

# Newsletter

Volume 13

June 2019

## CAMP AGAPE GOES TO THE MOVIES

### The Mission of Camp Agape

To provide a free summer camping experience, in a setting of *agape* (the kind of love God has for each of us—welcoming and unconditional) for Vermont children who have experienced the incarceration of a parent or caregiver

DOWNSTREAM is a documentary film featuring the compelling stories of those left behind when a parent goes to prison. Vermont children and caregivers share their experiences, revealing the complex and emotional terrain they navigate.

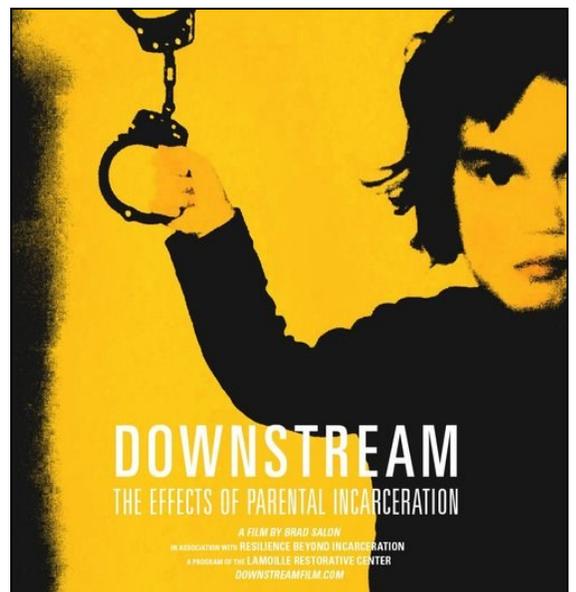
DOWNSTREAM includes a number of Vermont leaders and advocates whose perspectives help give larger context to the children's and family's stories. Those appearing in the film include: elected and state officials, educators, a law school professor, and a pediatrician.

The film was produced by Brad Salon, of Bear Notch Productions, in association with Resilience Beyond Incarceration, a program of the Lamoille Restorative Center.

Some of the filming took place during camp last summer and highlights Camp Agape and its mission. All nine of the youth that share their stories are current or former Camp Agape campers.

The film has been enthusiastically received by audiences in six screenings around the state this spring. Further screenings are being scheduled for the fall. Later in June, the film may be viewed directly from the website: [www.downstreamfilm.com](http://www.downstreamfilm.com).

Senator Leahy says this about the film: "DOWNSTREAM paints a vivid picture of the generational impact of incarceration on Vermont's children and families. Kudos to the Lamoille Restorative Center for illustrating the challenges that confront young people when a parent is in prison. And thanks to the subjects who have agreed to share their most personal stories so that others may better understand the plight that they and others face."



Watch the trailer at [www.downstreamfilm.com](http://www.downstreamfilm.com)

### 2019 Camp Dates

**Ages 8-11:** Aug 4-9

**Ages 12-14:** July 7-12  
(returning campers only)

**Ages 14-17:** July 14-19  
(returning campers only)

All camps held at:

Bethany Birches Camp,  
Plymouth, VT



# 2018 Financial Summary and 2019 Budget

	2018 Budget	Actual Expenses	Donated Expenses	Total Cost	2019 Budget
Bethany Birches Contract (63 slots)	\$ 26,100	\$25,500		\$25,500	\$29,575 (65 slots)
Deposit to Bethany Birches for 2019	\$ 3,000	\$2,957.50		\$2957.50	\$2,957
Stipends to Expand Staff	\$ 500	\$220		\$220	\$500
Camper Gear, program supplies	\$ 3,000	\$2728.14	\$359.55	\$3087.69	\$3000
Camper Transportation	\$ 2,400	\$2,300		\$2300	\$2500
Camper Recruitment and Registration	\$ 1,000	\$501.89	\$579.66	\$1081.55	\$1000
Fundraising	\$ 1,000	\$577.80	\$303.94	\$881.74	\$1000
Board and Officers Insurance	\$ 1,300	\$1296		\$1296	\$1300
Reunion and Camper Cards Expense	\$500	\$351.78		\$351.78	\$500
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$38,800</b>			<b>\$37,676.26</b>	<b>\$42,332</b>
	<b>Budgeted</b>	<b>Actual Income</b>	<b>In-Kind Inc.</b>	<b>Total Income</b>	<b>2019 Budget</b>
Received from Congregations (17)					
Episcopal, UMC, UCC	\$11,500	\$7,428			
Received from Fanny Allen Foundation	\$10,000	\$10,000			
Received from Individuals (92)	\$17,500	\$17,394			
Donated Expenses from Individuals	\$1000		\$1020.60		
Received from Service Clubs		\$600			
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$40,000</b>	<b>\$35,422</b>	<b>\$1020.60</b>	<b>\$36,442.60</b>	<b>\$42,300</b>

## New Camp Agape Board Members



**Wade Prather** has volunteered at Camp Agape for six years, serving our middle school and younger campers as cabin counselor.

Wade and his wife have expanded their family with foster and adoptive children, so it is a very natural fit for Wade to share his love with the expanded camp community. He is able to join our board meetings via Zoom from Cropseyville, NY.



**Lara Bowers** is new to Camp Agape and comes to the board through her connection to Bethany Birches Camp, and the

Mennonite Church. She has most recently headed the Arts and Sciences Division at the College of St Joseph in Rutland. Lara and her husband are also foster and adoptive parents.

# Camp Agape Strategic Planning

## HOW CAN YOU HELP?

**GOAL 1:** Increase funds from congregations

- ◆ Does your congregation have outreach funds that could be directed to Camp Agape? Are you willing to present a request for the funds to be sent?

**GOAL 2:** Increase our individual donor base

- ◆ Would you mention Camp Agape and its mission to family and friends and direct contributions to Camp Agape in lieu of birthday, Christmas, retirement, or memorial gifts?

**GOAL 3:** Search for new grant possibilities

- ◆ Do you know of family foundations or other charitable foundation grant opportunities that resonate with the Camp Agape mission?

**GOAL 4:** Serve more children

- ◆ Our greatest challenge is recruiting campers. There is no database, but we know there are about 1300 VT children between the ages of 8 and 12 who have experienced a parent's incarceration this year. Spread the word.

**GOAL 5:** Sustainability

- ◆ Our board is aging. Our donors are aging. Our volunteers are aging. Would you like to be more actively involved in making Camp Agape happen and insuring its future?

Email or call with your input: [campagapevermont@yahoo.com](mailto:campagapevermont@yahoo.com) or 802-793-4234

It's all about balance!



Arts and Crafts are a favorite!





P.O. Box 8283  
Essex, VT 05451

Phone: 802-793-4234  
802-985-3028  
802-793-6529

**Please  
VOLUNTEER**

*Please DONATE*

Email: [campagapevermont@yahoo.com](mailto:campagapevermont@yahoo.com)

An ecumenical ministry of:

The New England Conference of The United Methodist Church

The Episcopal Diocese of Vermont

The Vermont Conference of The United Church of Christ

With generous assistance from the Fanny Allen Foundation

## Camping Plans for 2019

This summer, all of our camp sessions will take place at the Bethany Birches Camp in Plymouth, VT.

### **8-11 year old Camp Agape ~ Sunday, August 4 to Friday, Aug 9**

We will be the only program at Bethany Birches that week. We hope to bring 40 campers and up to 15 volunteers. Special programs will include visits from CLiF, Ron the trumpet player, and Kids-A-Part.

### **12-14 year old Older Kids ~ Sunday, July 7 to Friday, July 12**

Our 22 middle school Older Kids will be housed together in their own shelters, cooking and eating their meals together, but will participate in the activities of the full Bethany Birches middle school camping program.

### **14-17 year old Older Kids ~ Sunday, July 14 to Friday, July 19**

Our 13 high-schoolers have been camping together for years now. Some will be participating in high school camp, and some training to be leaders and counselors.



- ◆ VOLUNTEER
- ◆ DONATE
- ◆ PRAY

Visit our website:

[www.campagapevermont.org](http://www.campagapevermont.org)