

The 2017 CAMP Rehoboth Report

A Word about the Report

Message from Co-founder and Interim Executive Director Murray Archibald, November 2018

All year, 2017 outcome numbers have been highlighted throughout the issues of *Letters*. As has become a tradition, the full report is included in this, our final issue of the year.

2017 was a good year for CAMP Rehoboth, as can be seen from looking at the statistics included in this report. The financial graphs provide a quick glance at the 2017 financials, and how the funds were allocated. Income, as the graphs illustrate, comes in from a healthy variety of sources and 65% of it is spent on program services. For more detail, take a look at the complete 2017 CAMP Rehoboth Audited Financials on the CAMP Rehoboth website.

Looking back at the CAMP Rehoboth accomplishments of 2017 is a reminder of how much the organization depends on its staff, volunteers, Board of Directors, members, donors, sponsors, and community supporters. At its heart, it continues to be about community.

With a conservative administration taking over the White House in the beginning of 2017, memories of its once rainbow washed façade quickly faded. I took a look back at my CAMPmatters columns from 2017. They are filled with shock, outrage, and protest. It was that kind of year. Here in Delaware, CAMP Rehoboth joined with 32 civil rights organizations to provide a united response to the growing threat of discrimination and hate in the nation.

In the spring of 2017, as a part of the annual membership drive, CAMP Rehoboth members Rose Schmidt and Carolyn Horn's simple statement about why they joined CAMP Rehoboth is more true than ever: "...because the work is not done!" ▼

INTRODUCTION

The 2017 CAMP Rehoboth Report includes a summary of activities and results by the numbers. Audited financial statements can be found on the CAMP Rehoboth website (under *About Us*).

CAMP Rehoboth is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit community service organization dedicated to creating a more positive environment in Rehoboth Beach and its related communities. Since 1990, CAMP Rehoboth has promoted cooperation and understanding between the LGBTQ community and the greater world around it and has worked to build a safer, more inclusive community with room for all.

The year began with a deep undercurrent of anxiety running through the community as the board and staff of CAMP Rehoboth tried to anticipate what the new administration and a conservative Federal legislative majority might devise to deny or restrict the rights of LGBTQ people and other minorities. Despite all that transpired in 2017, the organization nonetheless celebrated a highly productive year, generating continued impact, community support, inclusive programming, and overall accomplishments for the local LGBTQ community.

The CAMP Rehoboth Community Center continues as the "heart of the community," providing tangible value as a gathering place for solace, support, and celebration, and as a hub for a wide range of activities. The physical space also carries great symbolic value, providing as it does,

evidence that LGBTQ people have gained equality and the inherent right to participate as citizens who benefit from and contribute to the greater good of our society.

CAMP Rehoboth has always been partially inspired by the region's early history, which brought people together for peaceful, educational, and healing activities. CAMP ("Creating A More Positive") Rehoboth dedicated itself to bridging the divide between the straight and LGBTQ communities of Rehoboth Beach and its surrounding areas. It has been

instrumental in creating respectful dialogue and cooperation among town officials, law enforcement, medical institutions, schools, and commercial institutions about LGBTQ issues. Over its history, CAMP Rehoboth has earned a local and state reputation for promoting community well-being, working against prejudice, and helping to foster economic growth throughout the area.

CAMP Rehoboth is going strong and growing larger, with a broad portfolio of activities promoting health (e.g., health screening, HIV/AIDS testing, mental health support); community service (e.g., sensitivity training with park and city police; environmental clean-ups; work with food banks, disability programs, and homeless shelters); youth programs; senior outreach (e.g., especially Sussex County's 55+ population, now over 40% of the total); policy education and research; and the performing and creative arts. CAMP Rehoboth is a vibrant, welcoming, community service organization committed to building a positive future for the LGBTQ and larger communities of Sussex County.

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2017 CAMP REHOBOTH PROGRAM OUTCOMES

Community Center

- ▶ The CAMP Rehoboth Community Center, at 37 Baltimore Avenue in downtown Rehoboth Beach, represents *The Heart of the Community*. The double lot property includes a large multi-purpose room, gallery space, conference rooms, meeting spaces, a library/reading room, administrative offices, retail spaces, and the CAMP Rehoboth Courtyard.
- ▶ Friendly staff and volunteers greet thousands of individuals who walk through the doors of the CAMP Rehoboth Community Center each year to participate in hundreds of program activities and seeking information and assistance.
- ▶ Capital improvements were factors that contributed to CAMP Rehoboth obtaining a USDA mortgage. The grant award of \$22,750, received from the Delaware Community Foundation, was combined with awards from several other foundations and the Longwood Foundation (received late in 2016). The combined funds financed infrastructure repairs and replacements, including a roof replacement, the installation of new gutters and gutter guards, and a new HVAC system. The final components, the replacement windows and siding at 37 Baltimore, were started in the fourth quarter of 2017 and completed in the first quarter of 2018. The savings for CAMP Rehoboth were significant, and the organization has established both a mortgage reserve and an operations reserve.
- ▶ Over 721 hours of space was provided by CAMP Rehoboth at reduced or no cost to local nonprofits that otherwise could not afford it. The donated space equates to over \$43,220 of community value provided—an increase of 22% over 2015.

- ▶ CAMP Rehoboth sponsors concerts, plays, book signings, musical performances, forums and workshops, art shows, and other cultural and public gatherings in the large multi-purpose room and CAMP Rehoboth Gallery. As such, the space serves as a vibrant cultural center to promote artistic expression and creative thinking, while providing aid to artists and craftspeople through gallery exhibits and promotional support.
- ▶ The 80-member CAMP Rehoboth Chorus (CRC) sold out their four “Come Fly with Me” concerts, with over 1,400 in attendance. The CAMP Rehoboth multi-purpose room provides rehearsal and performance space for the CRC.
- ▶ The CRC Ensemble performed 19 outreach programs, with an emphasis on performing at senior citizen and assisted living facilities. Over 570 people were reached with the joy of music by those outreach efforts.
- ▶ The CRC’s Music & Memory® initiative oversaw the certification and training of staff at four senior facilities, with 60 residents benefitting from the program.
- ▶ Eleven visual art exhibits were held in the gallery space. Ninety-one new and emerging artists were provided an opportunity to exhibit, an increase of 34% over 2015. A highlight was the collaborative exhibit and performances by the Delaware Division of the Arts’ 2017 Fellow Award Winners that traveled from the gallery space at the Biggs Museum of American Art in Dover to CAMP Rehoboth’s own gallery space to display their talents.

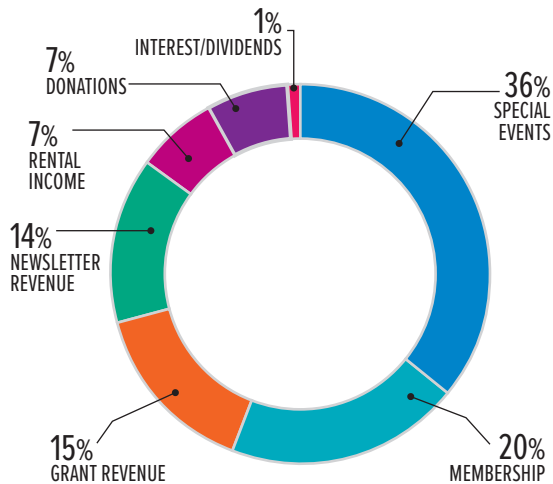
Health and Wellness

- ▶ CAMP Rehoboth held a Health Day in partnership with Beebe Healthcare. Over 315 flu shots were provided to the community, an 11% increase over 2015. Ninety-two individuals were served in other aspects of the Health Day partnership.

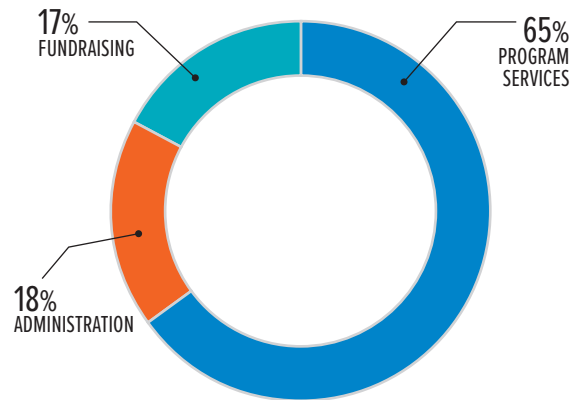
- ▶ Two new programs were added for the 55+ population, and three art workshops were provided in partnership with Rehoboth Art League. Sixty-seven percent more individuals were reached than in the previous year.
- ▶ CAMPSafe, in its 20th year, continued to provide free rapid and confidential HIV testing and HIV prevention services to residents and visitors to Sussex County and Rehoboth Beach. Under the CAMPSafe program, 5,582 individual outreach contacts were made, a 13% increase over 2015. Over 82,600 safe sex kits were distributed. By the end of 2017, CAMP Rehoboth had opened five new testing sites in Sussex County, four located in the western part of the county. These five new sites enabled CAMPSafe to reach new populations and underserved communities. More than 800 HIV tests were done. People who were tested were also provided with options to help them maintain their HIV negative status or connect to medical care if they were HIV positive. In addition, CAMP Rehoboth began testing for other sexually transmitted infections (STIs).
- ▶ CAMP Rehoboth sponsored many discussion groups, including the men’s discussion group, grief counseling, and women’s discussion group. Four new discussion groups were added to the 18 ongoing groups, with 300 individuals served.
- ▶ CAMP Rehoboth provided short-term mental health counseling, available to anyone. Twenty-five individuals took advantage of this service throughout the year.
- ▶ Nonprofit groups that promote community well-being regularly used the CAMP Rehoboth Community Center for meetings, including Alcoholics Anonymous, Narcotics Anonymous, and Young People’s AA.
- ▶ In partnership with the Delaware Breast Cancer Coalition (DBCC), and as a part of CAMP Rehoboth Women’s FEST, CAMP Rehoboth sponsored the



2017 REVENUE



2017 EXPENSES



annual Broadwalk on the Boardwalk, commemorating survivors of cancer, their supporters, and those who lost the battle. Two hundred seventy-six people attended the walk and over \$10,300 was raised for DBCC, bringing the total raised since the walk's inception to over \$70,000.

- ▶ CAMP Rehoboth also organized the annual Candlelight Walk and Service of Remembrance and Hope on December 1 in observance of World AIDS Day. An artshow in the gallery featured photography from the AIDS epidemic and artwork by local artists who explored the theme *AIDS at Home and in the Community*.

Outreach, Education, and Advocacy

- ▶ Numerous threats continued for the transgender community. Although gender identity protection exists here in Delaware, in states where that protection is non-existent there still are hurdles ahead. CAMP Rehoboth continued to work to ensure the safety of the entire LGBTQ community.
- ▶ CAMP Rehoboth's Council of Elders, created in the wake of the complaints against local schools, continued to

organize, and several of its volunteers worked with the Cape Henlopen School District on its own policy for protecting LGBTQ students and the Gay/Straight Alliance in their schools.

- ▶ In January, two busloads of protesters were conveyed to the Women's March in DC to advocate for legislation and policies regarding human rights, women's rights, LGBTQ and racial equality, and other issues.
- ▶ CAMP Rehoboth's Women's FEST expanded from a half-day event in 2001 to a four-day event in April that included information sessions, educational speakers, sports events, and entertainment. The Keynote Speaker was Human Rights Campaign National Press Secretary Sarah McBride. Sarah told her amazing personal story, and shared what it was like being the first transgender woman to speak at a major party's nominating convention. Women's FEST fostered economic growth throughout the area by bringing thousands to Rehoboth, with half of the attendees coming from out-of-state.
- ▶ In April, Senator Harris McDowell announced the introduction of a bill that would ban conversion therapy for LGBTQ youth in the state of

Delaware. Later, Steve Elkins spoke in favor of its passage at a hearing held by the Delaware House Health and Human Development Committee. Unfortunately, a lengthy budget debate at the end of June resulted in the postponement of the vote banning Conversion Therapy for young people in Delaware. (The bill was passed and signed by Governor Carney in 2018.)

- ▶ In May, close to 30 participants from the Delaware Division of Aging, Delaware Coalition Against Domestic Violence, La Red Health Center, Planned Parenthood, Harbor Healthcare, the FBI, Lewes Senior Center, Delaware Department of Public Health, and many more gathered at CAMP Rehoboth for a workshop designed to increase awareness and an empathy on the issues and needs of LGBTQ older adults. The workshop used the CAMP Rehoboth Senior LGBTQ Needs Assessment as a tool and provided concrete suggestions for making services more welcoming to LGBTQ seniors.
- ▶ In June, in response to recent accusations of anti-LGBTQ bias at Cape Henlopen High School, CAMP Rehoboth, Equality Delaware, ACLU of Delaware, and others invited students, teachers, parents, and community

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members to join a Community Conversation about diversity in our schools. Participating organizations included Equality Delaware, ACLU of Delaware, PFLAG Rehoboth, Big Brothers Big Sisters, and others.

- ▶ In June, two busloads traveled to the LGBTQ Equality March on Washington, DC, where participants presented a peaceful but firm message to those who would threaten their rights.
- ▶ In October, the popular CAMP Rehoboth Block Party returned for the third time to the second block of Baltimore Avenue. More than double the vendors of its first year helped to ensure it attracted a large and diverse crowd.

Other Activities

- ▶ The annual membership drive focused on individual members, who shared the reasons why they joined CAMP Rehoboth. Income from membership grew by 8.3%, between 2015 and 2017 from \$221,924 to \$240,251.
- ▶ The CAMP Rehoboth Outreach Program (CROP) participated in 16 community service projects, with 188 volunteers providing 730 hours of community service— using the Independent Sector valuation of volunteer time in Delaware, that equates to a value of over \$18,500 provided to nonprofit/community organizations in need. A highlight of the year was a painting project at People's Place Girls' Group Home, which resulted in the CROP team being recognized as the 2017 Volunteer Team of the Year, and leader Ruth Kloetzli was recognized as Volunteer of the Year by the People's Place.
- ▶ CAMP Rehoboth published and distributed 15 printed issues of *Letters from CAMP Rehoboth*. The 96- to 120-page magazine continued to be a valuable resource for residents and people visiting the area. The online version carried its content to many more.

- ▶ An average 20,000 pageviews per month was received on the CAMP Rehoboth website.
- ▶ CAMP Rehoboth fosters the development of nonprofit groups which support CAMP Rehoboth's mission. One way it helps them with fundraising is by donating advertising space in *Letters from CAMP Rehoboth*. CAMP Rehoboth donated 374 pages of advertising to nonprofits, valued at over \$97,240—an 11% increase over the previous year.
- ▶ In conjunction with Seashore Striders, CAMP Rehoboth helped organize the annual Sundance Land and Sea Racing Festival, now in its seventh year. Two hundred twenty-six people participated, a 13% increase over 2015.
- ▶ For the last 25 years, CAMP Rehoboth leadership has provided sensitivity training to city and park police, lessening tensions within the community at large. Sixty-eight city and park police participated in sensitivity training, an increase of 31% over 2015, bringing the total trained since inception to 810.
- ▶ CAMP Rehoboth maintains a very small staff. A total of 486 volunteers enabled it to carry out its critical programs and services.
- ▶ CAMP Rehoboth revised and enhanced its Volunteer Orientation so that sessions occurred prior to each major event, such as Women's FEST and Sundance. CAMP Rehoboth board members participated in the orientations, which were focused on specific volunteer needs. The Volunteer Committee worked to assure that everyone who attended orientation was engaged in an activity of some kind. The new format proved useful, as the three orientations were well attended with 81 new volunteers receiving orientation.
- ▶ A Volunteer Appreciation Party with a Mardi Gras theme was held at the CAMP Rehoboth Community Center in April; over 150 volunteers attended.

CONCLUSION

The successful activities and outcomes of 2017 resulted from of the underlying foundation that makes CAMP Rehoboth strong. This very foundation helps to assure a successful future, both in 2018 and beyond. We celebrate each year with great gratitude for every person contributing to this community. ▼