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## Village Learning Place LINK and LINK Leaders Summer 2022 Final Report

### Enrollment and Attendance:

- 39 Pre-K through 6<sup>th</sup> graders served
- 27 7<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> graders served

### LINK Summer Highlights/Successes

#### Conflict Resolution Through Restorative Practices

The LINK staff were able to successfully resolve a conflict using restorative practices. The restorative circle that was held with a family, student, and staff led to the reintegration of a student into the LINK Summer program.

#### Community Service

After taking a walk around the VLP's neighborhood, the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade class suggested that they wanted to do some graffiti cleaning as a service project. Over the next six-weeks the students had two lessons a week to address the issue and learn about planning and preservation. This project turned into a broader conversation about taking care of where you live.



#### Creative Learning

##### *STEM in Action!*

The LINK 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> grade class was able to build two electric bicycles during the STEM enrichment. Initially they attempted to build 2 electric scooters but when they did not work, the students persevered, and the bicycles worked perfectly!

##### *Finding and Using Our Voices*

- During our music production enrichment, our Pre-K through 2<sup>nd</sup> grade classes were able to record an audio book. After the success with the audiobook, they were able to record a song with the same theme. The song was uploaded to YouTube.

- This summer our 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> grade class successfully launched a podcast on Spotify to share the events and information about the LINK program and the Village Learning Place.

## **LINK Leaders Summer Highlights/Successes**

### **Career Readiness/Entrepreneurship**

- This summer, students had the opportunity to go on “career visits” on Wednesday afternoon. These visits included the Mount Royal Soap Company, Pendry Sagamore Hotel and Baltimore Water Taxi, and Erikson Senior Living. Students were able to meet with owners and other staff to learn more about what their businesses were and what a career in their field looks like.

- The VLP threw a Family Fun Night in collaboration with other community centers in the area. The LINK Leaders decided that they were going to sell baked goods at the event to raise money. This was linked with an entrepreneurship lesson that was given two weeks prior. The Leaders spent the day preparing their products and ended up making hundreds of dollars in profit.



- Students were able to learn new skills with our enrichment partners Blakwater Music and Wide Angle Youth Media. They learned what goes into making a podcast with Blakwater Music, and ended up creating their own. They learned the art of photography and seeing the world through different lenses with Wide Angle Youth Media. Each of these activities were big hits with the students.



### **Service to the Community**

This year, the leaders did a local service project with St. Mark’s Lutheran Church of Baltimore and Red Shed Village. This project involved educating ourselves and others about homelessness in Baltimore, and how to find solutions.

## **Social Development**

The students attended a field trip to Outward Bound. The instructors there led our teens in learning how to challenge themselves, but to trust and listen to one another. Students partook in ropes courses, climbing, and group obstacle courses/games to learn how to work as a team.

## **Out and About**

Students attended a series of fun and educational field trips that added to the summer and got the kids out of their day-to-day environment. These trips included kayaking and a history lesson at Fort McHenry, a cookout at the beach at Gunpowder Falls State Park, visiting the African American Museum of History and Culture in DC, a historic scavenger hunt in Fells Point, and finishing out our summer with lots of rides at Six Flags.

