

Elevating each summer at Palmer overnight and DC day camps





שלום! Shalom!

For families who want their kids to love being Jewish, Ramah New England is the Jewish camp experience that inspires joyous Jewish living at our Camp Ramah New England overnight camp, Ramah Day Camp Greater D.C. and Ramah Year-Round programs.

Why? Because Ramah weaves together fun and meaningful Jewish experiences with all the activities kids love, unparalleled camper care and inspiring role models in a welcoming, inclusive community, where kids make life-long friends.

With your help, in 2019 we were able to **innovate, impact** and **include**:

- We **innovated** with new nature and garden programs at both camps
- Our day camp grew to **impact** 280 campers
- We were able to **include** more campers with disabilities and chronic medical conditions

Through your support of the Ramah *L'Kulam* campaign and other initiatives, and with our board members and volunteers leading the way, 300 campers received financial aid and 100 campers participated in our *Tikvah* programs. We continued to improve our Palmer and Germantown facilities to make the experiences of our campers and staff even better.

Camp Ramah New England is on pace to serve 1,200 campers at our two sites in 2020. We are hard at work to **innovate and to impact and include even more campers this coming summer!**

This is all possible only because of your support and deep connection — *Todah Rabbah!*



Stuart Katz
President



Rabbi Ed Gelb
CEO



Camp Ramah New England

To elevate the Palmer overnight experience, we deliver quality programs to excite and engage our campers and provide the support they need to succeed. We hire and train top-notch staff members who become the indispensable role models for our children.

Elevating our Daily Program

- **Sports Instruction:** Professional coaching, plus instruction for older campers through our sports team program
- **Visual Arts:** High level skill-building in a wide variety of techniques and media
- **Swim Instruction and Boating:** Younger campers polish their swim skills with experienced swim instructors — and everyone loves boating on the *Agam* (lake)
- **Shabbat:** At the end of each busy week, our community revels in the community spirit of *Shabbat*, a central part of the Ramah experience.

Elevating Our Specialty Camp Within Our Camp

Kishroniyah (from the Hebrew word for talent) allows older campers to concentrate on chosen areas of interest with visiting professional instructors. In addition to mini-camps in sports and the visual arts, in 2019 participants developed their talents in workshops that ranged from Robotics and Steampunkinetics to *A Capella* and Dance, from Circus Workshop and Cooking to Filmmaking and Lifeguard Training.

כשרוניה





קהילה

Elevating Our Community

In *kayitz* 2019, we elevated our entire community by strengthening our relationships with one another and with God and Israel:

- **Elevating Our Connection to Truth:** Through our summer learning theme *Emet*, campers probed what Judaism has to say about truth and honesty. We challenged ourselves with these questions: Why is truth important? How do we remain true to our values? Can there be competing narratives that are both true?
- **Elevating Our Interpersonal Relationships:** Staff members and older campers attended workshops with Lindsay Fram, a noted sex educator, to heighten their understanding of genuine consent in personal relationships and to consider real-life scenarios that might arise.
- **Elevating our Connection to Prayer:** Our rabbis and educators worked closely with our *edah* staff to increase campers' knowledge of and engagement with *t'fillot*. Visiting specialists, including master songleader Rabbi Josh Warshawsky, enlivened our *t'fillot* and *shira* (singing).
- **Elevating Our Connection to Israel:** We sought to foster deeper knowledge of Israel — its people, its land and its story. On *Yom Yisrael* (Israel Day), we celebrated the diversity within the State of Israel and explored our personal connections to Israel.

פינת טבע

Elevating Our Connection to Nature

In just two summers, our *Pinat Teva* (Nature Corner) has become one of the most beloved parts of camp. Our campers are learning to take care of animals. (Sheep and goats and ducks and chickens — oh my!) The new garden, which quickly became green with vegetables, herbs and flowers, has become a place of learning and wonder. Our expanded outdoor cooking area — now outfitted with fire pits and a pizza oven — provides more opportunities to cook and use the plants we have nurtured. Through this outdoor education center, our community has deepened its commitment to environmental stewardship and appreciation of our natural world.



Elevating Our Staff Leaders

Each summer, we strive to provide our young staff members from North America and Israel the tools they need to provide superb care to our campers and become exceptional role models. Because alumni studies show that the Ramah staff experience leads to stronger Jewish engagement in adulthood, we give staff members powerful Jewish experiences and skills that they can use in other settings, such as conflict resolution, team-building and problem-solving.

In 2019, our revamped staffing model gave in-bunk staff more opportunities to collaborate as a team. These *madrichim chevratim* now attend daily staff training sessions with Rabbi Gelb and other senior staff. They have heightened responsibility for campers within their bunks and for programs planned for the entire *edah* (unit). Our Staff Support Specialist helped staff members meet challenges in their work.



Elevating Our Camper Leaders

Through our leadership training programs, older campers learn to become role models that our younger campers emulate. Campers in *Nivonim* (rising 11th graders) participate in a summer-long leadership training program in which they have increasing responsibilities for campers in our *Amitzim (Tikvah)* and younger *edot*. This year, this program culminated in *Yom Gesher* (Bridge Day), in which they rose to a new level of responsibility by caring for these campers for a full day. They also continued the *Nivonim* tradition of leading *shira* every *Shabbat* and running *Yom Sport* with great *ruach*.

Campers in *Machon* (rising 10th graders) took on significant roles with *Amitzim* during sports activities and performed together in *Frozen*, a high point of the summer.



Ramah Day Camp Greater D.C.

The Ramah Day Camp was launched in 2015 in partnership with local rabbis, synagogues and day schools. It is a place infused with Jewish rhythm, and where a five-year-old can learn archery, dance to Israeli music and explore a permaculture garden. Young campers are encouraged to be independent, build new skills, appreciate nature and make new friends.

Elevating Hebrew שׂעֵר

Sha'ar, the day camp's highly popular Hebrew language immersion program, continues to grow. The 40 campers who participated in 2019 gained proficiency by speaking only Hebrew to their counselors and engaging in hand-on activities that contextualized the Hebrew that they were hearing and speaking throughout the day.



Elevating Inclusion

The *Tikvah* Program opened in 2019 to enable campers with learning, social and developmental differences to have fun — and to thrive. Sixteen campers formally participated in the program or were informally supported by our *Tikvah* Director. In the new *Cheder Menucha* (Sensory Room), campers had an opportunity to take a break and recharge.

280 campers in 2019



2019 Highlights

- New Rainforest Crafts elective
- Enhanced gardening, nature and herbalism activities
- Giant “9-square in the air” game
- Musical *tefilah*, picnic and ceremony to welcome *Shabbat*



Rabbi Jill Levy joined the Ramah New England staff as the director of Ramah Day Camp Greater D.C. in September 2019. Rabbi Jill, who also oversees Ramah Year-Round programming in the D.C. area, came to us from Houston, where she served as the JCC day camp director and rabbi.

Tikvah Program

The *Tikvah* Program in Palmer continues to be the premier Jewish camp program for children, teens and young adults with disabilities. The program provides an inclusive, accepting and nurturing environment for learning, socialization, and immersive Jewish living.

תקווה

Each summer is an opportunity for young people of all abilities to share in the magic of camp — to sing, swim, dance, play, work, celebrate *Shabbat* together, learn from each other, and create new friendships.

As *Tikvah* celebrates its fiftieth anniversary, it continues to grow and evolve as it strives to serve campers with a wide range of learning, social, and developmental differences. The two-week *Mini-Amitzim* track provides younger campers with a great introduction to camp. The *Ma'avar* track, a highly supported transitional vocational program for young adults, ensures that our programs are tailored to individual needs. More job coaches and new training sites ensure that adults can develop a broad range of skills that can be transferred to a variety of settings, with an emphasis on the food service and hospitality industries.





Under the Tikvah Umbrella

75 participants succeed at camp because of these programs:

- Inclusion support and accommodations for campers who can live in typical bunks
- Mini-Amitzim and Amitzim (campers ages 10 through teens who benefit from a higher level of support)
- Ma'avar and Tochnit Avodah (young adults who participate in vocational training)



Tikvah Block Party

The first-ever *Tikvah* Block Party was a smashing success! The whole camp came together for a festive, delicious and creative celebration that gave *Tikvah* participants a chance to shine.

Beyond the Summer

- Weekly *Shabbos Is Calling* video chats: *Tikvah* participants stay connected to friends and staff year-round
- *Tikvah* Family *Shabbaton*: children with disabilities and their families celebrate *Shabbat* together at camp

Tikvah
at 50

Celebrate 50 years of Tikvah —
July 19, 2020 in Palmer

Facility Improvements

We continue to invest in our Palmer facility to provide memorable and meaningful experiences that elevate each summer. In summer 2019, our campers and staff enjoyed these upgrades:

- **Tennis and Basketball Courts:** resurfaced and refurbished courts were the newest upgrades to our sports facilities
- **Lakefront:** the new terraced beach improved access to boating and created a great new place for community-wide events
- **Water Park:** with large new inflatables, the expanded Water Park is a favorite place for campers of all ages
- **Staff Lounge:** the refurbished Staff Lounge provided staff members with a comfortable place to take a break and socialize



Coming in 2020:

- Hot buffet equipment
- Refurbished *Tzad Aleph* Amphitheater
- Garden and play areas for our younger campers
- And more!

Ramah Year-Round

דמה כל השנה

Elevating Our Year-Round Experiences

Ramah New England extends its impact beyond the summer through its year-round programs. Working closely with synagogues and schools, Ramah engages hundreds of children and their families through programs at our sites in Palmer, MA and Germantown, MD and at synagogues and schools throughout our region. The reimagined *Shabbat* is Awesome program, for example, brings day-long experiential Ramah programs to our partner communities.

Year-round experiences at synagogues in the Boston area and in Providence are supported by *Gesher Ramah*, a program of the National Ramah Commission supported by generous funding from the AVI CHAI Foundation.



Family Camp 2019 in Palmer

- A taste of Ramah for 50 families with young children
- New adult-focused programming and socializing
- Classic Ramah *Shabbat* and engaging activities for the whole family



Financials

October 1, 2018 – September 30, 2019

REVENUE

\$6,727,733

Tuition & fees	\$5,203,041
Other program-related revenue	\$224,246
Donations & grants	\$1,263,748
Other revenue	\$36,698

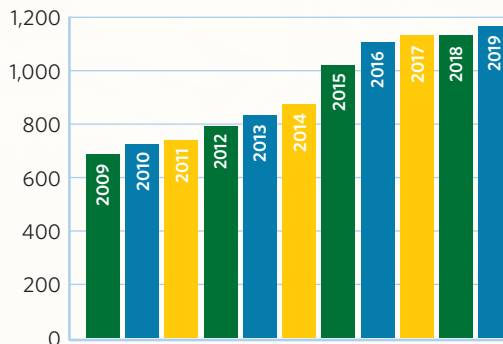
EXPENSES

\$6,460,958

Programs & Operations	\$5,572,597
Scholarships provided	\$652,280
Fundraising	\$236,081

FINANCIAL AID

\$650,000
provided to
288 Palmer and
DC campers



CAMPER ENROLLMENT

Palmer and DC



2019 Donors October 1, 2018 – September 30, 2019



Our donors supported camper scholarships and the *Tikvah* Program to ensure that Ramah was made available to everyone. Through our donors' support, Camp Ramah also improved its facilities and launched new program initiatives.

Todah Rabbah — we are grateful to all the members of our Ramah community who are committed to supporting our beloved camp and who bring Camp Ramah to new heights!

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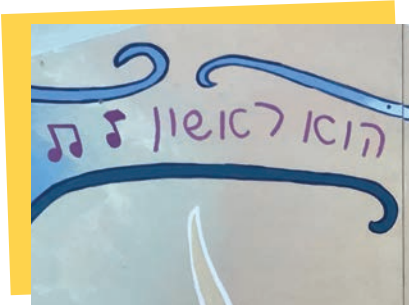
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*This list acknowledges all donors who contributed \$180 or more **October 1, 2018 - September 30, 2019**. To those not listed here, we sincerely thank you for your support!*

Every effort was made to correctly list donors' names. If your gift was omitted or listed incorrectly, please contact Rhonda Parker at rhondap@campramhne.org or (781) 702-5290 x103.

Todah Rabbah – thank you
to our generous donors!





Etz Hayim Legacy Society

Leaving a legacy is an important part of one's lifework. Thank you to the members of the *Etz Hayim* Legacy Society who are ensuring the future of Camp Ramah by making commitments in their estate plans to contribute to the permanent endowment.

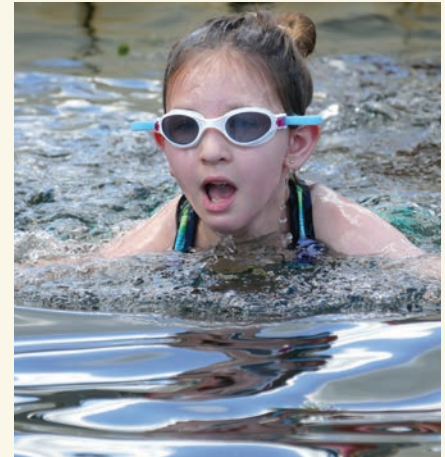
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We appreciate the donations that have funded endowments to support Camp Ramah in perpetuity:

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Scholarship Endowment
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For information about supporting Camp Ramah, please contact Rhonda Parker, Director of Development, at rhondap@campramahne.org or 781.702.5290 x103.

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