School’s Out

Summer vacation is a great time for children to explore new opportunities. But high costs and transportation can make finding safe and affordable activities a challenge for low-income families. Some children in our community rarely venture beyond their own neighborhoods. Again this summer our Family Resource Centers are sending youth to camps like Baldwinsville Soccer Camp and Camp Casowasco on Owasco Lake. They’ve also planned trips like horseback riding at Highland Forest, visiting cows at E-Z Acres dairy farm, and hiking at Green Lakes, Tinker Falls, and Clark Reservation. We thank you, our generous donors and community partners, for making these trips possible for our campers.

Below: The wonder of summer. A young camper enjoys learning about butterflies.

What is an Unrestricted Gift?

PEACE, Inc., like many non-profits, is funded through a series of grants. Some funds have a “restricted” or specific use. For example, we could use money from our Community Services Block Grant to fund a parenting class at a resource center, but not to repair damages to its roof. We would have to find another way to pay for the repairs. An unrestricted gift is more general. It allows us to decide where that money goes – whether that’s sending a kid to camp, training our staff, or updating a building – based on our highest priority need.

Above: Kids pitch in. Last summer children who attended the Manlius Pebble Hill School Summer Program created jewelry to raise money for PEACE, Inc.

Right: These two “happy campers” say it all - thanks to our donors for their generous giving.

PEACE, Inc.’s Mission: Helping people in the community realize their potential for becoming self-sufficient
“I was a young parent, so I prioritized my family first,” says Lauren Gemma Robarge, mother of three. “At the point where my daughter [her youngest] started school at Head Start, I decided to prioritize my own endeavors.” She earned her GED through Head Start’s partnership with OCM Boces, but struggled to hold down a regular job because of flare-ups from Lupus. She started painting mandalas 10 months ago as a form of therapy and productivity. Now she runs a small business, Gemma Mandalas, through Facebook and sells her items on Etsy. She taught a trial painting class to PEACE, Inc. staff and parents at St. Brigid’s and plans to expand her business with more classes about the benefits of mandalas and meditation. “We have many things that go on in our life, and despite all that, something we can relate to is that whatever happens, life goes on,” she says.