



2025 IMPACT REPORT

CAMP FOR ALL KIDS
818 E 63RD ST #193
CHICAGO, IL 60637

FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends,

Next year, **Camp for All Kids will celebrate 30 years of creating pathways to camp.** That milestone belongs to you: our campers and families, dedicated staff and board, camp partners, and generous supporters. **Your belief in our mission has made every step possible.**

At Camp for All Kids, we believe every child deserves access to the magic of camp. For too long, Black and Brown youth have faced financial and societal barriers that limited access to the outdoor enrichment that camp uniquely provides. **We're committed to breaking those barriers and opening doors to life-changing experiences.**

We're grateful to our amazing camp partners who share this vision. Together, we're creating inclusive communities where kids from all backgrounds learn and grow side by side. This year, **Camp for All Kids served 400 young people**, and we focused on strengthening camp readiness and creating leadership opportunities to ensure that every child can make the most of their camp journey. We're proud of the progress we made through three initiatives: the CIT Leadership Program, summer launch parties, and the CFAK Alumni Network. We're honored to share a few stories, from Mahala, Stephanie, and Cortez, that highlight how camp builds confidence, friendship, and leadership that lasts a lifetime.

As we look ahead to the next 30 years, I'm excited for what's next. **Together, we'll keep opening doors, building leaders, and sharing the joy of camp with even more young people.**

With gratitude and excitement,



Mike Simons

CAMP FOR ALL KIDS WILL CELEBRATE OUR 30TH ANNIVERSARY NEXT SUMMER 2026!

Stay tuned for several ways you can celebrate with us, whether you are an alum of a partner camp, CFAK participant family, Four Star Fellowship partner, or someone who loves kids, camp and the outdoors - **YOU can CELEBRATE WITH US!**

Follow us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [LinkedIn](#) and join our email list for the latest CFAK news!



MISSION

CAMP FOR ALL KIDS CREATES PATHWAYS TO THE TRANSFORMATIONAL EXPERIENCE OF SLEEPAWAY CAMP FOR BLACK AND BROWN YOUTH WHILE FOSTERING INCLUSIVE AND EQUITABLE CAMP COMMUNITIES.



CAMP FOR ALL KIDS PROVIDES PROGRAMMING IN PARTNERSHIP WITH AMERICAN CAMP ASSOCIATION ACCREDITED CAMPS IN NORTHERN WISCONSIN AND MINNESOTA:



WHY CFAK

For generations, overnight summer camp has been one of the most transformative experiences a young person can have. **They develop resilience, leadership, confidence, and an appreciation of nature – qualities that shape them not just for one summer, but for school, careers, and adulthood.**



The benefits of camp are universal, but access is not. Until every child has the opportunity to share in this sacred space of growth, learning, and belonging, Camp for All Kids will continue providing renewable access to overnight camp experiences through our Campership and Four Star Fellowship Programs for underrepresented communities.



CAMP = COMMUNITY

THE CFAK COMMUNITY KICKS OFF OUR SUMMER PROGRAMMING



Our Inaugural **Campership Kickoff** in April 2025 brought new Chicago families together to:

- *meet their camp directors and ask questions*
- *learn what to expect this summer*
- *hear from CFAK Alumni and parents*
- *meet new friends - try camp crafts & games*
- *gear up for an amazing summer at CAMP!!*



The **Four Star Fellowship Launch Party** took place on a summer July evening at WhirlyBall. Our youth development mentors and camp partners met with our Four Star campers and their families for a fun evening to get excited for camp and prepare parents and caregivers with more information, including a Q&A session to answer any questions.



MAHALA'S FIRST SUMMER

THROUGH THE CAMPERSHIP PROGRAM

As a first-time camper from Milwaukee, Mahala was understandably nervous about being away from home for four weeks.

Her teacher noted in his letter of recommendation that “One of Mahala’s most impressive traits is her willingness to take advantage of every opportunity that comes her way. **She embraces every challenge with enthusiasm and resilience.**” Camp was no exception, and Mahala was surprised that she could be away from her Mom for that long without being homesick.

Making friends was the best part of Mahala’s summer. Mahala’s mom, who had also been nervous about her daughter being away for four weeks, was grateful that she had the chance to bond with people from different backgrounds and lived experiences at camp.



Mahala enjoyed learning new skills and living with others in a shared space for the first time. According to her counselors, her consistently positive energy was contagious in her cabin, and she became a rockstar climber, coming to the activity early and staying late to cheer on her friends.

We are thrilled that Mahala is already registered to return to camp next summer.

CAMP TODAY

KIDS NEED CAMP AND THE OUTDOORS NOW MORE THAN EVER!

Today's youth are growing up in a world that's faster, louder, and more digitally driven than ever before — surrounded by screens, social pressures and for many, unrest in their community. What they often don't have is space. Space to breathe. To be outdoors. To connect with others face-to-face.

A place where they're seen for who they truly are — not who the world expects them to be.

Time in nature, away from digital distractions and daily pressures, offer real opportunities to grow — as kids, friends, and future leaders. **Camp allows youth to become their best selves.**

CAMPERSHIP PROGRAM:

- 100% of campers reported making new friends this summer
- 98% of campers had a trusted adult to share their feelings with at camp
- 98% said camp was a special place for me to be myself
- 94% of campers already know they want to return next summer



FOUR STAR FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM:

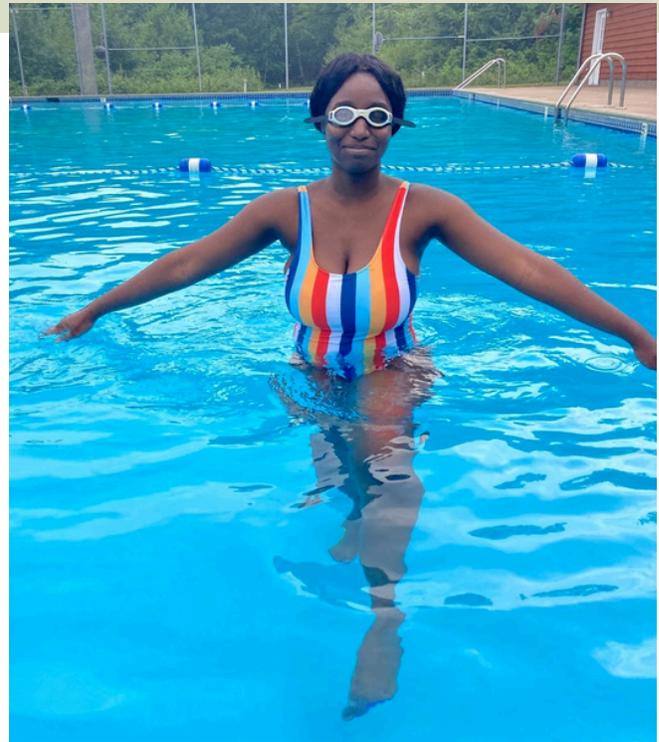
- 100% of CITs reported improved leadership skills and personal growth
- 91% of participants tried new things
- 100% of mentors felt Four Star Fellowship improved their connection with their year round students
- 78% of campers experienced nature in a way they hadn't before
- 88% of campers feel closer to their year round mentor

CONQUERING HER FEAR...

THROUGH FOUR STAR FELLOWSHIP

In August 2025, Stephanie attended camp as a second year Four Star Fellowship camper. After her first summer getting comfortable in the new camp setting and trying new things, **Stephanie returned to camp prepared to achieve her goal for the week: to learn how to swim.**

Her first day in the pool, standing in the shallow end, Stephanie got advice and encouragement from her fellow campers, making new friends along the way. Within the first day or two, **she gained the confidence to ask the lifeguards if they would teach her how to swim.**



The lifeguard counselors generously sacrificed their sleep and woke up at 5:00 am to meet Stephanie at the pool and provide her with private swimming lessons. By the end of the week, at the final campfire, Stephanie proudly informed the camp that she had learned how to swim and thanked her counselors.

Four Star Fellowship is more than fun in the northwoods, it provides the space, support and resources to help underrepresented teens achieve their personal goals, step outside of their comfort zone, and forge new bonds with caring adults.

CAMP NOT ONLY TRANSFORMS LIVES IN THE MOMENT, IT GROWS LIFELONG LEADERS.



At Camp Kamaji, 4 of the 12 tribe leaders for the Color Wars competition were CFAK campers, elected by peers and counselors alike. ***Their leadership is a reflection of the confidence and character they've built through camp.***



Through Four Star Fellowship, we launched a CIT peer leadership program where 21 young people served as activity directors, leaders and role models for younger campers. ***This experience empowered them to believe in themselves and step into their full potential.***



At Marimeta, a 4-year CFAK camper was chosen as overall captain for her team in the camp-wide Mari v Meta competition.

"This is something I will remember forever!"

BECOMING A LEADER

THROUGH FOUR STAR FELLOWSHIP

After a few years as a camper at Four Star Fellowship, Cortez decided that he was ready for bigger challenges this summer, and that's why he applied to join the Counselor-In-Training (CIT) Leadership Program and became a CIT in 2025.

As a CIT, Cortez was given new responsibilities, including being a role model to a cabin full of first-year campers who had never been this far from home. **He built strong relationships with his campers and set a culture of positivity and connection in his cabin community.** Cortez has treasured his camp experiences, and he took his role in sharing the benefits of camp with his new campers seriously.

Cortez also took on an additional leadership role by leading our daily all-camp community opening circle. On the first day, he was nervous but found his confidence to speak in front of the whole camp. He winged it and realized it was much harder than he thought. The next day, he came prepared after reflection and writing notes about what he wanted to say, and how he would guide conversation. He did an excellent job leading the circle that day, and for the rest of the week.



Cortez leads a daily opening circle at Four Star Fellowship



"It's just peace. You get fun activities to do, some stuff you probably never do in the city. You get to be in a community of people and everything and it's real heartwarming to see something like this happening for people like us in the city that has a lot of violence."

- Cortez, 2025 Four Star Fellowship CIT

Leveraging his confidence and leadership skills, Cortez spoke at CFAK's annual Cocktails Around the Campfire gala and gave a meaningful speech sharing the impact of Four Star Fellowship on his life, and the lives of the campers in his cohort. Cortez looks forward to continuing his leadership path with Four Star Fellowship in 2026, and beyond.

THANK YOU TO OUR DEDICATED PARTNERS

Camp for All Kids is grateful to our program partners for their commitment in supporting overnight camp experiences for underrepresented youth through the Campership and Four Star Fellowship Programs.



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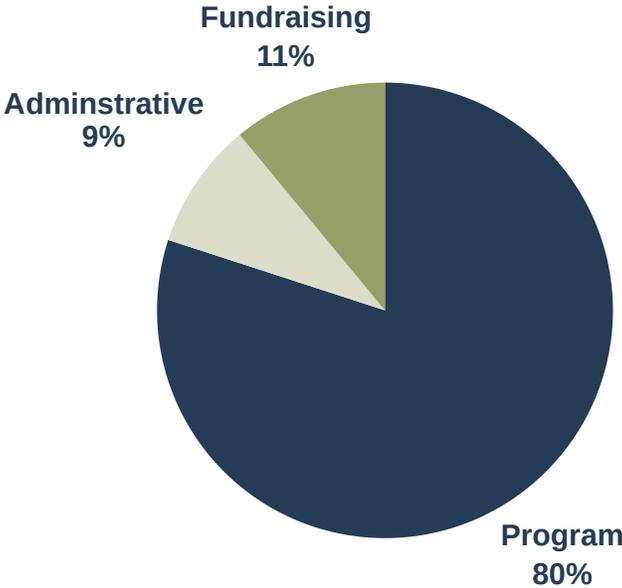


DO THE MATH

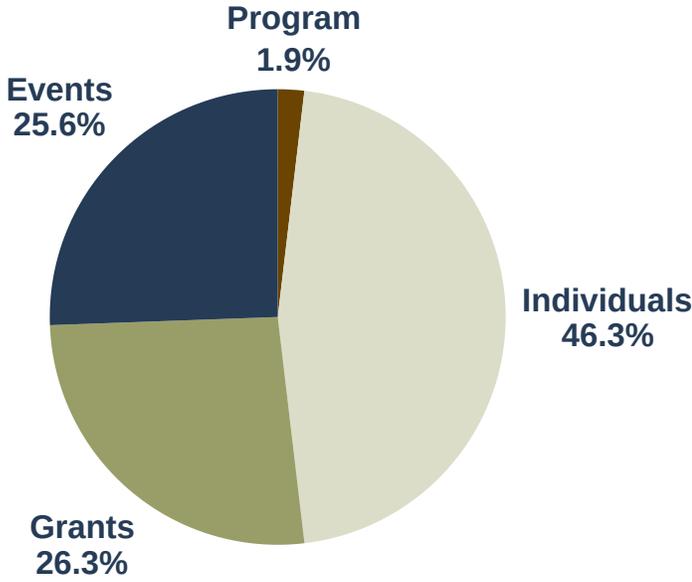
FINANCIAL POSITION



2025 Expenses



2025 Revenue



CAMP FOR ALL KIDS
2025 BUDGET: \$1,200,000



THANK YOU TO OUR CORPORATE AND FOUNDATION PARTNERS FOR THEIR SUPPORT



Harold M. & Adeline S. Morrison Family FOUNDATION



LEADERSHIP PATHWAYS
american CAMP association®



KOVLER FAMILY FOUNDATION



ANON CHARITABLE TRUST



CONNECT WITH US

VISIT OUR [WEBSITE](#) TO LEARN MORE WAYS TO
GET INVOLVED AND SUPPORT OUR MISSION:

- Make an [annual gift](#) to support CFAK programming
- Follow CFAK on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [LinkedIn](#)
- Attend our [annual fundraiser](#) and alumni events
- Volunteer at kickoff events or bus departures
- Serve as a Camp Connector to help onboard new families
- Join our CFAK Career Network database providing professional guidance and introductions for our teen campers
- Host a fundraiser for your birthday, wedding, or mitzvah
- Donate through your [DAF or IRA](#), or shares of stock
- Collect wish list items for first year CFAK campers
- Talk with your friends and family about why camp and CFAK matters to you
- **THANK YOU** for changing a child's life through Camp for All Kids!



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