supported.

We make the safety of all campers, counselors, and staff our top priority.

Camp Achieve provides 24-hour medical supervision to give campers, and parents, freedom from worry. The 2013 Camp Achieve Medical Staff consisted of 18 doctors and nurses from area medical centers including The Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia and St. Christopher’s Hospital for Children. Each day an average of 6 medical staff were available to respond to any camper or counselor need. Without the dedication of our Medical Staff, Camp Achieve would not be possible.

Likewise, before the start of Camp, the EFPA and Medical Staff conducted a Seizure Recognition and First Aid Training for area first responders at the nearest medical center in a effort to put in place safety measures in the outlying community.

In 2013, 6 new medical staff joined the Camp Achieve community in addition to 11 returning from 2012.

The future of Camp Achieve is bright.
Expanding the community of campers
and counselors is our shared vision.

We're always striving to improve the overall
experience of Camp Achieve.

That's why we're putting an increased focus on technology.
We plan to conduct webinar trainings for counselors &
online presentations for parents to prepare for the week
ahead. Furthermore we will continue to streamline the use
mobile technology to access medical information for the
Medical Staff.

The Camp Achieve Medical Committee will expand to
ensure expert review of camper applications and continued
insight into improving camp medical procedures.







We aim high at Camp Achieve!

2013 Donors

\$3,000+

Andrea Keehn Scholarship Fund
Bray Family Foundation
Medici Global
Pi Beta Phi Alumnae

\$1,000- \$2,999

PENN Neurology
UCB Pharmaceutical

\$500-\$999

Cub Scout Pack 139
Epilepsy Talk
FACES
Kelly Caravetta
Lundbeck Pharmaceutical
Richard I. Katz Camp Fund
TDY Medical Staffing

\$100-\$499

Carol Coppola
China Cabin
The DeLizzio Family
Ignacio Valencia
Michele Milkiewicz
The Musso Family
The Pilates Place
Rosemary Helker

\$10-\$99

Suzanne Bryjak
Michelle Colocchio
Tracey Gorny
Deborah & Robert Howell
Debra & James McNally
Heather Petronzio
Joyce Ryan
Target
Sally Winter
Janep Yang

Camp would not be possible without their loyal support.



STRONGER TOGETHER

Our mission:

To lead the fight to stop seizures, find a cure and overcome challenges created by epilepsy. We choose to fulfill that mission by meeting the non-medical needs for people affected by epilepsy/seizure disorder to enhance their lives and build supportive communities.

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