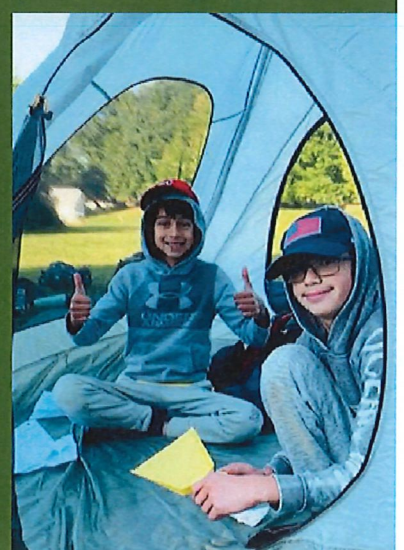
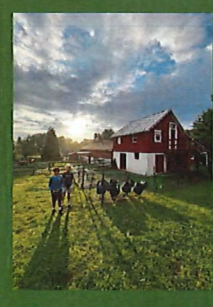


Genesee Valley

outdoor learning center
Impact 2023



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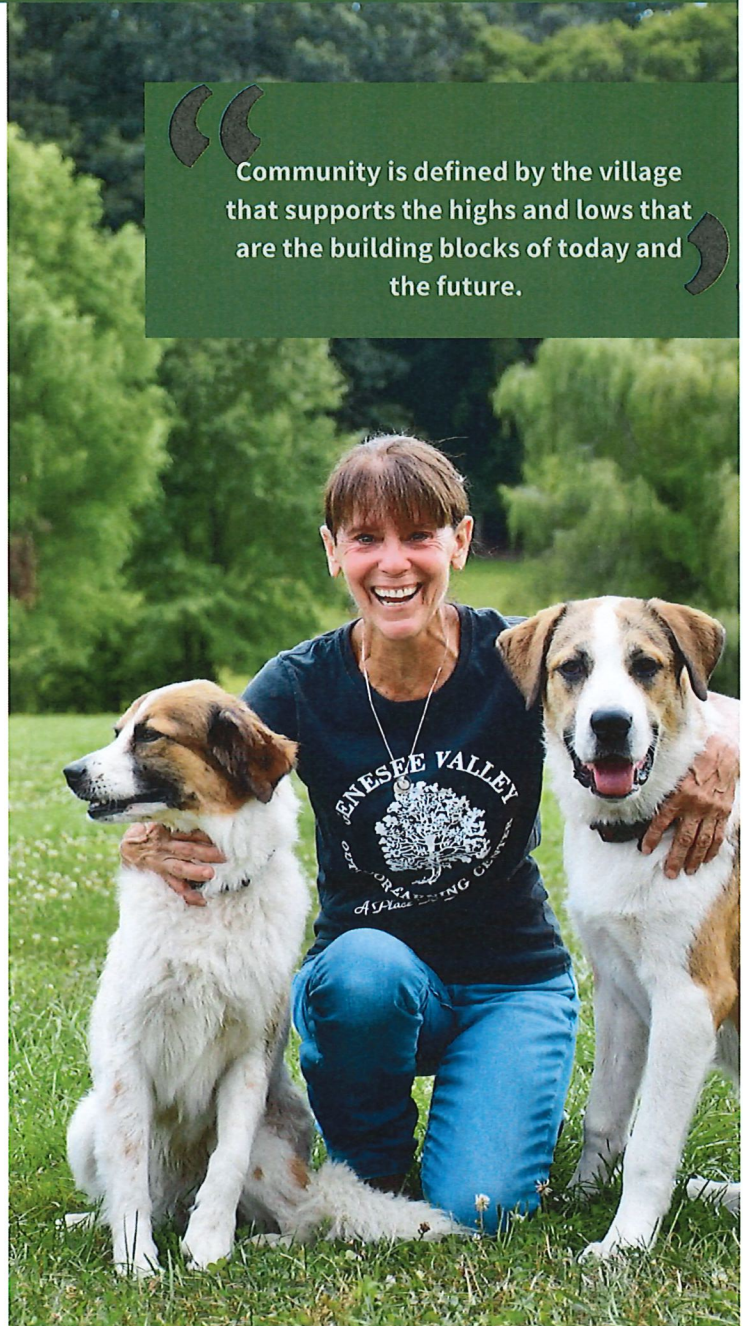
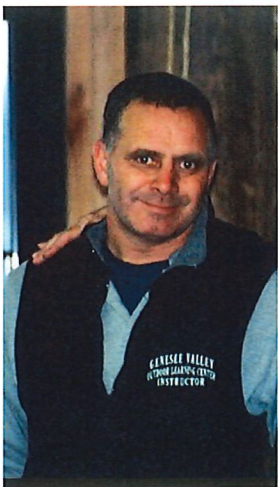
a word from our executive director

Dear Genesee Valley family,

What a year it has been.... Celebrating Genesee Valley's 40 years of growth, having the largest number of summer campers to date, starting our Seedling Program, launching the Adventure Therapy program with Balance Point Wellness and welcoming some new groups and welcoming some familiar groups back to Genesee Valley. We have been working on refreshing our existing buildings onsite, and are currently working with Elizabeth Nook an architect and owner of Revolve Design on a Master Building Plan. Genesee Valley received a Legislative Bond Initiative this year for partial funds for the construction of a Community Meeting Center. This bond was sponsored by Senator West and our Delegate Mangione. The meeting house will serve as office space and also a community meeting and indoor programming space. Watching all of these visions and dreams come to life is part of what makes GV such a magical place. GV offers a space for individuals of all ages to be themselves, to take healthy risks, find trust in others and find their voice. Our staff and supporters contribute their time and talent to create these magical programs in a unique environment. This magic is our mission.



Jane LaMonica
Executive Director

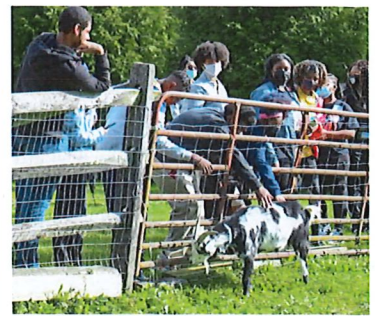


“Community is defined by the village that supports the highs and lows that are the building blocks of today and the future.”

CHARACTER
BUILDING



LEADERSHIP
DEVELOPMENT



COMMUNITY
BUILDING



SPRING & FALL
PROGRAMMING



SUMMER
CAMP



SEEDLINGS
EARLY CHILDHOOD
PROGRAM



STAFF
DEVELOPMENT



COMFORT
ZONE



SENSE
OF PLACE



what we do

Community • Leadership • Growth

Genesee Valley Outdoor Learning Center, a 501(c)(3) private non profit has been providing outdoor experiential learning opportunities for student, sports teams, scouts, adults, corporate and non profit organizations through nature, ropes courses, group initiatives and overnight camping experiences. GVOLC is based on 140 acres of farmland, woodland, lakes and open fields in Northern Baltimore County, MD.

“Our mission is to provide quality learning experiences that promote growth and nourish the development of individuals of all ages and backgrounds”

Spring, Summer, Fall Programming - experiential learning by doing! We develop a unique program based on the goals and needs of the group! Group initiatives, low ropes, high ropes course and debrief processing!

Summer Camp - 5 days of summer day camp fun for ages 4-15! Exploring in the woods, swimming, high ropes courses, boating, arts&crafts, lasting friendships and more!

Seedling Early Childhood Program - 3-5 year old expanding their knowledge through nature exploration and outdoor curiosity. Kids get to be kids here: learning to care for each other, lessons on trial and error and building life long relationship with nature and self.

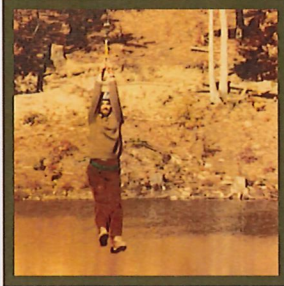
Adventure Therapy - this approach ditches the 4 walled office allows licensed therapist to utilize outdoors to be present, process, and build skills for success. Individual, group, and family sessions.

Athletic Events - 7 regulation sports field for soccer and lacrosse. Host site for Hereford Rec and Club teams and girls lacrosse showcase tournaments. Archery Facility and Trail Running venue.

a brief history of the valley

1979-1981

Middle and High School students from Friends School of Baltimore participate in group initiatives and challenges. Friends School Football Camp, camping, football practice, and team bonding. GV was a dairy and beef farm before converted into an outdoor learning center

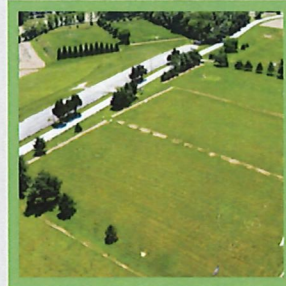


1981

- Genesee Valley Outdoor Learning Center is established a 501(c)(3) Non Profit organization
- Outside of Friends School students, promoted programs with inner city youth

1990'S

- Wellness Program formed creating partnership with Baltimore County Public Schools
- Genesee Valley Summer Camp established!

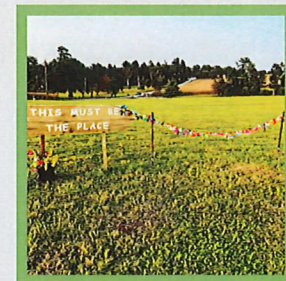


2000'S

- 7 regulation fields and 2 youth fields used for local rec and club programs along with showcase lacrosse tournaments
- Facilitated Leadership Programs expand

2010

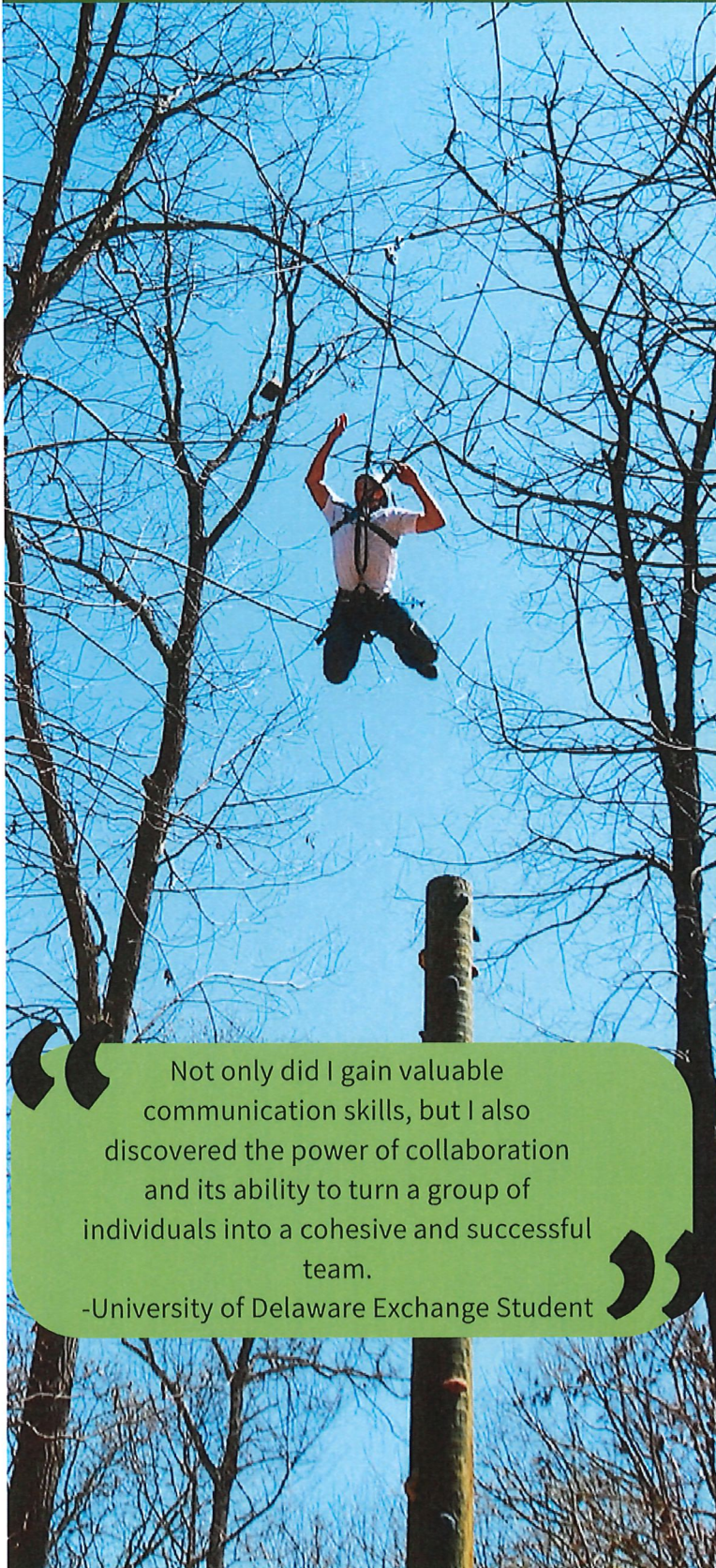
Tom LaMonica (co founder) unexpectedly passes away. Doors stay open due to dedicated staff. Board Members are realigned to support stability and growth of the organization



2020/ 2022

- COVID - Enrichment Club for online learning students at GV.
- 2022 - Celebrated 40 years of GROWING!
- 2023 - LARGEST Summer Camp enrollment

Program Impact 2023



98%

of group leaders saw stronger connections among participants after programming at Genesee Valley (Social Emotion Learning)

90%

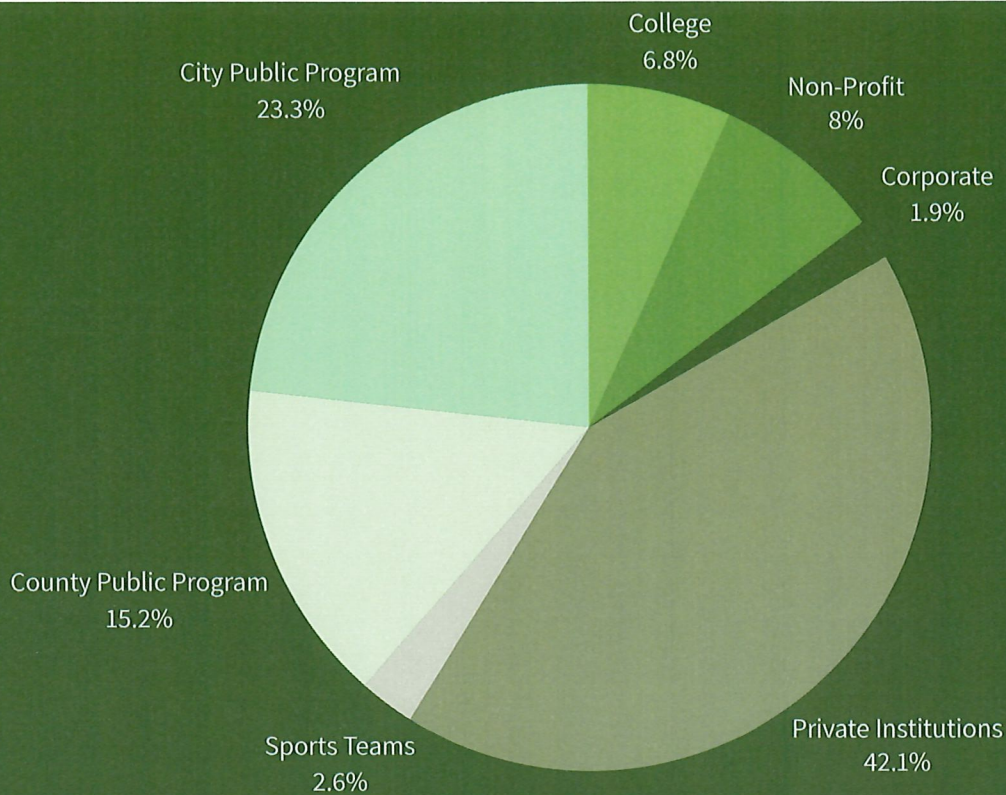
of group leaders saw leadership skills develop and strengthen throughout the course of GV programming

100%

of lead teachers or chaperones reported that participants challenged themselves to try something new (be in nature, high ropes courses, new friends, hold a chicken, etc.)

“ Not only did I gain valuable communication skills, but I also discovered the power of collaboration and its ability to turn a group of individuals into a cohesive and successful team. ”

-University of Delaware Exchange Student



Experiential Learning – team building, leadership & community

GVOLC’s Experiential Education Program is the heart of all we do to help individuals and groups find their inner grit and grace to meet new challenges. **The program utilizes our challenge course, one of the most extensive courses on the east coast, to actively focus on developing communication, cooperation, healthy risk-taking, leadership, trust, persistence and creative problem- solving skills.**

Individuals of all ages come to our outdoor learning center to engage in team-building and problem solving activities that utilize our low and high ropes course elements. Although fun is high on our priority list, there is more to it than that; our facilitators debrief’ participants after activities and use the course to discuss ways to meet everyday life head on. Participants grow through both verbal discussions and physical challenges that encourage them to step outside their comfort zone.

Based on the goals of each group, GVOLC facilitators customize programs to meet their needs over half-day, full-day or week-long overnight experiences. GVOLC also offers off-site team building programs year-round. GVOLC is an institutional member of The Association of Challenge CourseTechnology and is a member of Association for Experiential Education.



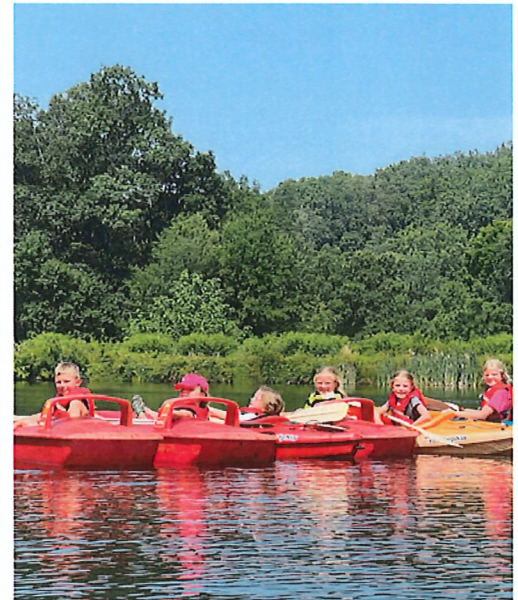
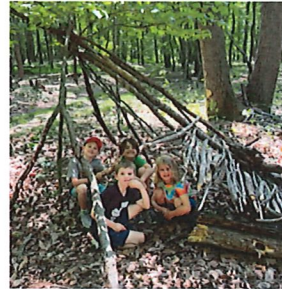
summer camp

Our summer day camp offers campers ages 4 – 16 the opportunity to explore the outdoors, step out of their comfort zone, and build relationships with others. Our highly trained counselors work hard to foster a nurturing and safe environment for each camper. Activities range from archery, fishing, boating, nature crafts to zipping and dipping into one of our lakes.

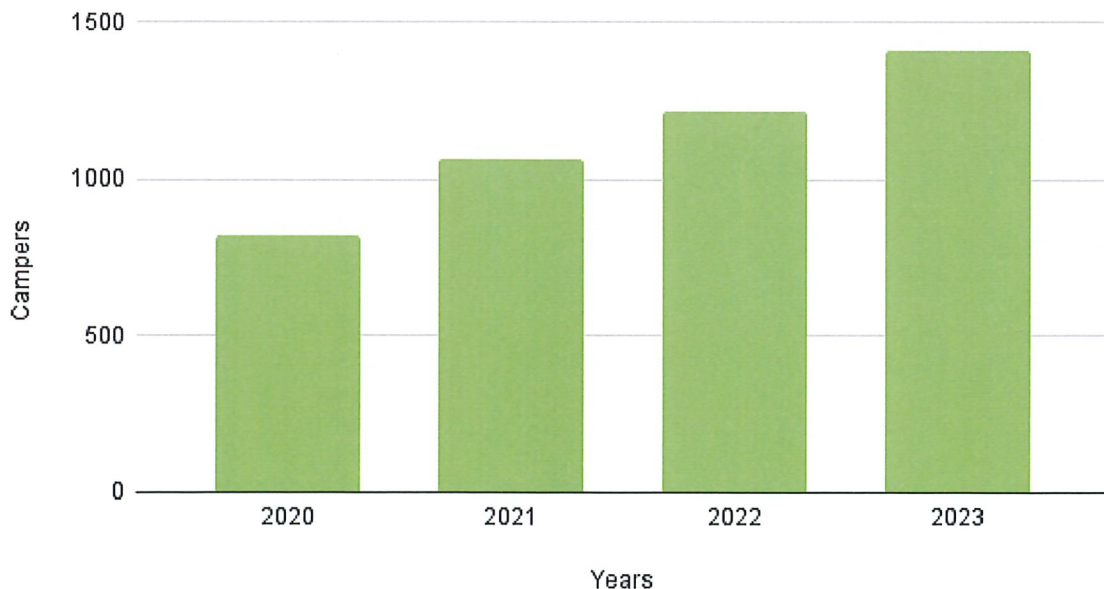
Summer Camp runs for 10 weeks from 9:00-4:00. **Summer 2023 was one of our largest summer programs serving approximately 150 campers each week.**

We love to see our new and returning camp families each year!

Genesee Valley has been accredited by The American Camp Association for the past 10 years.



Summer Camp Growth





Athletic Facilities

Sports fields: 7 regulation and 2 youth sports fields (lacrosse, soccer). We are the home fields for our 500 youth players that are part of the local recreation and club programs. The fields are also a location for tournaments that showcase future collegiate athletes. Over the course of these tournaments there are approximately 16,000 athletes utilizing the fields.

Archery: Home site for Oriole Archers of Baltimore. This includes the site for the Senior Arching Olympics and other Archery focuses competitions!

Trail Running Races: Annual 5K Trail run and 24 Hour Race Ultra! Running for all ages and levels through the trails, around the lakes, over the hills and stream! Runners are able to challenges themselves through the different running events hosted at Genesee Valley annually!

Our commitment to provide high-quality, well maintained facility is part of our founder Tom LaMonica's legacy as a coach to thousands of youth over the course of his life.

“I freaking LOVE what you have created and the activities you’re doing with the kids. I feel so incredibly fortunate that my child and family are a part of it. All children NEED what you’re giving to our kids!!”

Seedlings – Early Childhood Outdoor Learning Program

The Seedlings Program: Encouraging Growth and Development in the Great Outdoors!

The Seedlings program is designed to provide young children with enriching experiences that promote positive social-emotional skills, academic growth, physical development, and a sense of responsibility towards nature, their communities, and the world at large. In 2023, the program supported seven students through hands-on learning in various outdoor settings, regardless of the weather. We owe the success of this program to the unwavering support of our community and families who share our belief in the importance of connecting children with nature and fostering a deeper relationship with their surroundings.

Maryland's recent passing of bill HB0525 marks a significant milestone in developing curriculum and best practices for outdoor preschools. This is part thanks to ERFANS (Eastern Regions Forest and Nature Schools) and other fellow outdoor preschools who advocated for the passing of the bill. **We are thrilled to be a part of this journey towards creating a more immersive and engaging learning experience for our children.**





1,400 **7,400** **22,000**

Summer Campers

Youth Day & Overnight
Program Participants

Sport Event Participants

28 campers received financial support from Genesee Valley to attend summer camp for a total **42 weeks** of summer camp

1,070 students attended Genesee Valley due to the support of our Tom LaMonica scholarship fund. Over **\$10,000** was allocated toward Title 1 schools and non-profit organizations.



“Genesee Valley has been a part of my life since elementary school, and provided me with core childhood memories. Being able to work here, knowing I am giving back and aiding in the creation of similar experiences and memories is extremely rewarding. Along with that, Genesee Valley fosters an amazing family environment among the staff.”

-Greg DiGalbo, current staff member

Nurturing the growth of our staff as individuals is as vital as it is for those we serve. The flourishing of our programs rests on the foundation of staff development and unity.

IMPACT SNAPSHOT - THOSE WHO MAKE THE MAGIC

230

Programming Days

5

Full Time Staff

63

Seasonal Staff

2023 FUNDING SUMMARY

\$20,000

5K Fundraiser

\$10,000

In-Kind Donation

\$100,000

LBI Grant

\$594,000

Tuition

Supporting and working together will help everyone succeed and success can look different for everyone.

-Medfield Heights Elementary School Teacher

The idea of being present, the ability to better depict their leadership style, and their comfort in trying new things through the idea of "challenge by choice."

-Loyola Leadership Cohort

Not only did I gain valuable communication skills, but I also discovered the power of collaboration and its ability to turn a group of individuals into a cohesive and successful team.

-University of Delaware Exchange Student

Every activity whether clear from the get go, or cloudy at the start, or silly or more serious, was a learning opportunity and I am definitely going to borrow some of the team building activities with credit to Genesee Valley, of course! I have always thought of myself as a calm, compassionate, and encouraging leaders.

-Leadership Baltimore County

TESTIMONIALS

Genesee Valley emphasized the concept that our children can live full lives in their communities, despite changes in their lives because of new injuries and illnesses.

-Abilities Adventures, Mt. Washington Pediatric

"It was really rewarding to watch my students work together and encourage each other to do something different. They were very kind to one another and strives to work together. This was a highlight for me as their teacher.

-Hampstead Hill Teacher

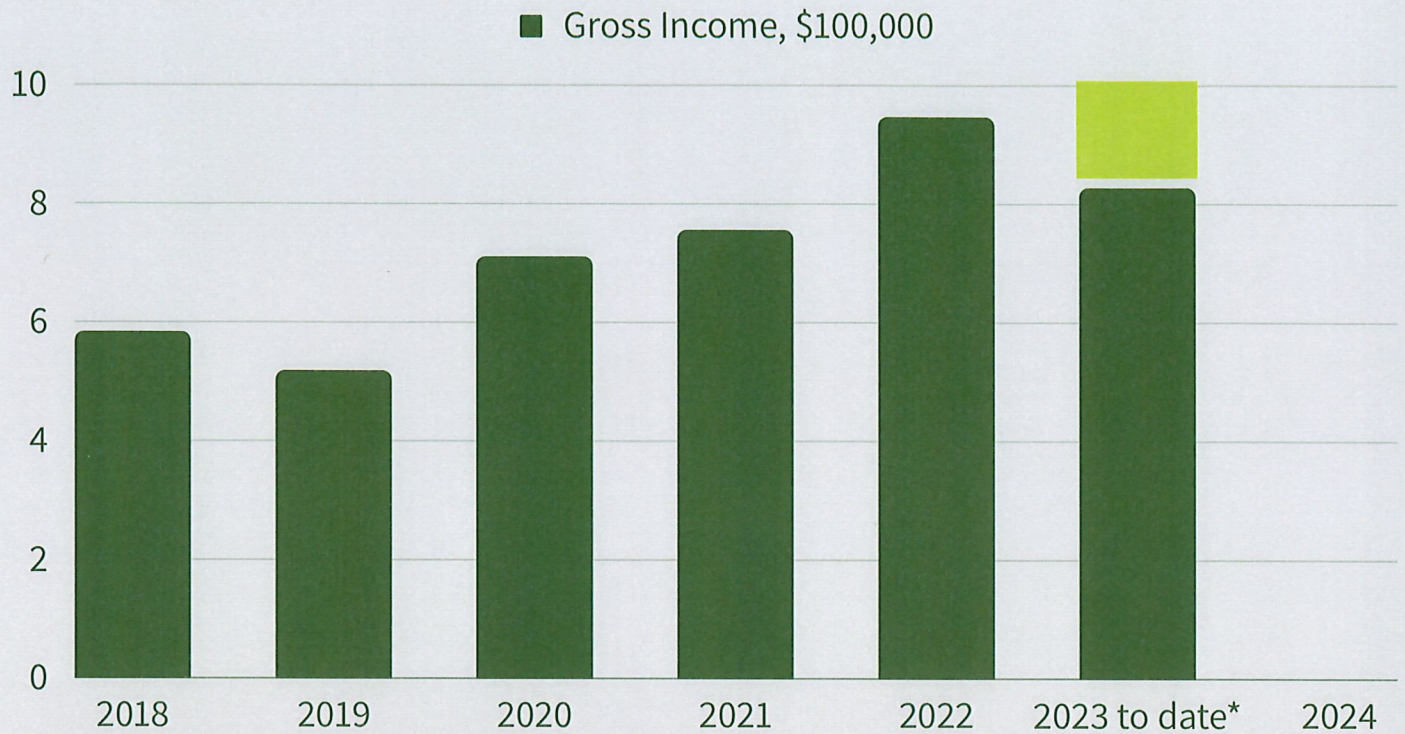
Balancing activities that challenge and provide confidence and independence that are age appropriate with an opportunity to connect with nature.

-Summer Camp Parent

It's more about the mental commitment than many real school days because we spend so much time in the classroom. Here they had to overcome fears and anxiety and that stretches them in ways they could not imagine. These days are meant to boost confidence.

- Loyola Blakefield Administration

financial review



Yearly Income Comparison

■ *fiscal year ends 2/28 - January and February are high income months from summer camp registration.

As a 501(c)(3) non profit organization, we rely on tuition to continue programming. Financial support from scholarships allows us to reduce financial barriers for title 1 schools, non profits, and summer camp families that would otherwise not be able to attend camp. Other outside funding helps up to improve our site

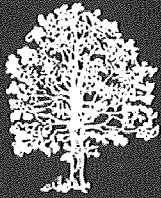


We want you to be part of the future!



Community Meeting Center

A space where staff, community members and program participants can gather to enhance their connections and relationships.



Adventure Therapy

As we continue to partner with Balance Point Wellness our goal is to provide access for therapist and clients to build connections and implement strategies to navigate life.



Annual Celebration 2024!

Let's get together and celebrate! Genesee Valley offers a wide variety of programs and we want you to be part of it! Check out our website!

The new **community meeting center** is a crucial step towards achieving that goal. This building will serve as a hub for community events, meetings, and activities. It will allow us to offer a wider range of services to our residents, including after-school programs, job training, and healthcare services.

However, we cannot achieve this goal alone. We need the support of both the community and government officials to secure the funding necessary to build this facility. By working together, we can create a space that will benefit the entire community for years to come.

We encourage everyone to get involved in this project and help us create a brighter future for our community. Whether you can volunteer your time for projects, donate funds online, or simply spread the word about this project, every little bit helps. Together, we can make this community building a reality and ensure a better quality of life for all residents.

sponsors & partners

Thank you to our sponsors and partners that believe in the magic of Genesee Valley and continue to support our mission for community, leadership and growth.

Balance Point Wellness

MaryJean & Oliver Travers Foundation, Inc

Kelly Benefits

Cunningham Family

Patrick Murphy

Seventy2 Capital

Advance Relocation Systems

Peoples Bank

Gray and Son

Sessa and Dorsey

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Harrison Monk
(Emeritus)
Board Member

Jane LaMonica
(Emeritus)
Board Member

year round staff

Jane LaMonica
Executive Director

Pete Schmaus
Challenge Course
Manager

Jackie LaMonica
Programs Director

Katie Edwards
Seedlings Head Teacher

Scott Gray
Director of Development



We couldn't have
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your generous

support.

Thank you

to all our donors and
volunteers.



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