




2019 SUMMER CAMP REPORT



Summer is a unique time for our children. Access to quality summer learning programs is not only an education, economic, and public health issue, but it is also essentially a social justice issue. The most pressing concern we address is the growing disparity in opportunity that exists for our children. The staff and board at Spring Forward are grateful to be part of a rich landscape of organizations and individuals that help families in our community reach their full potential. With support from the Doris and Victor Day Foundation, Rock Island-Milan School District, and other partners, we were able to offer high quality summer programs to over 400 children.

Spring Forward Enrichment Camps – Grades K- 4

Summer enrichment camps were held at five elementary schools – Rock Island Academy, Frances Willard, Earl Hanson, Ridgewood, and Rock Island Center for Math and Science (RICMS) for six weeks from June 10th–July 17th. Our Monday through Thursday schedule included breakfast and literacy instruction in the morning, then lunch, play, and enrichment activities in the afternoon. Children who attended Monday through Friday also went on field trips on Friday.

Kids on Campus – Grades 5-6

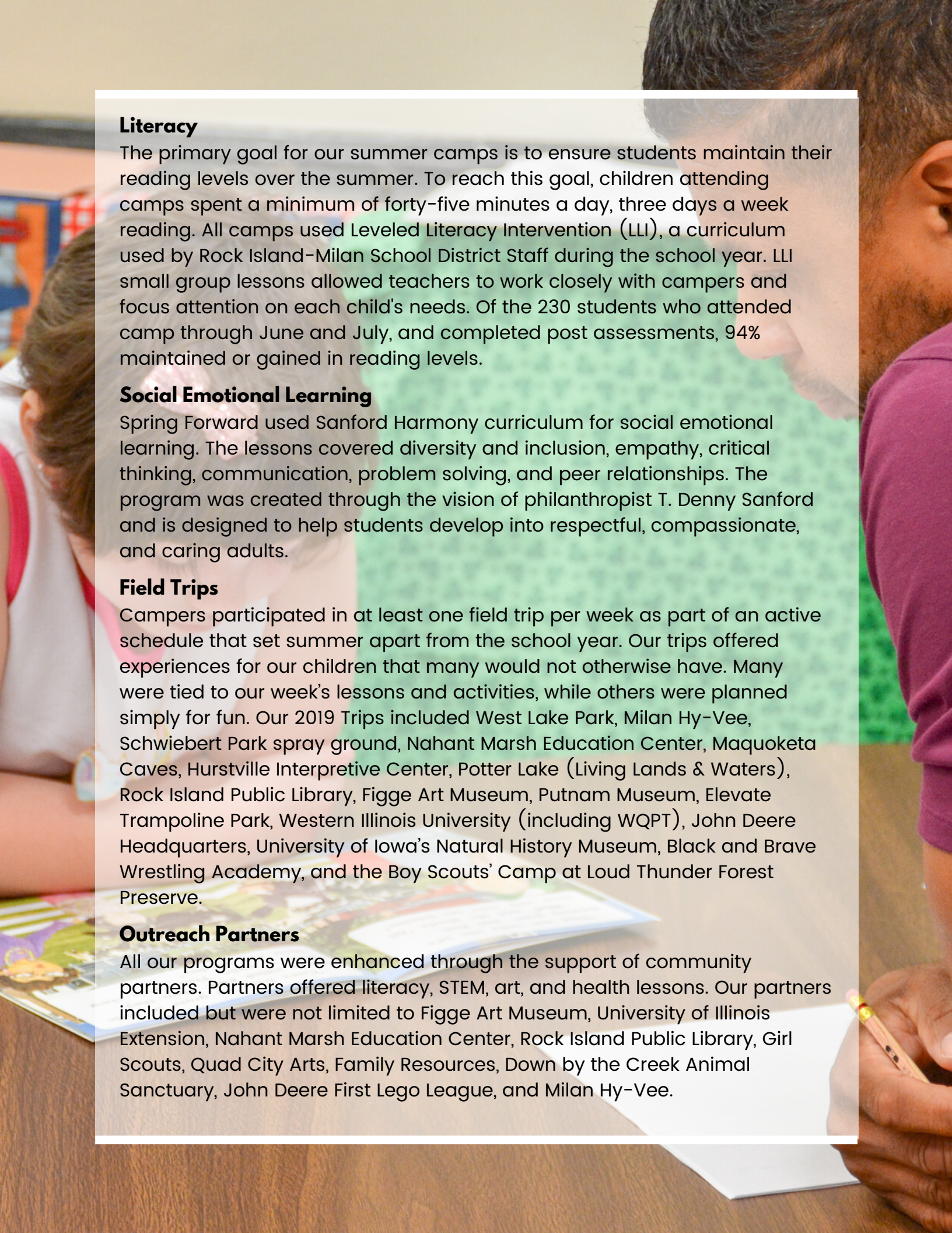
Campers were introduced to the college experience at Spring Forward’s Kids on Campus. They spent mornings at Augustana College, participating in activities led by faculty from several different departments. After morning activities, they headed back to Longfellow for lunch, play time and reading.

Martin Luther King Jr. Community Center Summer Camp – Grades K-6

Spring Forward provided five teachers at the Martin Luther King Jr. Community Center (MLKCC) Summer Camp. To provide consistent services for children in our school district, the King Center and Spring Forward kept the same camp calendar, schedule, meals, and literacy program.

Meals

Summer camps mean summer meals for our children. During the school year, our children are provided breakfast and lunch through the school’s free or reduced meal program. When school is out, many children are at risk of having to go without nutritious meals. Spring Forward partnered with Two Rivers YMCA’s Nourish Program to serve more than 11,000 meals at our six summer sites.



Literacy

The primary goal for our summer camps is to ensure students maintain their reading levels over the summer. To reach this goal, children attending camps spent a minimum of forty-five minutes a day, three days a week reading. All camps used Leveled Literacy Intervention (LLI), a curriculum used by Rock Island-Milan School District Staff during the school year. LLI small group lessons allowed teachers to work closely with campers and focus attention on each child's needs. Of the 230 students who attended camp through June and July, and completed post assessments, 94% maintained or gained in reading levels.

Social Emotional Learning

Spring Forward used Sanford Harmony curriculum for social emotional learning. The lessons covered diversity and inclusion, empathy, critical thinking, communication, problem solving, and peer relationships. The program was created through the vision of philanthropist T. Denny Sanford and is designed to help students develop into respectful, compassionate, and caring adults.

Field Trips

Campers participated in at least one field trip per week as part of an active schedule that set summer apart from the school year. Our trips offered experiences for our children that many would not otherwise have. Many were tied to our week's lessons and activities, while others were planned simply for fun. Our 2019 Trips included West Lake Park, Milan Hy-Vee, Schwiebert Park spray ground, Nahant Marsh Education Center, Maquoketa Caves, Hurstville Interpretive Center, Potter Lake (Living Lands & Waters), Rock Island Public Library, Figge Art Museum, Putnam Museum, Elevate Trampoline Park, Western Illinois University (including WQPT), John Deere Headquarters, University of Iowa's Natural History Museum, Black and Brave Wrestling Academy, and the Boy Scouts' Camp at Loud Thunder Forest Preserve.

Outreach Partners

All our programs were enhanced through the support of community partners. Partners offered literacy, STEM, art, and health lessons. Our partners included but were not limited to Figge Art Museum, University of Illinois Extension, Nahant Marsh Education Center, Rock Island Public Library, Girl Scouts, Quad City Arts, Family Resources, Down by the Creek Animal Sanctuary, John Deere First Lego League, and Milan Hy-Vee.

Stepping Up for Summer Learning

Spring Forward organized the Third Annual Stepping Up for Summer Learning on July 12 at the TaxSlayer Center. The event was the single largest event in Iowa or Illinois to celebrate National Summer Learning Day. We were honored to host more than 800 children from fifteen Quad Cities' summer camps. The event included a rock band, enrichment activities, a book giveaway, lunch and more.

RockTown Reads Campaign

Spring Forward staff continued to build on a RockTown Reads Campaign started in July 2018. With support from the Rauch Foundation and John Deere, we organized a billboard campaign in partnership with RockTown Reads, Read Moline and East Moline School District.

BE KIND and READ BOOKS T-shirts

Local businesses supported Summer Learning Week by wearing Spring Forward's Be Kind and Read Books t-shirts. The efforts brought partners together to promote the importance of summer learning. Participating partners included: Children's Therapy Center of the Quad Cities, Cool Beanz Coffee House, THEO'S JAVA CLUB, Atlante Trattoria, QC Coffee and Pancake House, Big Swing Brewery, Taste Buds, Quad City Arts, and the Rock Island Public Library.

