



CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF PEACE



Summer Camp Inspires New Interests and Opportunities

Peace's Summer Camp programs connect youth of all ages to a range of extracurricular experiences and educational opportunities. For Ruhi, the Dance and Art Clubs at Peace's Summer Day Camp sparked her interest in the arts and creativity early on. As a middle school student, she got to attend Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp and during high school, Ruhi worked as a Camp Counselor at Peace, where she learned important leadership skills, the value of community, and that she

loved working with young children. This summer, with a letter of support from Bonnie Billups, the college sophomore brought all that she learned at Peace to a new role as a counselor at a YMCA overnight camp.

Ruhi first came to Peace's Neighborhood Center when she was five, and attended Peace's after-school and summer programs from kindergarten through middle school. A 2020 graduate of Community High School and a sophomore at Grand Valley State, she credits both the academic tutoring she received at Peace and her summer experiences in helping to strengthen her academic skills and creative thinking. She notes:

"[At summer camp], I joined the Dance and Art Clubs. Both gave me creative outlets to learn, and the chance to meet and get close with other people who shared similar interests. I also remember all the field trips we took to the Zoo and the lake, and learning how to roller skate, which I still love to do."

Through Peace's partnership with Washtenaw Camp Placement, Peace helped Ruhi find a camp scholarship to Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp—where for two summers, she had the chance to explore her creative side, which she credits with helping to strengthen her creative thinking skills and inspired her to keep up with her art projects.

In high school, Ruhi worked as a counselor at Peace's Summer Day Camp for elementary school youth, where she received important leadership training. She shares,

"I loved working with the young kids at Peace. My experience as a counselor showed me how important teamwork and community are, especially in having an impact in young children's lives. I brought all of this with me while working as a camp counselor this summer."

Now in her sophomore in college, Ruhi continues to stay in touch with Peace and is grateful for the support she continues to receive—whether a quiet place to study when she's back in Ann Arbor for the holidays, help moving back to campus, or the job recommendation Bonnie provided to support her summer camp applications.

“Peace has been such an important resource for me. They continue to help me find scholarships, which I'm so thankful for. Bonnie's helped me build many connections and find new opportunities. And he continues to offer his support.”

—Ruhi, former Peace Kid and Camper
Sophomore, Grand Valley State University



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