"Faces of Our Future"





Sherwood Forest's Annual Report to the Community

20 15



# Dear Friends...

It is hard to imagine that with the publication of this Annual Report, we mark another year in our history. Sherwood Forest has certainly evolved over time and we're continually developing new and innovative programs, but since 1937, the heart of our mission has remained the same: helping kids who need it most.

The photos within this report represent just a small handful of the 303 kids who called Sherwood Forest their "home away from home" in 2015. They truly are the faces of our future, and thanks to your support of Sherwood Forest, that future is even brighter.

Within these pages, you'll also find hundreds of names – the names of your fellow donors, volunteers, and members of the community who dedicate themselves to bringing Sherwood Forest's mission to life each and every day. Your commitment to Sherwood Forest, whether through monetary donations, in-kind contributions, or volunteering your time, is a gift to our kids. And we can't thank you enough.

Our kids, their families, and graduates of our program often credit Sherwood Forest with changing lives. It sounds like a lofty, impossible statement, but it's not. In hearing from our alumni, like this recent

Leadership Training Program graduate, you quickly realize why it's true...

"Camp, the one place where no one lied to me, where everyone was always high-spirited, loving, and caring. They showed me that no matter what happens, you have the potential to push on and stay strong. They helped me find out who I am and to never let anyone tell me otherwise or get me down. They helped shaped me. They gave me motivation when I had none and most of all, they have all inspired me to be me and go for my dreams."

That same Leadership Training Program graduate not only went on to finish high school, but to graduate from college as well. She credits Sherwood Forest with making her the person she is today...and we thank you for making stories like hers possible, year after year.

With gratitude,

Mary M. Rogers
Executive Director

## 2015 by the numbers:

Kids in our Quest program, which offers a blend of traditional camp adventures and evidence-based programs that reinforce and support school-year learning.

Third grade campers in our Book Club. Both girls and boys significantly increased their vocabulary scores from the beginning to the end of the summer.





Year-round activities offered through our Continued Contact program, including service projects, group planning meetings, and weekend reunions at camp.



Youth in our community who experienced Outdoor Education at Sherwood Forest. This program provides learning resources and a unique "classroom without walls" to local schools and organizations.

Arts activities emphasize important qualities we hope to instill in our campers, such as commitment and creativity. In 2015, a professional puppeteer was among the two visiting artists who came to camp. "Puppet Paul" taught our campers how to construct and paint their own paper-mâché masks. Your support brings these unique opportunities to life.





# Our 2015 Campers

At-a-Glance In 2015, 303 kids participated in our Quest program: year-round learning and enrichment with a month-long summer camp experience at its heart and enrichment with a month-long summer camp experience at its heart.



### Age

6 to 9 years old: 32 % 10 to 12 years old: 42 % 13 to 17 years old: 26 %

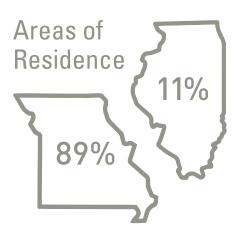


### Gender

Boys: 49 % Girls: 51 %



#### African American: 60 % 27 % Caucasian: 9 % Bi/Multi-Racial: Hispanic/Latino: 2 % Native American: 1 % 1 % Asian:



#### Missouri

49 % St. Louis County: St. Louis City: 30 % Other Missouri Counties: 10 %

#### Illinois

St. Clair County: 5 % Madison County: 5 % Other Illinois Counties: 1 %



\$0 to \$9,999: 16 % \$10,000 to \$19,999: 16 % 23 % \$20,000 to \$29,999: \$30,000 to \$39,999: 19 % \$40,000 to \$49,999: 8 % \$50,000 to \$74,999: 5 % 7 % \$75,000 to \$99,999: 6 % \$100,000 or more:

Our Tango Tower climbing structure reaches nearly six stories high. Campers help their fellow climbers by spotting them for safety and belaying them up a series of obstacles. The Tango Tower helps our campers develop their confidence and teamwork skills in a safe, encouraging place. In 2015, 98% of our campers said they have better teamwork skills because of camp.



### By the numbers...

2,489:

expanding camp library.

Volumes in our ever-

605:

Library books checked out by our campers in 2015.

196:

Book Club participants since it was first introduced in 2011.

Thanks to your generosity, we are able to send every camper home with a brand-new book each summer. Helping our campers grow their own collection of books is important. A love of reading means a love of learning, which lasts a lifetime and has a direct impact on our kids' learning during the school year, too.



Based on career interests, our 8th and 9th grade campers personally choose the schools they want to visit during their "big trips." Through college and university tours, they learn about each school's academic programs, student life, tuition, financial aid, and GPA and test score requirements. Your support helps us introduce these young people to the college experience at an early age, opening doors that many never thought possible.

### By the numbers...



Miles traveled by campers in our Leadership Adventure and Journey programs in 2015. Our campers are responsible for planning every detail of their trips, from budgeting and fundraising to meals and accommodations.



Every young person who completes our Leadership Training Program graduates from high school.

# Where are they now?

Yes, it's true: every graduate of Sherwood Forest's Leadership Training Program goes on to finish high school and pursue post-secondary education or training. The Leadership Journey Class of 2013 featured below was no exception. They all graduated from high school, and we recently reached out to a few of them to learn more about their exciting plans for the future.



#### Alicia Agbokou

Accepted into University of Missouri, University of Colorado, Arizona State University, and University of Oklahoma. Attending Arizona State University this fall.



#### Kamren Bryant

Accepted into Northern Illinois University, University of Missouri - Columbia, Drake University, and Iowa State. Going to Mizzou this fall to study public relations.



#### Cordell Billups

Graduated as valedictorian of Riverview Gardens High School. Accepted into Notre Dame and Iowa State. Attending Iowa State this fall to study neuroscience.



#### **Destiny Lewis**

Graduated from Hazelwood East High School. Studying culinary arts at Hickey College.



#### Jennifer Johnson

Graduated from Lindbergh High School. Attending St. Louis Community College - Meramec.



#### Brinae Cunningham

Obtained Associate's Degree from Southwestern Illinois College. Recently enlisted in the United States Navy.



#### Kelin Robinson

Graduated from Soldan International Studies High School. Accepted into all three colleges to which he applied. Attending St. Louis Community College.



#### DeAngelo Mason

Graduated from Lafayette High School. Enlisting in the United States Army this fall.





### Our Dedicated 2015 Volunteers

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#### Presidential Service Awards

- ♦ *Gold (500* + *hours)*
- Silver (250 499 hours)
- Bronze (100 249 hours)





James Poelker



More than 70 highly-skilled volunteers tackled dozens of projects around our camp site during the 2015 Volunteer Trades Weekend, including electrical, painting, and carpentry work. A concrete foundation was also poured for the new Shantoah village washhouse.

### Our Generous 2015 Donors

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Sue Stivers

Special thanks to the Missouri Department of Economic Development, whose Youth Opportunities Program generously supports our summer camp programs, and whose Neighborhood Assistance Program has provided the necessary funds for critical campsite improvements and expansion.



These listings include donors who made operating gifts to support our kids and our programs between January 1, 2015 and December 31, 2015. Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of these listings. We sincerely apologize if any errors or omissions have inadvertently occurred. If we omitted or incorrectly listed your name, please contact Jim Schallom, Director of Resource Development, at 314-644-3322 or JimS@sherwoodforeststl.org.













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### 2015 Financials

### Revenue Expenses

Contributions: 41% Program Services: 81%

United Way: 28% 12% Fundraising

Grants: 19% 7% Management

Fees 12%

End-of-Year Net Assets:						
	2014	2015	į			
	\$ 1,962,262	\$ 1,986,858	i			

Revenue:				
		2014		2015
Contributions	\$	588,767	\$	589,169
United Way	\$	404,844	\$	404,844
Grants	\$	262,100	\$	281,242
Program Fees	\$	118,505	\$	180,417
TOTAL	\$1	,374,216	\$1	,455,672

#### **Expenses:**

•		2014		2015
Program Service	es \$	,020,598	\$ 1	,084,155
Fundraising	\$	156,432	\$	219,913
Management	\$	84,939	\$	127,008
TOTAL	\$ '	1,261,969	\$ 1	,431,076

### By the numbers...



Unique arts opportunities, ranging from comic book creation to pottery, offered in 2015 through the Baer Foundation Creative and Performing Arts Program. Studies show that kids who participate in arts programs develop confidence, problem-solving skills, and critical-thinking skills.

Campers are responsible for every aspect of our annual camp play: casting, set design and construction, props and costuming, performing, and running the behind-the-scenes operations backstage. In 2015, our campers produced and performed "Peter Pan Jr." And even though a few of our counselors took on various roles in the musical, our campers were truly the stars of the show.





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### Our Vision:

We believe education and opportunity are rights fundamental to all children.





### Our Mission:

Transforming the lives of children in need through powerful programs that allow them to discover their self-worth, realize their potential, and become productive citizens.

### You:

The true believer who makes it all possible.

