

Every Child Deserves a Summer of Discovery

Vision loss affects 20 million Americans, including thousands of children who miss out on formative summer experiences.

For families navigating their child's vision loss journey, finding the right summer experience is crucial but often challenging.

Camp Helen Keller transforms these barriers into opportunities for children, providing a summer experience that builds confidence, independence, and lifelong skills.



Camp Helen Keller: Where Abilities Shine

A Specialized Summer Experience That Sparks Joy and Builds Independence

Since 1953, Camp Helen Keller has provided a transformative summer experience where children ages 4-16 who are blind or have low vision discover their potential through thoughtfully designed activities, peer connection, and expert support.

Located on the Long Island University Post campus, our program weaves together recreation, education, and skill development. Every activity serves multiple purposes:

- Building physical and emotional confidence
- Developing creative expression and fine motor skills
- Fostering social connections and communication
- Enhancing independence that extends beyond summer

Through our integrated approach, campers don't just have fun – they discover what's possible while developing crucial life skills that serve them in school, home, and community settings.



Creating Without Limits

Where Imagination Takes Form

Arts and crafts with an innovative and adaptive approach: Using raised-line drawing boards, textured materials, and specialized tools, campers explore painting, sculpture, and mixed media projects.

Each project is thoughtfully designed while encouraging creative expression. Counselors guide campers in techniques that also translate to home and school settings, while projects often connect to broader camp themes – from nature exploration to cultural celebration.

The arts studio becomes a space where vision loss doesn't limit creativity, and where every child can experience art and bring their imaginations to life.



Rhythm & Movement

The magic of music and dance

Our music and dance program creates an engaging environment where children explore rhythm, sound, movement, and self-expression.

Counselors guide campers in vocal performance and dance choreography, fostering coordination, balance, and spatial awareness through adaptive techniques that accommodate various vision abilities.

The program culminates in our end-of-summer showcase, where campers share their achievements with family, friends, and community supporters. The performance celebrates their artistic growth and demonstrates how these activities develop essential motor skills and improved orientation and mobility while providing new avenues for self expression.



Jump In!

Where Every Child Belongs in the Game

At Camp Helen Keller, we transform traditional field games, sports, and recreational activities into accessible experiences. Using tactile boundaries, auditory cues, and modified equipment, children experience the excitement of soccer, kickball, jump rope, relay races, and team sports in a safe and welcoming environment.

Each activity is carefully structured to develop core physical abilities while building life skills. Campers gain spatial awareness, refine mobility techniques, and develop communication strategies that transfer directly to school and community settings.

The confidence gained on our playing fields extends far beyond camp, empowering children to participate in physical recreation in their home communities with greater independence and self-assurance.



Making Waves

Swimming Builds Confidence

Our swimming program provides a unique sensory experience that builds both physical skills and emotional confidence. In the indoor pool on the LIU Post campus, campers discover freedom of movement and independence in water—often a transformative experience for children with vision loss.

Instructors adapt swimming techniques to each camper's abilities, ensuring everyone has fun while gaining water safety and swimming skills. Beyond the fun, swimming develops core strength, spatial awareness, and orientation skills that transfer to daily life.

For many of our campers, participating in swimming activities is a significant summer achievement that creates lasting memories and builds profound self-confidence.



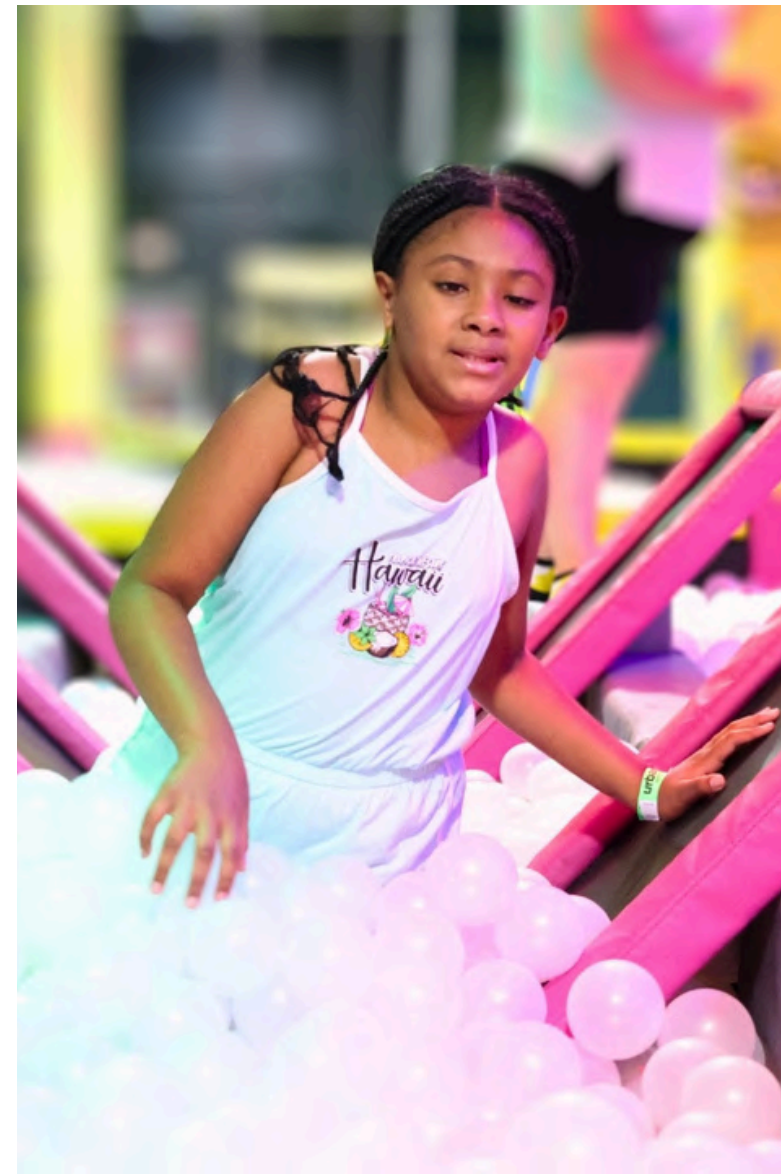
Exciting Field Trips

Adventure Beyond Boundaries

Our field trip program takes summer camp beyond campus with engaging excursions that challenge expectations and build confidence.

Camp Helen Keller's field trips provide campers with exciting opportunities to explore new environments and activities. From horseback riding at Lloyd Harbor Equestrian Center to conquering rope courses and zip lining at Adventure Park, each carefully planned excursion combines excitement with accessibility.

Campers also enjoy the dynamic activities at Urban Air Adventure Park, where they experience trampolines, climbing challenges, and other high-energy activities, many for the first time. Each success builds confidence that extends far beyond the summer, showing our campers that adventure is within reach.



It Takes a Village

Building Community Connections

Our partnerships with local organizations create rich experiences that extend beyond camp walls. These collaborations amplify our impact and create memorable moments for campers.

Organizations like Sons and Daughters of Italy have helped create some of these magical moments during their annual CHK Day at Eisenhower Park. Their ongoing commitment to Camp Helen Keller demonstrates how community organizations can make transformative experiences possible.

Ways community volunteer groups can get involved:

- Local businesses can contribute specialized equipment, expertise, and unique experiences
- Volunteer mentors from various fields can share their skills and stories with campers
- Adventure partners can make our Epic Excursions program possible through accessible accommodations and collaboration



Guided by Passion

Experience Meets Compassion

Our specialized staff includes certified teachers, orientation & mobility specialists, and dedicated counselors who create a safe, nurturing environment.

Our exceptional 3:1 staff-to-camper ratio ensures individualized attention and support throughout the summer. Each staff member undergoes comprehensive training in adaptive techniques, safety protocols, and accessibility strategies.

Many of our counselors have backgrounds in special education and a passion for helping others, while some bring lived experience as individuals with vision loss themselves. This diverse expertise creates a uniquely qualified team that understands both the challenges and possibilities our campers face.



Celebrating Achievement

Our Annual End-of-Summer Show

The culmination of five weeks of growth, our showcase lets campers shine through performances that demonstrate their new skills and personal development.

The end-of-summer showcase brings together families and friends to witness how their children have flourished at Camp Helen Keller. Through musical numbers and dance routines, campers demonstrate their newfound confidence on stage – from leading songs to performing choreographed dances.

Each performance represents a personal triumph, showing just how far our campers have come and what they can achieve. We are regularly joined by local community members, government officials and press at this annual celebration.



Investment in Futures

Where Access Unlocks Opportunity

While Camp Helen Keller remains free for families, providing this transformative experience to 50 campers each year requires significant investment. Each camper's summer includes specialized instruction, adaptive equipment, accessible transportation, comfortable facilities, and highly trained staff who understand their needs.

Every activity involves thoughtful planning, programming and resources that make these summer camp moments possible.

When you support Camp Helen Keller, you become part of each child's journey of discovery and growth.



Supporting Camp Helen Keller

Meeting Critical Program Needs

Our funding model combines public support through the New York State Commission for the Blind (NYSCB) with essential private philanthropy. While NYSCB covers 30-40% of operational costs, we must raise approximately \$120,000 annually to maintain program quality and accessibility.

This gap in funding represents a meaningful opportunity for community partners, philanthropic organizations, other foundations, and individual donors to directly impact children's lives through targeted support of specific program components.



Be Part of the Journey

Partnership Opportunities

From named program sponsorships to equipment funds, your support helps create a true summer camp experience.

Targeted Impact Areas

- Program Sponsorships: Focus on specific programs/activities like swimming, arts, STEM, or music
- Transportation Partner: Ensure every child can attend regardless of their location
- Legacy Donor: Create enduring impact through a multi-year commitment

Strategic Partnership Levels

- Champion (\$25,000+): Named program component with premier recognition
- Partner (\$10,000-\$24,999): Activity sponsorship with featured recognition
- Supporter (\$5,000-\$9,999): Essential program support with meaningful recognition



Transportation Funding Needs

Door-to-Door Access for All

Expanded service areas and other factors have increased our transportation expenses over the years. For many families, reliable transportation represents a significant challenge when considering summer programs.

Our contracted bus service ensures campers can safely travel to and from camp each day, removing one of the practical barriers families face. Your support helps maintain this essential service, ensuring every child can participate regardless of their location throughout Long Island and parts of Queens, NY.

Transportation Fund (\$30,000)



Our Summer Home

LIU Post Campus Partnership

The LIU Post campus provides the right balance of indoor and outdoor environments that make Camp Helen Keller work well for our needs. These facilities create spaces where campers can safely participate in a full range of summer activities while building skills and friendships.

Facility rental costs at LIU Post have increased significantly in recent years. Your support helps maintain our camp location with its accessible swimming facilities, sports areas, and classroom spaces.

Facility Fund (\$25,000)



Activities That Transform Equipment & Supplies

From adapted sports equipment to art supplies and technology devices, your support provides the materials and equipment that make our programming engaging and accessible to all campers.

Art materials, recreational equipment, and specialized technology need regular replacement and updating. Many items require specific adaptations like sensory-enhanced sports equipment, and accessible technology devices for our STEM activities. These resources create meaningful experiences and are crucial for our campers' success. Your investment ensures all children can fully participate in activities that build confidence, foster independence, and create lasting summer memories.

Program Support (\$20,000)



Empowered Leaders

Expert Staff Development

Your support provides essential specialized training for our counselors in adaptive techniques and safety protocols required for working with children who are blind or have low vision.

Our training program covers orientation and mobility basics, sighted guide techniques, and activity adaptation methods. Several of our counselors are former campers themselves, bringing valuable firsthand experience to their roles.

By investing in staff development, we create consistent, high-quality experiences while building leadership opportunities for young adults.

Counselor Training (\$10,000)



New Heights of Achievement

Expanding Possibilities

Our field trip program creates extraordinary experiences through partnerships with exciting Long Island locations like Adventure Park, Lloyd Harbor Equestrian Center, and Urban Air Adventure Park.

Campers experience horseback riding, conquer zip-lines, navigate obstacle courses, and engage in other thrilling activities—opportunities some may have never imagined possible. When campers succeed in these supported challenges, they discover capabilities that transform their self-perception and self-esteem.

With your investment, we can enhance and expand these transformative experiences for more children each summer.

Field Trip Support (\$20,000)



Strategic Partnership Opportunities

At Helen Keller Services our supporters are more than donors, they're valued partners in our mission. By aligning your support with our work, you create meaningful impact that reflects your values and vision.

Partnership Benefits:

- **Mission Alignment:** Connect your personal or organizational values with our impactful mission
- **Legacy of Impact:** Create lasting change for individuals across Long Island
- **Community Recognition:** Join a distinguished group of leaders in accessibility and disability inclusion
- **Engagement Opportunities:** Experience firsthand the difference your support makes through exclusive events and personal connections

We'll work with you to design curated recognition that meaningfully reflects your contribution and values.

Our partnership approach focuses on creating lasting relationships that advance both your philanthropic goals and our mission.

Let's discuss how we can align your vision with opportunities that matter most to you.



Impacting Lives Today

Every Gift Creates Possibilities

For over 70 years, Camp Helen Keller has proven that vision loss doesn't limit potential—it simply requires different pathways to achievement.

With your support, we can ensure every child who is blind or has low vision experiences the confidence, joy, and independence that comes from a summer of discovery.

Your Impact:

- \$5,000 provides the full camp experience for one child
- \$2,500 funds adaptive equipment for multiple activities
- \$1,000 supports transportation for a camper all summer
- Any amount contributes to creating summer memories

Take Action Today:

Contact our Development team to discuss partnering with Helen Keller Services:

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