



making a difference

THE HUMANITIES FOUNDATION

PINCKNEY SUMMER CAMP PROGRAM



Interview with Julie Davis, Director of Business Operations

What is the Humanities Foundation and its mission? Since 1992, Humanities Foundation has made a significant impact in the communities we serve by developing over 2000 units of affordable and workforce housing. Our mission is to develop the highest quality affordable and workforce housing possible while enhancing the lives of our residents and improving the communities in which we develop through affordability, education and advocacy.

Who was it founded by? The Humanities Foundation was founded by Bob and Tracy Doran as a response to the issue of homelessness in Charleston, SC. What began as a small housing project to provide safe and comfortable housing to those who were homeless or at risk of homelessness has grown into a thriving organization providing affordable housing for thousands of people throughout the southeastern United States.

Tell us about the Summer Camp program of the foundation? The Pinckney Group Summer Camp is a free camp for the children of our affordable housing communities. We provide a safe space with caring, experienced teachers and volunteers who

lead the kids on field trips, sports games, arts activities, educational experiences and so much more. We have partnered with other community leaders and organizations who visit us as guests to teach the children about a skill or topic and further enrich the program. Everyone at the camp receives a free breakfast and lunch. This camp not only allows kids who may not otherwise have the chance to participate in summer camps and activities to have fun and grow with peers and adults, but also provides their families with free childcare during the hours that the parents are at work, allowing them to allocate their resources towards creating more financial stability and relieving the stress of finding childcare all summer.

Who created this program? Lamar Mowatt, our Director of Resident Services, started this program in response to the merciless acts upon the Charleston Nine at Mother Emanuel Church. The program was meant to honor the life of Reverend Pinckney, who dedicated much of his life to providing for the youth. The hope with this program is to not only provide low-income and at-risk youth with an opportunity to have a fun and educational experience but also

to give as many young people the support and care they need to end the cycles of violence that they might otherwise experience or participate in.

What ages benefit from the program? This program is for children ages 5-16.

How many kids can participate each year? Last year, we capped the program at 28. This year, we will accept 30 into the program at Seven Farms Apartments. We are currently planning to launch summer camps at two of our other family properties in the Charleston area, but we do not have an exact figure of how many children we can have in those programs yet. We have consistently filled all the slots at our camp at Seven Farms, showing how much interest there is in programs like this.

What activities are involved in the summer camp? We offer a diverse array of activities. Most, but not all, of these activities fall into one of three themes: art and art education, sports, recreation and science, technology and math. Our counselors plan daily activities such as basketball games, painting, karaoke and nature walks when we are not taking the group on a field trip or having a visitor from the community present a topic or activity.

Where is it located? All of our camps take place at the property it was designed to serve. Our longest running camp program takes place at Seven Farms Apartments on Daniel Island. We take the kids on numerous field trips around Charleston, as well, to locations like to the aquarium, MUSC Health Stadium and the bowling alley.

How do the kids get enroll? We want to be able to offer as many children as possible an amazing experience at this camp. Since Humanities Foundation is a non-profit that offers a large array of services, we greatly appreciate any support in being able to offer great programs like the Pinckney Group Summer Camp. The Humanities Foundation is asking the local community to support our summer youth programs. By sponsoring a child who will attend camp this year, you will be covering the cost of field trips, supplies, transportation, games, snacks and all the things that will make summer camp the best experience it can be.

We greatly appreciate those who are in a position to offer full sponsorship for one or more of the children to go to summer camp, which is \$250 per child. However, donations of any amount are also a huge help!

We like to thank those who donate by featuring them on our social media pages, sponsors will receive letters and art from the kids at summer camp, a commemorative gift, and, of course, a letter with a big thank you from Humanities Foundation!

What are deadlines for sponsorship? We accept donations throughout the year for our summer youth programs. However, sponsorships for our 2018 summer programs will end May 30. Donations or Sponsorships can be sent by check to our office, or through our PayPal account.

What is the most gratifying part of being involved? These children are so incredible. They make a tight-knit community amongst themselves, and this camp only adds to those connections. When offered the opportunity to channel and hone their energy and

potential, so many of these youth just shine. It is amazing to be a part of that.

Why are programs like this so important? There are so many factors that affect the well-being of children. Even something that might seem small in the scale of their lives could contribute to their happiness and success in the future. Programs like the Pinckney Group Summer Program expose them to people and activities they might not have access to otherwise. They are able to have fun with their peers rather than stay at home. Their parents can save money and time looking for activities and childcare that is within their budget, making our communities a more stress-free place to live and helping our residents to save for the future. Service programs like our summer camp create building blocks for what's on the horizon for low-income youth.

Are volunteer positions available as well? Yes, we are always looking for volunteers to help with field trips, offer activities for the kids, to help gather or donate supplies and to help with our afterschool program during the school year.

How can we learn more or get involved? You can learn more about our organization on our website, www.humanitiesfoundation.org.

For more information about the summer camp or to volunteer, you can get in touch with our Director of Resident Services, Lamar Mowatt at 843-284-5122 or lmowatt@humanitiesfoundation.org.

For more information on donations or becoming a sponsor, please contact Director of Business Operations, Julie Davis at 843-284-5127 or jdavis@humanitiesfoundation.org.

Anything else you would like to include? Paying for childcare, youth education and learning activities can be a struggle for families living below the 60 percent area median income. It also increases the stress of providing other necessities such as food, rent, utilities, healthcare, etc. By providing our summer camp program, we are helping our communities meet their needs as well as connecting our residents with community partners and organizations that can further assist them with childcare, education and youth employment.



If you know of a person or group making a difference in the community, please let us know! Email josef.bologna@n2pub.com

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