

# From The Heart



A Quarterly Publication from Mooseheart Child & City School, Inc.

[www.mooseheart.org](http://www.mooseheart.org)

Volume 3, 2023



As we head into the middle of the summer, we quickly begin to focus our attention on the upcoming 2023-24 school year. This is a time where all involved can reflect on the past year, make improvements and set new goals to reach. We begin to concentrate our attention on setting new benchmarks/academic goals for the students, review curriculum updates, consider program enhancements in the Mooseheart Model of Care, provide additional advanced trainings for staff, and finalize any last-minute plans in preparation for the year ahead – all while taking one last deep breath! We look forward to the new year and the fresh start!

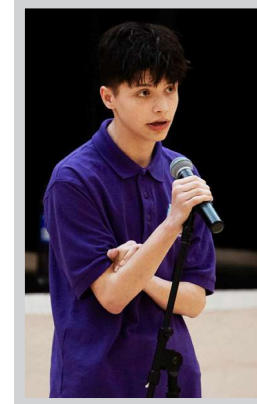
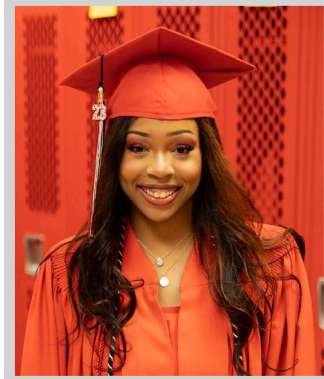
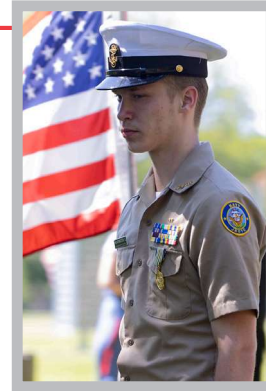
Mooseheart students and staff were enthusiastic to invite members, families, and guests, to the Class of 2023 Commencement program, 5th & 8th Grade Promotions, and the 2023 Pilgrim Conferral, which was held on the Mooseheart Campus at the magnificent House of God. We anticipate another great weekend for the Class of 2024 and new Pilgrims next year on the Mooseheart Campus on June 1, 2024.

It is always refreshing to look toward the future make the necessary plans or set goals for the year ahead, and along the way to carve out time to celebrate accomplishments together. We look forward to our next “large” event on campus, which is Mooseheart’s Homecoming, on September 16, followed by Indiana Day on September 17. The last weekend in October, we will celebrate our Founder’s Day with the Michigan & Ohio State Moose Associations.

We are fortunate to have a Moose Fraternity spread across this entire nation! The many connections we have with so many caring, devoted, and dedicated Moose span unlimited miles. On July 27, the entire Mooseheart Community celebrated the 110th birthday of Mooseheart with a community-wide cookout. This included some very yummy cake and ice cream! We are so fortunate and blessed in a variety of ways as we continue to carry forward the legacy and vision of our founder, James J. Davis. Thank you to ALL of our members who continue to support our efforts, and who have contributed to our proud past and who continue to provide toward our bright future! A big “Thank you to Mooseheart, IL Lodge 2655 and Mooseheart, IL Chapter 3001 for their continued support and volunteering.

We are proud to be “110 years and counting” as we work together each year to create a lasting legacy. THIS is the power of the Moose! The legacy is our PROUD PAST and that special bond created when you become part of our organization and community is our BRIGHT FUTURE! Thank you for being a member and for truly “Making it Happen” each and every day.

— Gary Urwiler, Mooseheart Executive Director



**GARY URWILER - Mooseheart Executive Director • [Gurwiler@mooseheart.org](mailto:Gurwiler@mooseheart.org)**

**240 James J. Davis Dr. Mooseheart, IL 60539**

**[www.mooseheart.org](http://www.mooseheart.org) • Office (630) 906-3601 • Fax (630) 859-6630**



# Exciting Events

Our students have been making the most of their time at Camp Ross this summer! Mooseheart's private campground offers our youth opportunities to swim and kayak, interact with new wildlife, explore nature, and enjoy the warm summer weather off-campus. Check out the photos below to see some of the exciting times our students have experienced so far this year!



# A Student's Perspective

## Oregon Home's Summer Vacation to Moosehaven



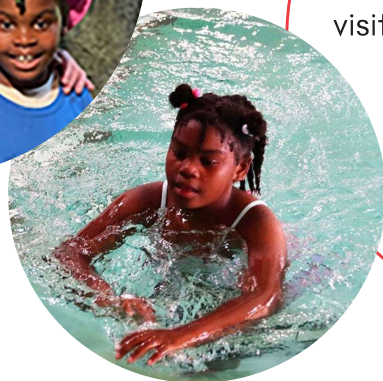
The elementary girls of Oregon Home took an exciting summer vacation to visit the residents of Moosehaven in Orange Park, Florida. Traveling with their Oregon Home Family Teachers, the girls enjoyed touring the grounds of Moosehaven and learning about the ways in which it is both similar and different from their home at Mooseheart.



The Moosehaven residents and staff were so welcoming to the five students who made the trip: Rebecca, Grace, Midasia, Kadey, and Jayde. They were greeted with a pizza and ice cream party and got to have a movie night in Moosehaven's theater. The girls enjoyed recreational activities like painting ceramics and swimming in the indoor pool with the residents.



This group of Mooseheart gals were thrilled to have the opportunity to drive through many different states and visit a new place for a week-long trip. What a great start to summer vacation! Thank you Moosehaven residents and staff for welcoming Oregon Home.



# Rambler Roundup

Visit Facebook for the full collection of Mooseheart photos.



**Arts & Crafts** Jayde, Richman, Jordan and E'mon proudly display their craft projects.



## Fun at the MAC

While cooling off indoors, high schooler Bryan joins first-grader Camryn for a video game.



**Sibling Love** Sisters Ella, Isa, and Judy pose for a photo together while enjoying summer vacation at Mooseheart.

**Play Time** New student Harmony settles into life at Mooseheart and enjoys some time at the library. ▶



**YUM!** The middle and high school boys hone their baking skills.



## Heat Wave

Some of Mooseheart's elementary boys cool off in the splash pad at the MAC.



# Enter to Learn . . .

Cindy was a teenager when she and her family immigrated to the United States in search of better opportunities and a safer environment. Her family settled in the Midwest, where Cindy continued through middle and high school and eventually met Michael. Cindy and Michael connected right away over their shared background; he had also immigrated with his family from the same region of West Africa and had to adjust to learning and living in the United States. They eventually began a relationship and welcomed their beloved daughter Tiana within a year. Over the next few years, the family faced obstacles with job insecurity and financial hardship, eventually leading Michael and Cindy to end their relationship. Throughout it all, Tiana remained their number one priority, but they felt that she needed more stability and security than they could offer as they struggled to find work and frequently moved to stay with different relatives. Michael and Cindy reached out to Mooseheart to provide Tiana with a safe, supportive environment where she could focus on her education and have the freedom to be a child.



This past school year, Mooseheart's fifth grade class participated in the **"Too Good for Drugs"** program in partnership with the Kane County Sheriff's Department. Throughout the school year, Deputy Perez would regularly dedicate time to come into the fifth-grade classroom and teach a course about drug use. During these lessons, students learned what drugs are, the negative effects that they can have on the user and those around them, and what they should do if they are exposed to drugs.

This year's "Too Good for Drugs" class culminated in a graduation ceremony that took place in the Mooseheart School Library



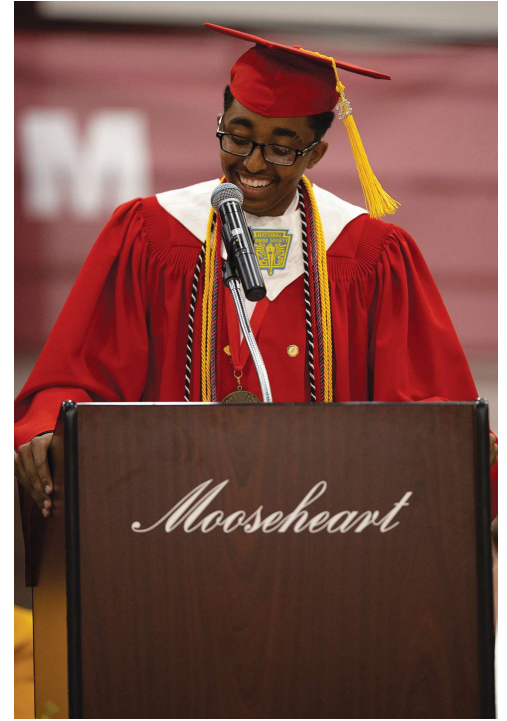
on May 25, 2023. In preparation for the graduation ceremony, each fifth-grade student was asked to write an essay about what they learned and what their biggest takeaways were from the class. During the ceremony, each student read a short excerpt from their essay for the audience.

Star Hernandez, a student living in Indiana home, reflected on "how to say no" if she is ever offered drugs, sharing that she learned to counter with safer alternatives instead, such as playing a game or eating a snack. Godwind Davies, from Minnesota home, focused on the negative side effects that can result from drugs, including health issues and poor judgment. His biggest takeaway was the importance of avoiding these substances in order to stay healthy and continue doing things that you like, such as playing sports. An important lesson shared by several of the fifth-grade students is to "walk away and tell a trusted adult" if anyone tries to offer you drugs.

At the completion of the ceremony, each fifth-grade student received a certificate and a gift bag from the Kane County Sheriff's Department. The students also offered Deputy Perez a gift of appreciation for his time and care throughout the school year. We are grateful for the "Too Good for Drugs" program and the valuable lessons that it teaches Mooseheart students in order to better "Leave to Serve" in the future.

# Graduation Celebration

Mooseheart celebrated it's 105th Commencement Ceremony on June 3, 2023. Fourteen seniors successfully graduated and have moved forward into the next phase of their life journey. We are grateful for the time that we got to share with them at Mooseheart and look forward to seeing what they accomplish next. Congratulations Class of 2023!



Thank you to all of the dedicated Moose Members who traveled to our campus and joined us in celebrating. Your support is invaluable!

