

The Compass

CISV Greater Springfield Chapter Newsletter



**CISV educates and inspires action
for a more just and peaceful world**

Upcoming Events

Check the web site for more details

11/2/2013	Day in the Life Program and Spaghetti Supper
11/10/2013	Parent Info Meeting
11/16/2013	Dance
December 2013	JB Cookie – a - thon
12/27 – 12/29/2013	Holiday Mini Camp
1/25/2014	Selection Play Date
March 2014	Regional Mini Camp
April, 2014	Maine Mini Camp

From the President

Dear Friends;

CISV USA –Greater Springfield has had an amazing year of programming and positioning ourselves for more. We completed 3 years of Peace Education programming called, “**Boarding Pass to Peace**” with 4th and 5th grade students in Springfield Public Elementary Schools working with just over 260 students this year. We recognized the schools and the District with our first, “I Hug” award at our Annual Meeting. We hosted our Chapter’s 4th Village, **Color Outside the Lines** that included staff who grew up in our Chapter. A wonderful milestone for us and our 16 years of educating and inspiring action for a more just and peaceful world! We partnered with Wilbraham Monson Academy, the Global School, to house our Village. We thank them for great space and helping to make our program possible. We thank all the host families, staff and volunteers for all their support to make this an outstanding experience for our delegates, leaders and Junior Counselors from 13 countries. Finally, I want to mention that we have **updated our Chapter Constitution By-Laws to include Northampton and Amherst** in our service area, changed our name officially to CISV USA-Greater Springfield Chapter and changed the position of Chapter Trustee to Chapter Representative to reflect the changes at our National Association. Thank you for all you do to support the work of CISV. We look forward to seeing you around the calendar.

Yours in Friendship, Jennifer



Is there a United Way Campaign at your work place? In addition to your annual donation to CISV, you can support peace through the United Way. Just write in CISV on the United Way form. This is a great way to support CISV and the United Way.



CISV Village Delegation Traveled to Amsterdam

Leader, Shaheim Kieresh and delegates, Caroline Raymond, Allison Pollard, Andrew Healy and William Sakey represented CISV Greater Springfield in Amsterdam at CISV's cornerstone program that is a mix of educational, cultural and sporting activities, which emphasize cooperative and intercultural living.

Allison Pollard reported: *My experience at my camp, The Lions In The Lowlands camp, in The Netherlands was one of the most memorable, fantastic, and life changing events of my life. All throughout the month we learned about the rest of the world, not just the USA like in school. We also made unbreakable bonds of friendship and helped each other when we were feeling down.*

My best friends at camp were Nena from Portugal and Josephine from The Netherlands. They are kind and caring friends and interesting people too. Nena has a very outgoing personality, and Josephine is very thoughtful. But the both are equally special friends.

The home stays were great also. They were a chance to learn even more about Dutch culture, lifestyle, and food. At my first homestay the family's kids were close to my age, so I got a chance to see what a Dutch school is like and how kids my age spend their free time. I also had fun doing some of the activities that they do often like biking and going on walks. My second homestay was very different from the first. The kids in the family were older, and this family was from Canada. It was nice to see how a family that

was not from The Netherlands would live there. That homestay I learned a lot about Canadian culture, food, and their lifestyle.

The food on the National Nights was very good. It was interesting to see what a typical meal looks like from other countries. Some of the meals we had to eat with chop sticks, which was a bit hard for me, but for other people at camp it was a piece of cake!

At camp I also learned some important things about myself. I learned that I need to be less shy and more outgoing like my friend Nena if I want to learn new things, make new friends, and have fun.

After making new friends, learning, and having so much fun it was hard to leave the camp, but of course I missed my family, and I wanted to tell them about my journey.



Summer Camp in Alta, Norway

By Michael Lachenmeyer and Andrew Robitaille

Leader: Patrick McGowan, Delegates: Noelle Peluso, Molly Donohue, Michael Lachenmeyer, Andrew Robitaille

This summer, Springfield's Step Up delegation traveled to Alta, Norway, in the Arctic Circle. As this year's CISV focus area was human rights, the Step Up camp looked at human trafficking. Delegations of 14 year olds from Brazil, Colombia, Canada, Spain, Germany, Norway, Lithuania, and USA planned all the activities. The USA's activity was "four corners" where people could decide how they felt about a particular question and group themselves with others that felt the same. We also had a gala and casino night where we danced and played card games. The food was simple with two bread meals a day and one large meal in the evening. Over the course of three weeks, we became a very close group. We also had the experience of living in a place where the sun never sets in the summer, meeting the native Sami people, and visiting a reindeer farm. This experience was better in

some ways than Village, because there were fewer campers, and the campers had responsibility for the activities.

Submitted by Michael Lachenmeyer
Delegate

This summer, I traveled with CISV to Alta, Norway for the NOT-For Sale Step-Up. It was a truly inspiring and life-changing camp that I am proud to say I was a part of. The community we created as a group and the bond we shared for those three weeks is something I will never forget. I strongly developed my social skills and my ability to make friends, which has aided me this year as I enter High School. I have remained in contact with all of my friends from this summer and I hope that one day I will be able to see them all again. My favorite part about the camp was having the opportunity to make global



friendships: it still blows me away.

Submitted by Andrew Robitaille
Delegate

Where is Alta, Norway? Alta is the [northernmost city in the world](#) surpassing 10,000 inhabitants.



This map of Norway shows how far north our delegation traveled!

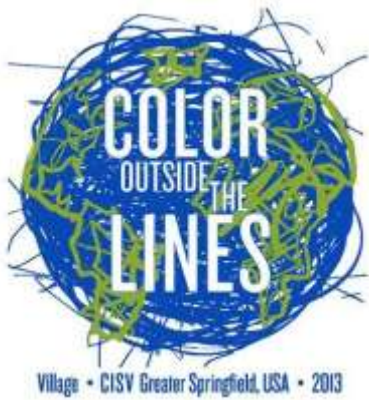
This picture was taken at 12:15 am!



5th Annual Peace One Day Soccer Game

Every year CISV is involved with another non-profit called Peace One Day. Peace One Day is September 21st and is an international cease fire day. For the past few years we have been playing a soccer game in honor of this event. This year we had over 30 people attend the game! A special thank you to the Baldwins for bringing so many friends. We had a great time at Forest Park in Springfield and look forward to next year!





Color Outside the Lines Village June 28- July 25, 2013 at Wilbraham Monson Academy

CISV USA- Greater Springfield hosted our 4th Village summer. Although we have hosted before, this was a Village of first for our chapter: **first Village with staff from our chapter (Sally Roberge, Stephen Russell, Kathleen Burke), first Village at Wilbraham Monson, first Village fully paid for at completion of the Village and the first Village**

with a day of community involvement. Each one of these first represents a proud accomplishment. Through the years our Chapter has grown. We are now well positioned to grow and to continue to service our community in many ways.

Sally Roberge, Village Staff, submitted the following thoughts about her

experience at the Color Outside the Lines Village: *Alongside 5 fabulous CISVer's, I had the distinct pleasure of staffing Color Outside the Lines Village this July hosted by the chapter I've grown up in . What an exciting and challenging adventure it was.*

As always, following any CISV program I feel changed for the better by the experience I've been so lucky to have. Interacting with peers and children from around the world, hearing them passionately share their opinions and learning to live peacefully together is something that never gets old. Our village was full of love, growth and fun- an enormous success. Brett Vottero reminded me that we had accomplished our goal of creating strong friendships and impacting each child when he arrived to a heart-wrenching scene of tearful "goodbyes" on the last morning. I am full of gratitude for the tireless volunteer work put in by numerous members of the

chapter. We couldn't have pulled it off without everyone doing their part and as a staff, it was agreed that the chapter went above and beyond. I am again filled with momentum to continue on the incredible path that CISV has created for me.



this



Village Staff, Leaders and JCs



Planned for
March 30, 2014

In March, 2013 CISV Greater Springfield hosted our first 5k race and family fun walk. The race was held on the Bright Nights 5k course at Forest Park and was attended by about 150 runners and walkers. At the completion of the course there were cupcakes for all participants that were supplied by the Junior Branch.

The Peace of Cake Race and Family Fun Walk is now planned to be our marquee fundraiser in 2014.

We will again be returning to Forest Park and will host the race the weekend after the very popular Holyoke St. Patrick's Road Race.

If you would like to help on the day of the race, please contact Sam Edwards.

To participate in the race, please stay tuned to our web site and coolrunning.com for registration details.



Kathleen Burke, Maureen and Pat's daughter was a Jr. Staff at the Color Outside the lines camp

Parent Page

Maureen Burke has been a member of the CISV USA-Greater Springfield Chapter for most of the chapter's existence.

In 2002, our son Aidan decided to apply to CISV as a Village delegate. His eagerness to participate changed our family's lives forever. My name is Maureen Burke. Pat and I have four children (ages 18-24!) who have participated in CISV programs. In 2002, I was asked to join the CISV USA- Greater Springfield Board of Directors. Last month, my tenure on that Board came to a close. It is with mixed emotions that I leave a leadership position I have loved.

Members of our family have participated in Village, Step Up Camp, International Youth Meeting, JC, served as Junior Staff and Staff at US programs; served on the Board of Directors, attended Peace One Day activities, local and regional mini-camps, chaperoned events, and myriad other activities. Because of this participation and the training my kids have received, they have been selected for many leadership and mentoring roles in school, sports, and other organizations. Each of us has made friends around the country and around the world. Years ago when the tsunami hit Taiwan, both of my boys raced to the computer. They wanted to check on CISV friends. A year ago when my daughter was studying abroad, she attended the CISV Germany National Youth Meeting as the only non-European. She also planned and carried out a solo trip to Sweden to visit CISV friends from her village, her JC village, and her Step Up Camp.

CISV is about connections, understanding, diversity, and peace. While I step down from my role on the local board, CISV will be a part of my life, and my family members' lives, forever. The core values we have learned and internalized have shaped us all to be the adults and young adults we are today. I encourage you to become involved. It is wonderful that you let your children participate, but your active involvement will create shared experiences and a bond with your child that is beyond words. Live those important words, "...In our hands the future lies, seize the moment 'ere it flies. Stamp the present with an act, dare to make our dream a fact."

See you at the next event! Maureen



Snapshots
from
Summer of
2014





A word from our new Interchange Coordinator Marie Aquilino

Announcing Interchange 2014

Graz, Austria, Ages 13-14

As the new Local Interchange Chair, I am excited to announce that our match for summer 2014 is with Graz, Austria. I am looking for 13 and 14 year olds, who would like to host an Austrian teenager in his/her home for two weeks. You will also stay with your Austrian counterpart for two weeks. Unlike other CISV programs, interchange is a family based experience and an opportunity to share your family life with another CISVer. I also will need a leader, who is willing to host the Austrian leader. This will be an exciting opportunity for our chapter, as our teens travel to Austria and experience their culture. I am accepting applications (www.cisvspringfield.org) for Interchange now. I am still negotiating final details with my Austrian counterpart and will be able to provide exact dates shortly.

Marie Aquilino

Local Interchange Chair



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