

From The Heart

A Quarterly Publication from Mooseheart Child City & School, Inc.

www.mooseheart.org

Summer 2017



It is hard to believe that summer is almost over and the start of the 2017-18 school year is upon us! I keep asking myself: "Where did our summer go?"

Much has transpired since our last "From the Heart" edition. The beginning of summer, was typically busy. It was great to have wonderful weather for the 5th and 8th grade promotion

classes, the Commencement ceremony for the high school Class of 2017, and also for the Pilgrims who were conferred in the Mooseheart House of God.

Our 5th grade and younger students enjoyed daily recreation activities led by our campus recreation department. Camp Ross completed a full schedule of camping sessions. Students 6th grade and older held jobs on campus while summer school offered assistance to students who needed extra help or credit recovery.

Thanks to the Wisconsin Moose Association, our entire campus experienced a wonderful one-day trip to the Wisconsin Dells. Many of the homes at Mooseheart traveled this summer and visited many Moose Associations as well as Moosehaven. These experiences to "travel as a family" and meet the members who make Mooseheart possible are of powerful significance both for the children and their Moose hosts.

Each school year brings a new set of challenges and celebrations and both our Family Teachers and schoolteachers are ready to blend those talents together to impact the lives of our children. It's most rewarding to work with the students who challenge our skill sets!

The powers of collaboration, unity, teamwork, and hope, lie within each member of our staff, and that is why we choose to work in such a unique and special place. I can honestly say "WE ARE MOOSEHEART!" This is why we make it our commitment to teach children.

I offer a heartfelt thanks to for the countless efforts provided by our state associations, chapters, and lodges that make wonderful summers possible, and the dreams for our new school year a reality. We also thank the Women of the Moose for funding the efforts of the school and providing financial means for us to educate each Mooseheart child. God Bless Mooseheart!

From my heart to yours,

— Gary Urwiler, Mooseheart Executive Director



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By The Numbers



2

Mooseheart's own "Heart Pool," located at the center of the Pennsylvania Baby Village is used every day of the summer that it is not raining. Did you know it takes almost **6,000** gallons of water to fill that heart?



4

Mooseheart's newest students traveled a combined total of **5,894** miles from all directions to get to their new home. Gabriel traveled the farthest coming 1,742 miles, Calli traveled 880 miles, Jeremy, Paige, Da'Nella and Xander traveled 834 miles, Ameerah and Haneefah traveled 835 miles, and Toni, Tolu and Ibukun traveled 749 miles. We are so proud of our BIG Mooseheart family!



3

Mooseheart welcomed **38** new students during this 2017 summer.



1

The Mooseheart Recreation Department buys 75 pool passes at the beginning of each summer for use by our Recreation Program and students/Family Teachers on weekends.

Those 75 pool passes are used by Mooseheart to provide approximately **7,875** visits to cool off at the pool!

Exciting Events



4H Is In Full Swing

Janine and Sarah, the 4-H leaders took the kids to Brookfield Zoo to kick-off the summer program. The youth meet and prepare throughout the year and will show Poultry at the Kane County Fair. Also this year, the 4-H program created a Equestrian Hunter Pace Race at Mooseheart – it was so fun!



Field Day

Mr. Carnell, the P.E. teacher, ran the annual elementary Field Day events at the Fieldhouse. The elementary youth competed in different activities like long-jump and races. There was a lot of cheering and a lot of worn-out kids! Pictured: Amanda Kerkulah of Virginia Home takes her turn for the long jump and the 4th graders compete in a 50 meter dash.



International Fair The Mooseheart School hosted its first International Health Fair this year. The students were put into groups based on age and gender to represent a county of their choosing. The groups had to cook/bake something from the country and come up with an activity to teach. Germany, France, and Tanzania were represented among many others.



First Day of Rec

Look at all those happy faces! Summer is here and recreation has begun for the younger youth. Throughout the summer, they participate in activities around campus, go to Camp Ross, play sports, go to the Batavia Quarry, and of course have lots of fun!

From the Mouth of a Child

Congratulations Class of 2017



Tarry Johnson "Mooseheart has granted me the opportunity to live with the people I am closest to and also have the opportunity to do the things that I love to do like sports, music/band, and activities with younger youth and just being with my friends. Yes this is my last year, but I will never forget the things Mooseheart has taught me because I will need them when I leave."

Leslie Ramirez-Tapia "For the past three years I've lived with ten other girls and my patience is way stronger than it was before. I can cook my own meals, budget my own money, get to know people and how to clean. So as I prepare to live on my own, once I get my first apartment, I will have the experience. I have learned to take responsibility for whatever I do or any decision I make. I can honestly say that I am very prepared for life right after Mooseheart. Mooseheart has given me hope for a better life after high school."



Nowai Kpartipa "I am very happy that I came to Mooseheart. It's basically home for me. I've met so many wonderful people here that made my transition from middle school to high school a great adventure. Now that I'm leaving, it's very sad but I don't have to worry because I know that I'm welcome back anytime."

Joey Leitner "I have lived at Mooseheart for more than nine years and I have learned a great many skills while being raised here. Mooseheart is doing what it can to help us in the future and I appreciate it. I have learned a lot in my years here and I hope to apply these things in as many ways as possible. I know all of these things will help me in my future."



Eperancia Rempert "In my years here, I have learned so much and have become a mature young woman that is ready to face any challenges thrown her way. I'm glad to call Mooseheart my home and I'm thankful for all of those here who have impacted my life and made me the person I am today."

Rambler Roundup

Visit facebook for the full collection of Mooseheart photos.



At Mooseheart we like to start the kids being active at a young age. Pictured is currently our youngest youth, Messiah (18 months) from Juniata Home, having fun learning how to play soccer. It doesn't get much cuter than that!

During the summer it is never difficult to find the kids outside playing on one of the many fields at Mooseheart. Pictured is Jasmine from Virginia Home learning how to golf!



Once the warm weather hits, you'll often find the youth outside as much as they can be. Kristina, from Allegheny Home, was having a great time playing on the Big Boys playground at Mooseheart.

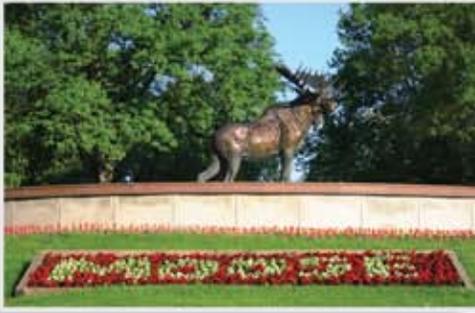


Pictured are some of our older youth from Wisconsin Home helping out in the garden. We love when the youth volunteer to help plant and harvest fresh vegetables from the Mooseheart garden.

Our older youth who stay on campus for the summer are part of our Environmental Task Force; they help keep Mooseheart clean and tidy up anything that needs to be done. Pictured are some of our younger youth from ECRC helping out by picking up a branch that fell. How sweet!



Enter to Learn ... True stories of two families' paths to Mooseheart



Teri grew up with a troubled single mother and several half-siblings. Her mother, Rita, was mean to her and neglected her basic needs. As a teenager, Teri began a part-time job to earn her own money and Rita became involved with one of Teri's teenage co-workers. Teri fell for this co-worker too, and they conceived a child. News of the pregnancy led to a fight and when the dust cleared, Teri and her siblings were placed in foster care.

Eddie was born to Teri while in foster care. By the time of Eddie's birth, the child's father was no longer in the picture. Only 17, Teri was a single mother. While in foster care, Teri developed some key relationships with

caring adults who mentored her and she proved to be a very successful retail employee. By the time Eddie was 4, Teri had her own apartment and had adopted two of her younger siblings. Teri married a professional man and moved across country with her children to join him and his daughter. The demands of a blended family took its toll on the young marriage, and as things declined, she received news that she was pregnant. The pressures of a failing marriage, four children and a pregnancy proved overwhelming for Teri, who aborted the pregnancy. Bitterness set in on Teri who grew hateful and aggressive toward her husband. As the marriage ended, Teri began partying with friends, and found herself homeless. After several other moves, a family that had befriended her during her years in foster care helped Teri get back on her feet and told her about Mooseheart. Teri's youngest child, Eddie, is now a welcome member of the Mooseheart community.

... Leave to Serve

After a messy divorce shattered his family, Bernd found himself emotionally and physically exhausted as he single-handedly tended to the care of four growing boys. Although he earned a good living, the demands of his business left his sons lacking the supervision they needed on a daily basis. With the eldest brother on his way to college, Bernd searched for opportunities and learned about Mooseheart.

On Aug. 15, 2008, 15 year-old Jordan Holler arrived at Mooseheart with his two younger brothers. Jordan recalls that the move from Colorado to Mooseheart was quite a culture shock. Growing up in rural surroundings, and having very little exposure to people from other backgrounds and cultures, Jordan was nervous about making friends.

Jordan's anxiety dissipated as he immersed in Mooseheart life. He enjoyed a friendship with his African-born roommate and peer mentor Gabe. Before long Jordan was involved in Mooseheart sports and excelled as an academic standout.

Looking back, Jordan insists that his most enjoyable times at Mooseheart were campus visits from the dedicated Moose members on occasions like Wisconsin Tree Lighting and other state sponsored days. After graduation in 2011, Jordan made the choice to pursue medicine as his career. Jordan utilized his Mooseheart scholarship and completed his Bachelor of Science degree in molecular biology from the University of Illinois. He is employed as a research assistant at his alma mater. He maintains weekly involvement in a free clinic to serve individuals who do not have health insurance.

In his application to medical school Jordan said, "Mooseheart's staff dedicated their lives to helping children, advocating for us in our most critical time of need. There, I was given my first access to health care, from vaccinations to knee surgery. Over time, my classmates and the staff became an extension of my family. While we all came from different cultural backgrounds, we shared a common upbringing. Reflecting back, the care I received at Mooseheart ultimately

compelled me to pursue a career in medicine. Moreover, I was inspired to become a physician who can one day treat patients similar to my former classmates, my younger self, and others who do not have access to quality health care."

This fall, Jordan will take his huge heart to the West Coast and the University of California, San Francisco School of Medicine, where he will pursue his passion to serve the underserved through medicine.

