“Camps for Individuals with Down Syndrome”

Presented by:
- Kathryn Lariviere
- Michael Overcash
Why Camps?

• Who has camps currently?
• What do campers get out of camp?
• What do parents get out of camp?
• What do counselors get out of camp?
Welcome to our Camps

Video
Camp Horizon

• Camper Population
  o Application process
  o Acceptance criteria

• Camp Counselors
  o Application process
  o Acceptance criteria

• Camp—Initiation Stage
  o Camp Committee—roles and responsibilities
  o Budget
  o Logistics—location, capacity, etc.

• Camp—Planning Stage
  o Schedule
  o Activities
  o Supplies
Horizon Campers

- Serves campers with Ds ages 10 – 17
- Discounted fee if family are members of DSAGC
- All camper applications are reviewed and accommodations made if needed and possible
  - Camp guidelines state that campers can be declined
- 1:1 ratio for camper to counselor
Horizon Counselors

- All counselors are volunteers
- 1:1 ratio = number of counselors dictates the number of campers who can attend
- All must pass background check
  - We use https://www.volunteerscreener.com/
- Camp activities are supplemented with volunteers/staff
- Counselors go through a 2-hour “Down Syndrome 101” training that includes behavioral interventions
- Parents of campers can not be counselors
Horizon Counselors con’t

• Who makes a great counselor?
  o Volunteers from local companies who are compassionate and willing to learn about Down syndrome (Ds)
    • Outreach to companies is required to find these volunteers
  o Family members and friends of individuals with Ds - parents of younger children, aunts, adult siblings, grandparents
  o Church group members
  o Therapists, educators, and others who serve children with Ds professionally
    • Depending on the dates of camp
  o College students with an interest in individuals with intellectual disabilities
Horizon Initiation

• Camp Horizon Committee is made up of volunteers
  • Program Director (staff) serves on committee and also supports administratively
  • Committee is focused into groups, i.e. Arts and Crafts, Counselors, Campers, Logistics

• Planning begins in January or February
  • Securing location and date
    o Camp Harrison in Boomer NC
  • Application for counselors
    o Use Google Docs – see sample
  • Application for campers
    o Use Wild Apricot for registration – see sample
## Horizon Initiation

### Budget

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>2014 Annual</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Camp Horizon Supplies</td>
<td>$6,180</td>
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<tr>
<td>Camp Horizon Entertainment</td>
<td>$3,200</td>
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<tr>
<td>Camp Horizon Facilities</td>
<td>$15,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Camp Horizon Volunteer Expenses</td>
<td>$820</td>
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<tr>
<td>Camp Total</td>
<td>$25,200</td>
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### DSAGC 2014 Camp Program Income

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>2013 Annual</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Camps- Camp Horizon - Registration Fees</td>
<td>$6,125</td>
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<tr>
<td>Camp Total</td>
<td>$6,125</td>
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</table>
Horizon Planning

• Horizon is a 4-day, 3-night camp held in August
  • Generally the last week before school starts
• Volunteer Committee is in charge of creating daily schedules
• Activities include: Boating, Fishing, Swimming, Archery, Wet Willie, Arts and Crafts, and more
  • Activities provided by YMCA camp
• Volunteer Committee is in charge of recruiting counselors
  • Scheduling training and meet and greet
• Matching up counselor and campers 1:1
Horizon Planning con’t

- Collection of fees and documentation from campers
  - Medical forms, waivers – see samples
- Planning special events at camp
  - Dance
  - Talent Show
- Thank you to volunteers
  - Choose and order appreciation gifts
- Scheduling moving supplies to and from camp location
  - U-Haul rental
Camp Holiday

• Camper Population
  o Application process
  o Acceptance criteria

• Camp Counselors
  o Application process
  o Acceptance criteria

• Camp—Initiation Stage
  o Camp Committee—roles and responsibilities
  o Budget
  o Logistics—location, capacity, etc.

• Camp—Planning Stage
  o Schedule
  o Activities
  o Supplies
Holiday Campers

- Serves individuals with Ds ages 5 – 21 (school age)
  - Classes are broken up by age
    - 5-8 year olds
    - 9-12 year olds
    - 13-16 year olds
    - 17-21 year olds

- Open registration with discounted fee if family are members of DSAGC
- All campers accepted who register by deadline
  - If not registered by deadline, camper is put on waiting list and fee is increased

- 3:1 ratio for camper to counselor
Holiday Campers cont’d

• Counselor in Training (CiT) Program for teens and young adult campers with Ds who wish to have more responsibility
  • Assist with events for younger campers
  • Assist with carpool drop off and pick up
  • Make snacks for younger campers
  • Do volunteer work in the community
  • Off-site field trip to a restaurant
    o Order and pay on their own
Holiday Counselors

- Counselors are paid 1099 employees
  - Level one (professionals) – $12/hour
  - Level two (students) – $10/hour
  - One Lead Counselor/Supervisor - $14/hour
- At least one Level one per classroom
- Majority are teachers and therapists
- All must pass background check
  - We use https://www.volunteerscreener.com/
- 3:1 ratio camper to counselor
- Classrooms are supplemented with volunteers
- Counselors go through a 2-hour “Down Syndrome 101” training that includes behavioral interventions
Holiday Initiation

• Programming Director oversees Camp Holiday Committee, which is made up of volunteers
  • Currently all past counselors
  • In the past, Holiday has been run wholly by staff and also wholly by volunteers

• Planning begins in February
  • Securing location and dates
    o Sardis Presbyterian Church
  • Application for counselors
    o Use Google Docs – see sample
  • Application for campers
    o Use Wild Apricot for registration – see sample
## Holiday Initiation

### Budget

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>2014 Annual</th>
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<td>Camp Holiday- Counselors and Specialists</td>
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<td>Camp Holiday- Operations</td>
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<td>Camp Holiday- Facilities</td>
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### DSAGC 2014 Camp Program Income

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<th>Category</th>
<th>2013 Annual</th>
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<td>Camps- Camp Holiday- Registration Fees</td>
<td>$15,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Camp Total</td>
<td>$15,000</td>
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Holiday Planning

• Holiday is run as three 2-week sessions in June - August
  • Campers may sign up for as many 2-week sessions as they choose
• Program Director is in charge of creating daily schedules, with assistance from committee
• Collection of fees and documentation from campers
  • Medical forms, waiver, teacher evaluation – see samples
• Activities include: Yoga, Music Therapy, Arts and Crafts, Drama, Allegro Music and Movement
  • Some providers are paid and some are volunteers
• Movement of supplies from storage unit and purchasing of new happens right before first session
Camp Obstacles

• Money!
  • Can you do fundraisers?
  • Can the costs be deferred to the families for the first year?
  • Can you find grant opportunities?
  • How much can be donated?

• Volunteers
  • Look in the community - company volunteers
  • Experience with camp is often more important than experience with special needs population

• Leadership
  o Do you have staff?
  o Do you have a strong volunteer committee?
Questions?

• Questions about Camp Horizon and/or Camp Holiday?

• Our contact information:
  o Kathryn – klariviere@dsa-gc.org
  o Michael – michael.overcash@wellsfargo.com

• Come visit us!

• THANK YOU!