

From The Heart



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www.mooseheart.org

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I often find myself getting sentimental, but also overly-excited every year as the holiday season approaches. Sometimes, coming into the December holidays and then into a New Year can seem overwhelming. I used to say that I was only busy during certain seasons of the year, where now I seem to be just as busy throughout the entire year. Either way, as the holidays approach, there is always much to do.

Part of the overwhelming feeling leading up to this season, is the planning of special moments, campus events, and most of all, the hope to create a “memorable Holiday Season” for the children and staff at Mooseheart. This is not an easy task.

However, when you stop and think about the blessings of life at Mooseheart, you cannot show enough gratitude and appreciation toward the members of The Moose. These are men and women who always provide for our community and make the holidays at Mooseheart so rich and meaningful.

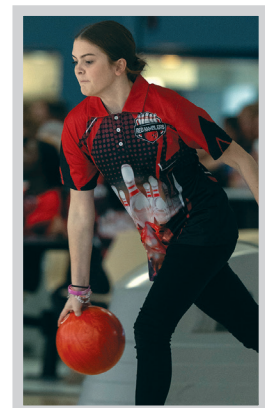
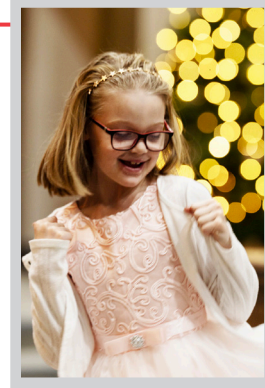
There are members who consistently reach out to make sure our homes have everything they need or that the students get what’s on their “holiday wish list!” There are also loving and kind members who take care of our city so our community is safe and beautiful.

Then, there are the dedicated and committed members who generously provide the means so the campus has been able to operate and to impact the lives of children for the past 110 years! Because of your unselfish work, we get to live alongside our students through challenges and celebrations. We get to be there for them in every area of learning, growing and maturing. We are there for them each step of their lives here, including the holidays!

Moose members, thank you for playing such a pivotal part of our lives at Mooseheart. We hope you enjoy all you will see in this newsletter from your amazing Mooseheart community! The fact that our community expands past the Mooseheart walls is a gift we share with YOU! We look forward to seeing you soon in 2024.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

— Gary Urwiler, Mooseheart Executive Director



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By The Numbers

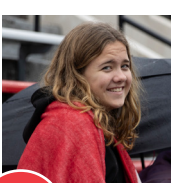
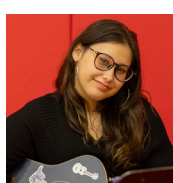
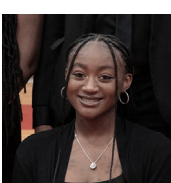
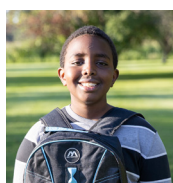


1 Over 600 Christmas List emails were sent by the Sunshine Team to lodges and chapters who participate in the Sponsor & Sunshine Programs! What a happy Christmas is in store for Mooseheart students!



2 Since 2015, the Barnes and Noble Book Fair in January has been raising about \$3,000 each year for new library books!

What a terrific impact!



3 2023 has been a VERY busy year for Admissions with 37 new students joining life at Mooseheart - about 3 new students each month!



4 Approximately 15 specific donors made Christmas Eve and Day at Mooseheart special for the students who stayed on campus for the holiday. They provided special meals, extra gifts and activity gift cards so that the students could make LOTS of great memories throughout the holiday break!



5 A special Christmas donation was made by FGMK, LLC, an accounting/tax advice firm from Chicago, as they provided the HUNDREDS of items needed to set up bedrooms for the new students to be admitted in 2024.

Exciting Events

Homecoming

Mooseheart students enjoyed a “Spirit Week” full of activities leading up to homecoming weekend.



Members of Homecoming Court pose before the game, and our elementary boys enjoy the homecoming festivities with CEO Mr. Hart.



High schoolers Sylvester, John, and Tolu dress up for “Twin Day,” while Aubrie and Savanna fight to win a game for the freshman class.



Tree Lighting

It was a treat to welcome the Wisconsin Moose members to Mooseheart’s campus for the annual Wisconsin Tree Lighting Ceremony in December.



Mooseheart’s music students helped set the tone for the festive event. The Class of 2024 received their senior portraits, generously gifted to them by the Wisconsin Moose.



A Student's Perspective

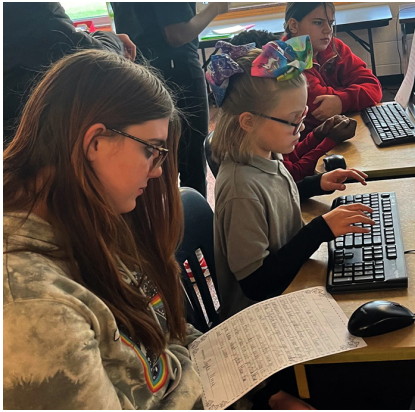
Mrs. Mary Miller, the Librarian for Mooseheart School, used the library and computer class times to have students research different animals to be put in a book. The students wrote their rough drafts in class with their teachers and the younger students got help from some freshmen students.

The title of the book is *Mooseheart's ABC's of Animals*. Seventeen students worked on the book with some researching 2 animals.

I am so proud to announce that “Mooseheart's ABC's of Animals” book has won 3rd prize and is being sent to the NATIONAL competition!

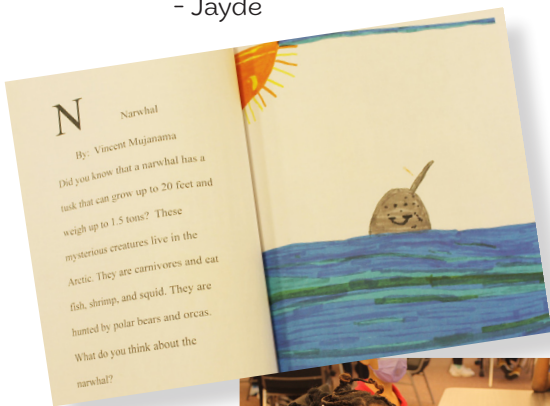
- Mrs. Mary Miller

To order your own copy of the book visit:
studenttreasures.com/ordercopies
 Enter code: **8273645**

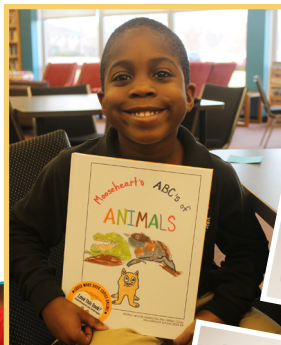


I liked doing the book project and I want to write more books more often.
 - Jayde

I enjoyed having Aubrie help me. I thought it would be hard to write a book, but it ended up being easy.
 - Grace



Pauline helped me write about lions. Writing was fun!
 - Rebecca



Rambler Roundup

Visit Facebook for the full collection of Mooseheart photos.



Sports Winter sports are back in full swing at Mooseheart! Our high school girls and coach Bryan Miller are excited to bring bowling back to campus. On November 27, the Lady Ramblers competed in Mooseheart's first bowling match since 2004.

Seniors Mooseheart's Class of 2024 was given the opportunity to visit two local universities this fall.



Arts & Crafts

Early Childhood Recreation Center (ECRC) students have fun creating their art projects.



Play Time

The MAC (Mooseheart Activity Center) continues to be a center for fun and recreation for Mooseheart students.

◀ Some of the elementary students even got to meet Queen Elsa!

Enter to Learn ...

William and Sarah first met and fell in love in their home country in western Africa. Excited to start their family, the couple began having children quickly after they were married. The young family was living comfortably until war disrupted their world. Facing dangerous conditions and a lack of resources and stability, William and Sarah relocated their family to the United States. Shortly after their arrival, they welcomed their daughter, Jamie.

The family eventually settled down in the Midwest, but they faced some challenges here, too. William and Sarah began working long hours to support their family in a new and unfamiliar country. As their oldest children grew up and went through high school, they found that they were being exposed to negative influences and drawn into a world of substance use and poor choices. Left feeling like they were out of options, William and Sarah reached out to Mooseheart as their youngest child, Jamie, entered middle school. They wanted to protect Jamie from the path that their older children stumbled onto.

Now that she is at Mooseheart, Jamie is able to pursue her education in a safer environment, with plenty of positive influences and support to set her up for future success.



Mooseheart's youngest community of students, affectionately known as Baby Village, is a special place. Full of love, laughter, and opportunity, you can really feel the heart of our mission here. Mooseheart's goal is to prepare our students to "leave to serve," and the Family Teachers who serve in Baby Village are starting with the basics. By focusing not only on skills and education, but also on stability and support, Mooseheart helps to build a solid foundation that will propel this group of young students toward a successful future.

While Baby Village's current residents might not understand how each and every thing they do at Mooseheart is helping them prepare for the future, that doesn't mean that they are learning any less. When they are helping to write a thank you note for a new toy or a generous gift, they don't know that they are learning how to be grateful for all of life's blessings. When they are practicing how to brush a horse or feed the farm

animals, they don't know that they are learning how to care for the world around them. Even when they are just sharing their toys or welcoming a new student into their home, they don't know that they are really learning what it means to be generous to someone else. They might not realize that they are building these skills, but it all adds up.

Of course, while we have our ways to set them up for success, our Baby Village students have their own ideas about the future. Archie, age 5, "wants to be Spiderman when he grows up." On the other hand, Joy, age 4, just looks forward to growing up – literally. She wants to be "bigger" and "higher." These students are also really focused on honing the skills they think they will need in the future. Archie reports that he is good at "his race track," while Exodus, age 3, is proud to be "good at riding horsey!"

While we can't wait to see how these students "leave to serve" in the future, we also celebrate the small steps forward in the meantime. We are grateful for every single moment we get to support them at Mooseheart. In the words of Exodus, "Tomorrow makes me happy. And cookie monsters."

