

ANNUAL REFLECTION

2024

HILLS TO CLIMB, INC.

Presented By:
Christina Lamour



A FEW WORDS FROM OUR YOUTH

“I know it may feel wrong coming to camp, but try something new – step out of your shell. I’m a city girl. I’ve changed and had tons of fun. Make the best out of what you have because you may not ever retrace it.”

-Aiyana, age 16

“Lebron didn’t know he liked basketball until he tried it. So never stop trying new things, it might become something you are passionate about.”

-Mekel, age 15

“If you don’t wanna come here than don’t. But Hills to Climb is a fun place to be. I struggled with my mental (health), but when I’m here I feel calm. If you’re not feeling it then just sit by the lake and calm down. It’s a good place to just be with nature.”

-Asia, age 15

YEAR AT A GLANCE

2024

Hills to Climb took on new challenges in 2024, highlighting the program's adaptability and integration into partners' missions. After listening to the needs of participants, parents and partners, the Hills to Climb summer experience moved to Hunting Ridge Retreat in Winchester, VA, reducing travel time from Baltimore. The program also adjusted activities to offer 5, 7 and 10-day session options, offering summer experiences based upon the differing need, comfort level, and calendar fit of each partner group.

SUMMER EXPERIENCE

For this second summer in operation, Hills to Climb was proud to welcome two partner organizations, hosting 31 male and female youth, ages ranging from 7th through 12 grade. Next One Up, Inc. and Excellence and Ambition, Inc. joined the Hills to Climb summer experience for two separate sessions. Because of the difference in missions between the two partner organizations as well as the age, ability and maturity of youth participants, Hills to Climb was intentional in structuring activities uniquely tailored to each session. With a focus on athletics and brotherhood, Next One Up, Inc. enjoyed a physically demanding program including lacrosse, a basketball tournament and an adventure race. Activities for Excellence and Ambition, Inc. were more centered around problem-solving and critical thinking through a multi-faceted shark-tank project to highlight the organization's mission of entrepreneurship.





The Hills to Climb summer experience provides new outdoor opportunities, builds peer connection and strengthens individual character. Youth walk away with more confidence, self-awareness, communication skills and a heightened ability to lead and work cohesively. While our staff and leadership can see firsthand the growth in youth during their summer experience, it can be difficult to fully quantify that change. Which is why we also ask the youth to explain for themselves some of the key takeaways from their summer experience:

Based on a survey of youth participants in 2024:

- 100% gained skills or knowledge in teamwork
- 78% gained skills or knowledge in mountain biking, fishing, kayaking/canoeing, camping, communication and leadership
- 88% shared their experience with someone at home or school
- 100% feel more connected to peers that shared the same summer experience

This summer, the Hills to Climb experience was made even more special thanks to the involvement of two enthusiastic program partners - Hunting Ridge Retreat and GRIT Adventures. These two groups took on tasks such as facility maintenance, meal preparation and facilitation of specialized activities, allowing Hills to Climb leadership and staff to prioritize cohesive programming, bonding, mentorship and safety of all youth.



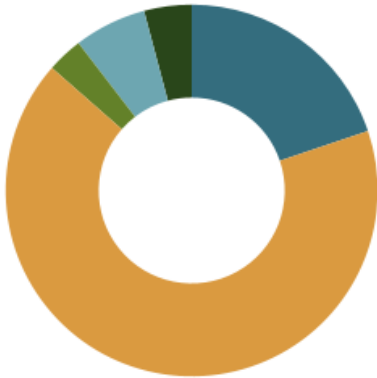
FINANCIALS

INCOME		EXPENSES	
Private Donations	\$182,556.73	General Operation	\$34,133.25
Grants	\$15,675.00	Programming	\$114,828.97
Partner Cost-Share	\$21,000.00	Fundraising/Outreach/Marketing	\$5,368.44
		Equipment & Supplies	\$10,838.23
		Professional Development	\$7,115.27
TOTAL	\$219,231.73		\$172,284.15
BALANCE: \$46,947.58			

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- Grants
- Partner Cost-Share



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SUPPORTERS

Our success relies heavily on the generous support of donors and volunteers. We are extremely grateful for their selfless generosity!



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THANK YOU

CONTACT US :



410-635-1073



info@hillstoclimb.org



www.hillstoclimb.org



1013 Cliftonbrook Ln, Silver Spring, MD 20905

