



Peace Neighborhood Center

PEACEFUL CORNERS

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STORIES OF THE PEACE SUMMER

Lauryn and Eryn Comer have both been a part of the Peace Family for many years since they first attended Peace’s Summer Day Camp as children. Now, both sisters are still part of the Peace Family by giving back to those younger than them as Peace Summer Youth Staff Members.

The older sister, Lauryn, is now all grown up and entering her senior year of her bachelor’s program at Eastern Michigan University where she studies psychology. She plans to go on to attain a Master’s in Psychology. This past summer, she worked in Peace’s Leadership Development Camp as a counselor working with a group of middle schoolers and taking them on college visits to UM and EMU.

“It’s a big difference working with the older kids,” she says. “They are very intelligent and it keeps you on your toes. It also amazes you sometimes how quickly they get a grasp on stuff.”

LAURYN COMER



ERYN COMER

Eryn is heading into her freshman year of high school and has spent the past summer as a Counselor-in-Training better known as a CIT. The CITs help the full camp counselors run each different Color Group of kids in the elementary-age Summer Day Camp program. Each Color Group is separated by age so that grade-level workbook assignments and exercises can be done in the mornings before the other activities begin for the day.

“Peace Center has been a part of my whole life,” says Eryn. “I think I first came in first grade and it is just a part of the summer for us. I like being a CIT now. The little kids are so cute.”

Lauryn wholeheartedly agrees with that sentiment. “The Peace Center is like a home away from home,” she says. “It really is special, both in the summer and during after school programs. This place feels like it is our roots. Even as you grow, you still are with your roots.”

Peace Neighborhood Center’s mission is to provide programs for children, families, and individuals who are affected by social and economic problems.

Peace helps people discover options, enhance skills, and make choices that lead to self-sufficiency and positive community involvement.



STORIES OF SUMMER (CONT.)

Dana and Mike Peterson are another group of siblings who have come up through the ranks of the Peace Neighborhood Summer Programs. With their mother working closely as the School of Social Work's Field Faculty Liaison with our student interns from the University of Michigan, Dana and Mike have grown up around the wonderful activities of both Summer Day Camp and Leadership Development Camp.

This year, Dana, a freshman at U of M, was a full counselor running the Red Group of third graders headed to fourth grade in the fall. Dana is proud of her group and the things they did along the way, though the role of full camp counsellor was not without its challenges. "It is much easier to be co-staff than it is to be the leader," she says. "Suddenly, you're supposed to know all the answers to all the questions. I think I did ok."

Her brother Mike was a junior counselor helping with both the Blue and Purple Groups of kids heading into third grade. Heading into his junior year of high school, Mike really enjoyed this past summer helping with the single largest age group of the camp. "It was awesome,



MIKE & DANA PETERSON

and they were all good kids," he says. "It would get hard, though, sometimes just because there were 17 or 18 of them and only a couple of us."

In addition to running her Color Group, Dana also ran one of the 15 special clubs that campers selected for one of their two special clubs to participate in on Mondays throughout the six-week program. "I ran the Passport Club," she says. "We learned all about specific cultures, foods and languages by continent with 25 different speakers dropping in to talk about 25 different countries. I am very proud of my club members."

SUMMER BY THE NUMBERS

156 TOTAL CHILDREN REGISTERED IN PEACE SUMMER YOUTH SERVICES

84 TOTAL CHILDREN REGISTERED IN SUMMER DAY CAMP

42 TOTAL CHILDREN REGISTERED IN LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT CAMP

30 TOTAL CHILDREN PARTICIPATED IN WEST ARBOR SUMMER PROGRAMS



DATES TO REMEMBER

SEPTEMBER

17TH - YOUTH PROGRAMS BEGIN

29TH - JOLLY PUMPKIN ZWANZE DAY

29TH - ZAL GAZ GROTTA CHARITY CAR SHOW

OCTOBER

16TH - FALL FAMILY NIGHT

NOVEMBER

15TH - 18TH ANNUAL THANKS FOR GIVING BENEFIT DINNER



SUPPORTING YOUTH

Peace Neighborhood Center is proud to partner once again with the Kiwanis Club of Ann Arbor on our Alternatives for Youth (AY) program for middle school children with a \$3,000 grant from the club. The AY program serves over 50 Washtenaw County students in grades 6-9 every school year. These young people not only receive help with academics, but explore the difficulties of navigating adolescence with peer groups and mentors who help teach life lessons while bolstering self-esteem. We are grateful to once again partner with the Kiwanis and wish them great success in their new location!

ZWANZE DAY EVENT

Peace Neighborhood Center is proud to be co-host of the 3rd Zwanze Day at the Jolly Pumpkin Artisan Ales brewery in Dexter on September 29th, 2018! There will be an amazing list of breweries on hand, many of which rarely find their way into Michigan. Tickets for the event are \$100 with proceeds going to benefit Peace programs. Check out our Facebook page or Jolly Pumpkin's for more details.

Where: Jolly Pumpkin Artisan Ales' back lot - 2319 Bishop Cr E, Dexter, Michigan 48130

When: 2:12 PM - 7:00 PM with Zwanze Toast at 3 PM



CHARITY CAR SHOW

Also on Saturday, September 29th, our friends at the Zal Gaz Grotto will be holding their 2nd Annual Car Show from 11am - 4pm with proceeds going to benefit Peace Neighborhood Center. All makes and models will be on display and are welcomed!

There will be: Trophies, Live Music, Ice Cream, Clowns, a 50/50 Raffle, Pub Food, Adult Beverages, a Silent Auction, Face Painting. What's more is that attendance is free! - donations APPRECIATED.

Car Registration is a suggested donation of \$15. For more info, call 734-663-1202.



SAVE-THE-DATE FOR THANKS FOR GIVING THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 15TH, 2018

COMING SOON TO A DEVICE NEAR YOU!

Keep your eyes on our internet home at PeaceNeighborhoodCenter.org for big changes on the near horizon. This Fall, we will be unveiling our new updated website produced by Ann Arbor's own Boxcar Studio. With a new look, new features and streamlined functionality, we look forward to keeping you up-to-date on all the happenings within our Peace Family there for many years to come!



BACK-TO-SCHOOL PRINT ISSUE



**THANK YOU FOR A
WONDERFUL SUMMER!**