



**Isaiah receives the Exemplary Work Ethic Award after Culinary Arts Camp based on the following traits: Responsibility, Trustworthiness, Integrity, Cooperation, Attitude, Dedication, Productivity, Eagerness to Learn, Responsibility, and Professionalism.**

## Greetings from The Vault!

Well, it's hard to believe that another summer has come and gone...

Author G.K. Adams once stated, "Looking back lets you know whether or not you are headed in the right direction." Looking back at the success of this year's EnvisionU Summer Career Camps, I agree with G.K. and conclude that we *are indeed* headed in the right direction!

Jason Kitson, our Program Director, and his wife, McKenna, our Program Planning Director, planned and executed one of our best summer camp seasons so far, offering diverse camp opportunities that allowed our DeWitt County teens to explore many different careers. These camps were also free of charge because of generous individual, community, and business sponsorships. Thank you to all of our sponsors! We also want to recognize all the local professionals who helped facilitate the camps and those who provided lunches for our students. There are too many individuals to mention here, but we thank each and every one of you for giving your time, resources, and talents!

I hope you enjoy this newsletter with all the great photos! These summer Vault opportunities are invaluable to students as they begin to think about their futures. Our hope is that through our EnvisionU Summer Career Camps, students will discover a talent for a career they may not have ever considered before and a passion to pursue it!

*Tammy Wilson, Executive Director*

## Focus on Kindness: Project Lotus

I recently sat down with Vault Founder and Community Connections Coordinator, Michelle Witzke, to talk about a program that is near and dear to her heart!

### What is Project Lotus?

Project Lotus is a 6-week summer program for a team of junior and senior high students who have a mission to spread compassion and surprise cheer around the community. Some of their projects have included making and delivering cookies and messages of gratitude to first responders, painting compassion stones for people grieving the loss of loved ones, making DIY cat and dog toys for an animal shelter, collecting food for an organization that supports women and children in crisis, playing games with nursing home residents, and putting on a fun day for the children residing in our public housing neighborhood.

### What is the significance of the name of the program?

A lotus flower is a vibrant Asian flower that blooms out of dark, murky water and radiates beauty into the world around it. Symbolically, this represents the heart of these students and the mission.

### How has our community responded to the projects you have done?

The community has been very grateful that we are providing opportunities for our teens to experience the joy of giving and the blessing that comes from spreading compassion and surprise cheer! Some parents even raved that it was the most fun their kids had had in a very long time!



**Project Lotus students put on a Summer Fun Day for children at Countryside Apartments.**

# Highlights: 2023 EnvisionU Summer Career Camps

## Construction & Trades



Students in the Construction & Trades Camp learned about careers in a variety of trades highlighting welding, plumbing, electrical work, and woodworking! They gained hands-on experience and made two state-of-the-art game tables that will be used at The Vault for years to come!

## Culinary Arts



During Culinary Arts week, students learned cooking skills and safety, hosted a community Taco Bowl Day, and prepared hors d'oeuvres for a special family luncheon. They also took an exciting field trip to Epiphany Farms to learn about owning a farm-to-table restaurant.

## Aviation



Aviation Camp was a huge success as students learned from members of the commercial, military, and private sectors and also about what it takes to pursue an aviation career. They got to go on some exciting trips, including a tour of the Decatur Airport, the Springfield Air Guard Base, and even to the hangar of local pilot Nelson Thorp. After the camp, several of our students told us they were interested in pursuing a career in aviation!

# Highlights: 2023 EnvisionU Summer Career Camps

## Cosmetology



Cosmetology students had the opportunity to learn about the field of cosmetology, including hairstyling, esthetics, makeup application, and nail care. Along with gaining hands-on experience and self-care tips to apply to their daily routines, students also went on field trips to local salons and the Paul Mitchell School in Bloomington.

## Health Care Services



For our Health Care Services Camp, students got a close look at a variety of health care services. The camp highlighted both medically-based careers and mental health careers. Students were able to tour health care facilities and talk with local health care professionals. To top it off, students also received training in CPR!



**THANK YOU TO OUR SUMMER CAMP SPONSORS!**

## ENVISION U SUMMER CAREER CAMPS



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THIS SUMMER AT  
**THE VAULT**



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THE VAULT COMMUNITY CENTER  
5721 COUNTRY MEADOW LN.  
CLINTON, IL 61727



802 N. Side Sq., Clinton, IL 61727  
217-934-4003  
Website: thevaultclinton.org  
Facebook: @thevaultclinton  
Email: thevaultclinton@gmail.com  
Instagram: the\_vault\_clinton



A place where...  
Every teen is welcomed.  
Every teen is valued.  
Every teen is WORTH IT!

## THE VAULT

