



Founded on Agape
Unconditional Love

Thea's Notes

A Newsletter of Thea Bowman House

Fall 2017

What a Summer We Had

There is nothing like the sight of a child experiencing a dip in the lake for the first time to help one realize that childhood is a magical time of discovery and exploration. Thanks to the John Winter Fund under the direction of Katharine Winter and Richard Parker Esq., the kids at Thea Bowman House experienced the Boonville Fair, the Enchanted Forest Water Safari, Delta Lake, and the great outdoors of Old Forge.



During some of our very rainy summer days, that same fund took us to Syracuse to enjoy the MOST Museum of Science and Technology and Wonder Works at Destiny Mall. Our littlest children enjoyed trips to the sprinkler park in Chadwicks and the ever popular Utica Zoo. Our next door neighbor, the Utica Public Library, provides fun events rain or shine and is also the site of our collaborative efforts with Cornell Cooperative Extension in a community garden project that teaches children to grow and harvest crops under the direction of Sue Kimball and her master gardeners. On the west side of town, the four-year-olds till the soil in the Stone Soup garden at Sculpture Space and our own backyard at the Lafayette Street site under the direction of Joanie Gorton and company. All of these experiences make for positive, life-long memories for some very lucky children.

Welcome Pre-kindergarten Class of 2018

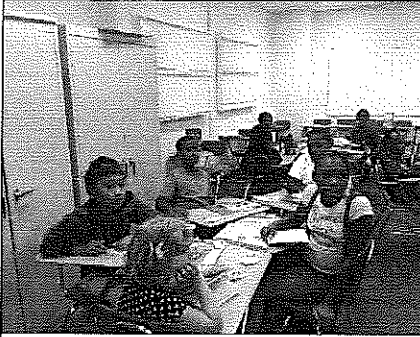
The years go by so quickly. One-hundred-fifty four-year-olds graduated from pre-k last June and are off to kindergarten. In September 154 new students began and have adjusted well to a daily routine. We are proud to partner with the Utica City School District on this very valuable program. It truly makes a positive impact on our children and families.

St. Clare's Cupboard on the Move

The basement of our Lafayette Street site has been home to a food pantry and clothing shop since 1988. The heavy rain and aging bricks and mortar combined to render the pantry unusable. Added to this reality was the fact that over 250 people per month were using this very small space. An opportunity presented itself, and we were on the move to the basement of St. Joseph-St. Patrick's parish center. We now have space for used clothing and small household items. We offer clients a chance to shop for food themselves instead of giving them a pre-packed box. It also allowed us to work in partnership with Mother Marianne's Soup Kitchen, which is located upstairs in the same building. It was no small task to move across the parking lot. Thanks to Berkshire Bank, the Hartford Insurance Company, Morehouse Appliances, the Perotti family, and the United Way of Greater Utica and the Mohawk Valley for making the transition smooth.

Find us on the web: www.theabowmanhouse.org or facebook.com/theabowmanhouse

Reading Rockets Soar Again



Statistics tell us that children from low income families actually lose ground in their reading levels over the summer vacation. Our summer literacy program is a proven antidote for this problem. Thanks to a grant from two donor-advised funds of the Community Foundation of Herkimer and Oneida Counties, the M & T Bank/Partners Trust Charitable Fund and the Alexandra G. Kogut Memorial Fund, 80 children in grades 1-6 were treated to five weeks of literacy enrichment classes under the direction of New York State certified teachers. The theme for the summer was perseverance and working towards a goal even if it is difficult.

Special thanks go to Mohawk Valley Community College for donating some college classrooms to add a very special touch and to encourage the hope for higher education. A quote from teacher Annette Procanick sums it up: "It is my hope that the word perseverance rings in the children's ears as they begin the new school year. May they always have a dream and believe in themselves. May they remember the people we read about who showed perseverance. May they know that they can make a difference in this world."

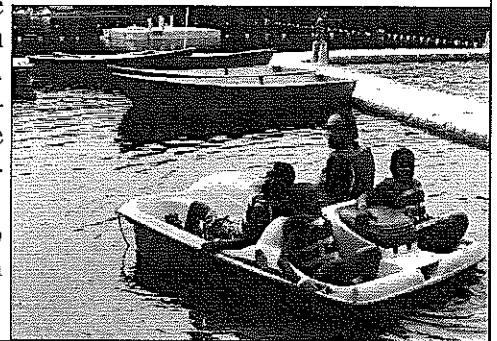
Into the Wilderness



What would our summers be if we didn't have the premier event of the annual camp-out at Camp Kingsley! Each August, a rental truck is packed with food, sleeping bags and children's suitcases as we make our way to Ava, New York, for a week of boating, fishing, hiking, swimming, archery, sports, and arts and crafts. Campfires turn into outdoor theaters as young aspiring actors perform hilarious skits. Forty-five overnight campers and over 50 day campers enjoyed the week of August 14-18 in a tradition that is now more than 20 years old. Special thanks go to the Observer-Dispatch in their Operation Sunshine

Campaign for funding this event and to the Winters Fund for transporting day campers to and from camp.

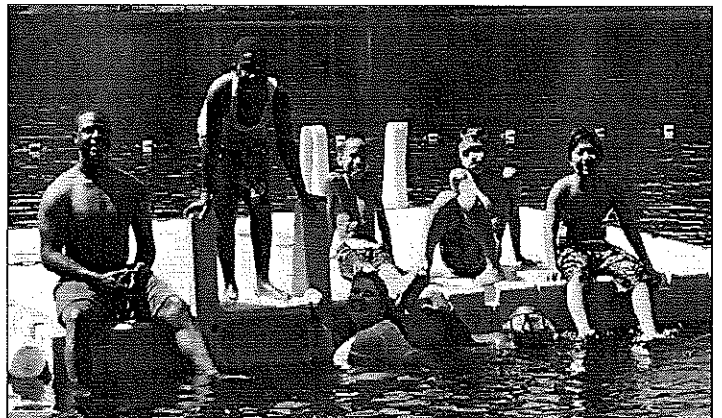
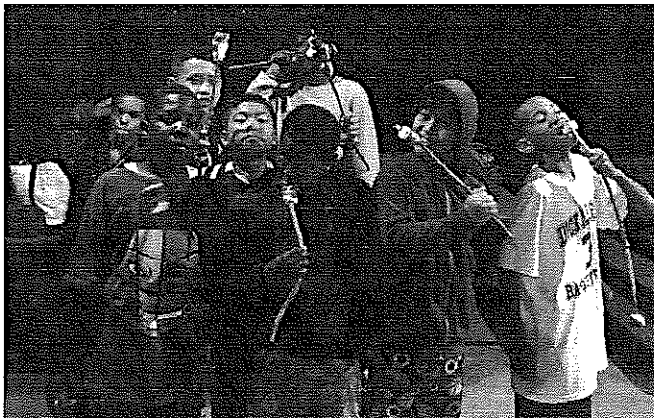
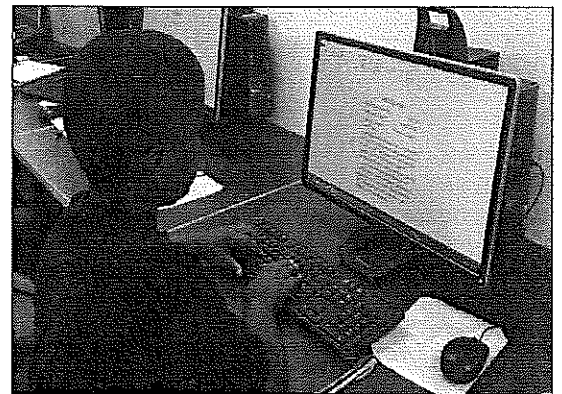
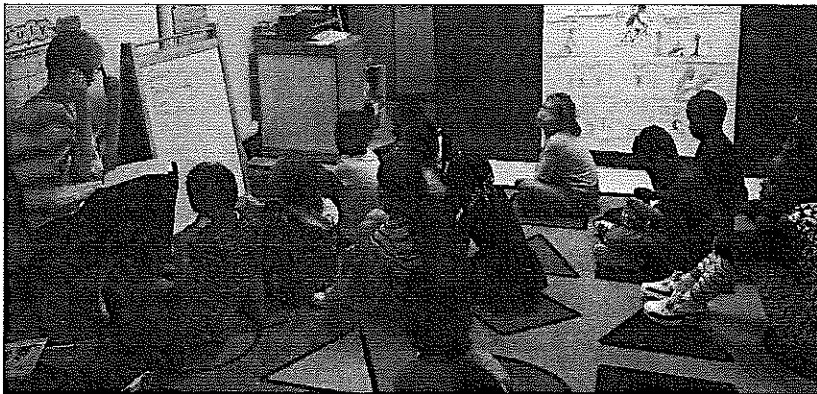
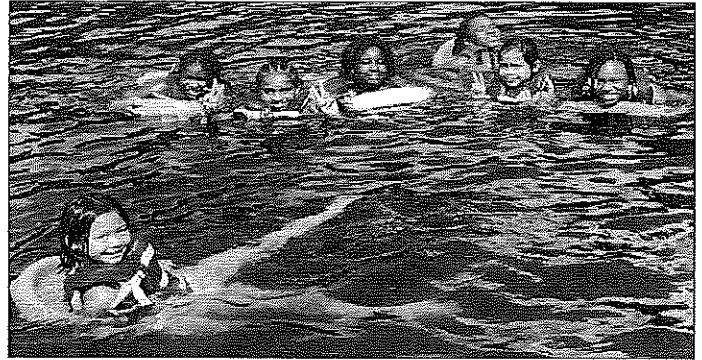
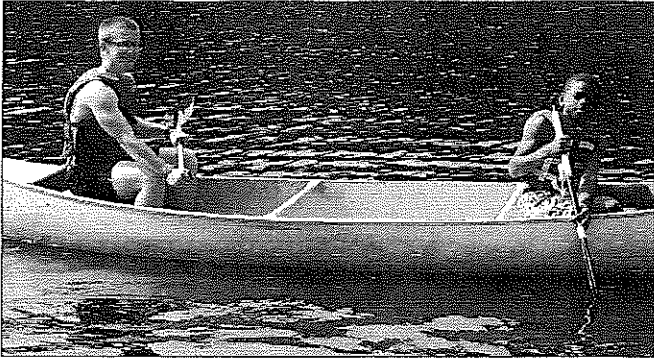
We give a shout out to Hamilton College incoming freshmen who joined us at camp as part of their orientation process. Welcome to each of you.



DeSales Center Update

The DeSales Center (former St. Francis deSales School) is home to school age child care, Kids with Promise teen program, and the DOVE Domestic Violence Ended programs of Thea Bowman House. The Mohawk Valley Refugee Center occupied a large portion of the building. They have decided to move to the former Utica School of Commerce at 201 Bleecker Street. We wish them much happiness in their new home. This does leave a significant amount of space for rent in the building. We are looking for not-for-profit tenants and urge you to call 315-797-0748 to talk to Cindy Kelly or Jane Domingue if you would like more information.

Check out our new web site for the DeSales Center!
www.desalescenter.org



Thea Bowman House

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Mission Statement

The mission of Thea Bowman House, Inc. is to provide a safe, nurturing environment.

To enable culturally diverse children and families achieve their full potential.

The foundation on which Thea Bowman House is built is agape, "unconditional love."

Jane Domingue
 Executive Director
 Sandy Wright
 School-age Program Director

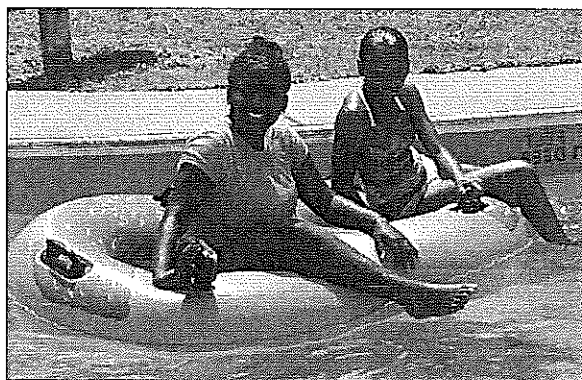
Board of Directors

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 Emily Tracy, Secretary
 William Ryan, Treasurer

William Taft, Ex-officio
 Michael Brennan
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 Heather Beebe

Needs List

- Help with rent of new pantry space. Rent is \$275 a month.
- Funding for new classroom chairs
- Large capacity blender
- Industrial size toaster
- Volunteer tutors and community readers
- Children's pants sizes 3T through 8.
- Children's sneakers
- Diapers size 4 and 5
- Volunteers for food pantry
- Canned meats
- Garden vegetables



United Way of
 the Valley and
 Greater Utica Area

I would like to make a contribution to Thea Bowman House

Name _____

Gift Amount \$ _____

♦ General Support _____

♦ Specific Program _____

♦ In Honor of _____

♦ In Memory of _____