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"What was most beneficial of camp was the opportunity for Ethan to make friends and for us as a family to feel accepted and understood with no judgments."



"Attaway has been the largest source of positive impact in our son's life - and ours."



Board of Directors:

Denise Pope, President Jaime Luse, J.D., Vice President Taylor Kleiner, Treasurer **Becky Mangus**, Secretary Jeff Agnor, J.D. Melissa Blackwell, Psy. D. Hannah Fuller, LCSW-C **Marla Harrison Bonnie Horvath Felecia McLarin Lonnie Robbins David Woodruff**



New BOD Members: Agnor, Harrison, Woodruff

Camp Attaway Staff:

Sue Ann Shafley, J.D., Exec. Dir. Noah Weintraub, Psy.D, Clin. Dir. Lindsay Kolesar, Prgm. Dir. Lorien Brown, Asst. Prgm. Dir. **Kris McCurry**, Office Manager Dr. Saul N. Lieberman, Founder



2024 Summer Staff





Donations: mail checks, credit card **pmts** by phone **443-518-7673** or online www.campattaway.org/donate







Dear Friends of Attaway:

December 2, 2024

As we close another remarkable year at Camp Attaway, we're thrilled to share with you the updates and achievements that made it so special. First and foremost, we were thrilled to receive two extraordinary gifts. The first was a \$50,000 personal donation from David **Burnham**, an Attaway guardian, who believes his child greatly benefitted from camp and wants to "pay it forward." This milestone gift was put in our endowment fund, which we plan to use to help fund a permanent home that Attaway has always dreamed of having.

The second gift, a \$25,000 donation from the **TowerCares Foundation** took us completely by surprise as only four of the many nonprofits **TowerCares** funds received these substantial gifts. **Rick Stafford**, president of **Tower Federal Credit Union**, stated: "A major part of the TowerCares mission is to help children in need, and this special donation of \$25,000 is a show of our support and appreciation to Camp Attaway for the real difference they are making in these children's lives and in our community."

This past year we were blessed with a strong, dedicated staff headed by **Dr. Noah** Weintraub, Clinical Director, Lindsay Kolesar, Program Director, and Lorien Brown, Asst. Program Director. The professional expertise of our directors and counselors, coupled with heartfelt compassion, and unwavering dedication, our phenomenal team built strong, supportive relationships that made a lasting impact on our campers.

Attaway was once again selected as a recipient of **Howard County's Youth Engagement Program (YEP)** grant, allowing us to continue and grow our **Club Attaway** program. But for the support of County Executive Dr. Calvin Ball, Attaway would not be able to provide exciting year-round social outings that facilitate friendships made at camp! **Club Attaway** provides opportunities to strengthen friendships and social connections. Outings to the Olney Theatre to see comic magician Reggie Rice, to Doodle Hatch, where kids made customized t-shirts from their own artwork and a trip to **Butler's Orchard** for a campfire with s'mores were some of the highlights of **Club Attaway's** social outings offered this year.

Our family programming builds a much-needed supportive community for caregivers of children with complex behavioral disorders. In bi-weekly support groups, facilitated by a child psychologist, families share their experiences in a safe space without fear of judgment. And in education sessions, they learn to better understand their child and learn tools to better manage disruptive behaviors. They are empowered to more effectively respond to their child's unique challenges. By bringing caregivers together, our support groups cultivate a network of support for families navigating complex behavioral challenges.

We're delighted to share that our Board of Directors expanded this year with Jeff Agnor, partner at Davis, Agnor, Rapaport & Skalny, Marla Harrison, VP at Sandy Spring Bank, and **David Woodruff**, President at APL FCU, joining our Board. Each of these business leaders brings a wealth of financial knowledge and legal expertise and shares a commitment to Attaway's mission. Their guidance will be invaluable as we navigate the road ahead.

Tickets to Gin & Jazz 2024 sold out a month before the event, and we shattered our \$90,000 fundraising goal raising over \$153,000 while the prior year we raised \$72,000! The energy was absolutely electric during our live auction, as guests enthusiastically secured incredible, once-in-a-lifetime treasures like a villa in Tuscany. Something truly magical happened during our live auction where generosity took center stage, as friends competed against each other with bids that reached five figures. Big thanks to **BGE**, our presenting sponsor, and to **David Hartman**, a professional auctioneer, and to **Steve Wecker**, who hosted the live auction. With increases in corporate sponsorships, Gatsby patrons, and auction revenue, coupled with a raffle for a **bottle of Pappy** and a beach wagon filled with \$2,500 in adult beverages, we crushed the record for the amount previously raised at 18th & 21st!

The summer of 2025 will mark Camp Attaway's 30th season of changing lives, building friendships, and fostering resilience in children and families. We invite you to be part of this incredible milestone by joining our **30th** Anniversary Event Committee! **Together**, we can create a celebration that honors three decades of impact and sets the stage for an even brighter future.

Your unwavering support is the foundation of everything we do. It empowers us to evolve and find new ways to serve children and families who need us most. As you reflect on your end-of-year giving, we invite you to continue investing in Attaway and witnessing the extraordinary difference you make!

Sue Ann, Dr. W, Dr. L, and the Entire Camp Attaway Family



Pope, A. Brisentine, III, A. Smith

at their Oct. annual meeting at Live! Casino. A. White, Jr., T. Poe, R. Stafford, D.



David Burnham, Attaway guardian, gifted us a remarkable \$50,000 personal donation to help fund a permanent home for Attaway on top of his donation of \$2,000 to fund a scholarship!

FRIENDS OF ATTAWAY

2024 NEWSLETTER







CIT, Angelo Cuevas



Sue Ann Shafley with BGE Guests Robert Matthews, Khalilah Slater Harrington, and Shantelle Roberts



Dr. Ball's Annual Visit to Camp



Del. Jessica Feldmark Visits Camp

This year, we adopted a new mission statement to reflect Attaway's ongoing transformation: Our mission is to empower children with emotional and behavioral challenges to realize their full potential through the development of vital coping, social, and job skills; to foster friendships; and provide education and mental health support to families.

Coping, social, and teamwork skills are at the core of what is taught at camp. Through structured activities and field trips, children learn critical skills like listening, communication, conflict resolution, and respect. This year, outings to Movement Columbia helped kids overcome fears, work together in tandem climbs, and have fun. Howard Co. Conservancy nature hikes allowed kids to gain an appreciation for the outdoors, wildlife, and conservation. Trips to the pool provided kids the chance to swim, splash, and play with friends. At **Freeland Farm**, our **CITs** got to work as a team to assist with planting, weeding, and tending to the local chickens. At camp, the CITs flexed their leadership skills by assisting counselors. Back at camp, kids engaged in board games, art projects, and got an always-anticipated visit from **The Reptile Man**. Kids and parents also enjoyed a fun family picnic thanks to board member **Felecia McLarin**.

This summer, we proudly served campers with numerous diagnoses, including ADHD, Autism, Depression, Social Anxiety, Phobias, Trichotillomania and Post Traumatic Stress, Obsessive Compulsive, Skin Picking, Disruptive Behavior, Oppositional Defiant, Generalized Anxiety, Disruptive Mood, Dysregulation, Tourette's/Tic, Learning, and Expressive Language Disorder/s.

Thanks to our leadership team of Clinical Dir. **Dr. Noah Weintraub**, Program Dir. **Lindsay** Kolesar, Asst. Program Dir., Lorien Brown, and our dedicated camp staff. Their caring and experience ensured that our campers learned, made friends, and made memories that will last a lifetime.

Special thanks go to **Kathleen Carter**, Principal at Stevens Forest Elementary, and her amazing staff, including Asst. Principal Casey Schurman, and Julie Crocamo, for welcoming us once again! **Stephen Cherry** honored us with his time and photography skills, and we are so grateful for his continued dedication to Attaway.





Gin & Jazz 2024 was a record-breaking success raising more than \$153K. We had more sponsors and patrons than ever before, and welcomed Chief of Staff, Angela Caballon, and CAO, Brandy Ganz from Executive Dr. Calvin Ball's senior staff. (Pictured top right) 18th & 21st supplied tasty food and signature prohibition-era cocktails. Special thanks to our guest speaker. **Alethea Schmall**, Attaway parent, who spoke from the heart and shared the challenges parents with children with behavioral disorders face. Our heartfelt gratitude goes out to our sponsors, patrons, party goers and the event committee for making this event a **HUGE** success. *Please contact us if your* company is interested in sponsoring or donating to the auction for 2025 and please consider joining our event committee for Gin & Jazz '25!

Attaway's Parent Education & Support Groups, facilitated by a child psychologist utilize research-based skills & techniques to provide support for caregivers. In these groups parents build their capacity to better manage their child's emotional and behavioral needs. These support groups are vital in helping to reduce caregiver stress and isolation.

"Camp allowed my child to be himself and not be shamed for his differences. The positive interactions with adults are so rare outside of camp."







Thank you to our 2024 Gin & Jazz Sponsors and Granto

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