

C.A.M.P. UNIVERSITY

"CAN ACHIEVE MAXIMUM POTENTIAL"

MARCH 2025

ISSUE XXVII



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C.A.M.P. UNIVERSITY PROVIDES OPPORTUNITIES FOR ADULTS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS TO CONTINUE DEVELOPING INTERESTS. EXPERIENCING LIFE, SOCIAL, AND JOB SKILLS SO THAT THEY CAN ACHIEVE THEIR MAXIMUM POTENTIAL. CAMP UNIVERSITY ALSO PROVIDES RESPITE AND SUPPORT FOR THEIR FAMILIES.



Ben Smith
















Board Member

I am honored and have enjoyed being a member of the C.A.M.P. University Board for the past 10+ years. I was first introduced and learned about CAMP from Brian Lewis when he and I had a conversation about what was taking place within my own life/family. At the time we did not know what plans God had in mind for my own youngest daughter who was born early and with some challenges of her own and an unknown future. I think it would be fair to say that LeAnne and I bought in immediately when we learned of the mission and the services that CAMP looked to provide and offer both the campers and the parents/caregivers of these young adults. I think from time to time we simply take for granted the importance of the pro-active efforts, teaching and the learning of performing everyday essentials required to simply sustain, live and enjoy life... especially for those that learn differently. The mission and execution of our wonderful staff and my fellow Board Members make that a priority within our CAMP curriculum every day.

The true fact is that the options and publicly funded resources are limited once our campers graduate high school and are not able to continue higher education or they become a certain age of adulthood within our current system(s) in place. In most cases during business hours within a normal business week... many parents/caregivers of our CAMPers are either faced with considering some form of expensive adult/assisted day care or they are forced to either work part-time or not able to work at all to stay at home and care for a potential camper. At a minimum it is a financial strain/burden not to mention a stressful situation for our parents/caregivers to navigate on their own. As a Board Member and a parent... I see the mission that CAMP provides is just as important and needed to support and assist our parents & caregivers as it is for our campers themselves.

LeAnne and I encourage you to continue to financially support CAMP in any amount or way that you can. We are almost entirely funded by private donations and gifts, and we simply cannot continue without the faithful giving that we receive from our donors/supporters. In doing so you will be an integral part of our campers exploring their interests, achieving their personal goals and continuing to live a life they so deserve that you and I too enjoy.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

 Ben Smith (Chairman)	 Roger Barker	 Thomas Davidson
 Jessica Delgado	 Miguel Castillo	 Jennifer Stone
 Will Lowry	 Tim Mickunas	 Jason Leal
 Patrick Moore	 Kelly Nassour	 Abbie Sasser
 Ford Sasser	 Vicki Skaggs	 Brian Lewis

NEWEST FACES @ CAMP



Angel is full of enthusiasm and eager to learn. She brightens the room with her smile each time she enters. In her spare time, she enjoys crocheting and creating bracelets for her friends and teachers.



Michelle loves connecting with new individuals and consistently spreads happiness to those around her. She makes it a priority to ensure that everyone feels welcomed and included.




Beyoncé possesses an innate charm that captivates those around her. Her enthusiasm and sense of humor are uplifting. She is known for her patience and kindness towards her friends.



Andres may be a bit shy initially, but once you get to know him, his bright smile will surely brighten your day. He excels in math, enjoys coloring, loves playing soccer, and has a passion for dancing.

CAMP STAFF

 Pam Voss Executive Director	 Tiffany Miller Director of Grant Management
 Rachel Martinez Director of Education	 Jill Pebley Director of Marketing
 Brenda Munoz Lead Teacher	 Nayla Gonzalez Teacher
 Erika Garza Teacher	 Victoria Robledo Teacher
 Adriana Garcia Teacher	 Emily Cruz Teacher
 Iniel Bustos Teacher	

Artwork by Markus

C.A.M.P. COMMUNITY



Thanks to the generosity of the H-E-B Tournament of Champions Charitable Trust, Carlos & Mayte Garza, and Alamo Building Systems, we now have a stunning new 8-foot fence that finalizes our Safety and Protection Initiative. Additionally, we have upgraded our sprinkler system and enhanced our landscaping. These improvements will further enhance our property while ensuring a safe environment for our CAMPer.

Whataburger continues to show their kindness by providing meals for our hungry CAMPer. During our recent field trip to Gladys Porter Zoo, they generously supplied lunch for every CAMPer, volunteer, and staff member.

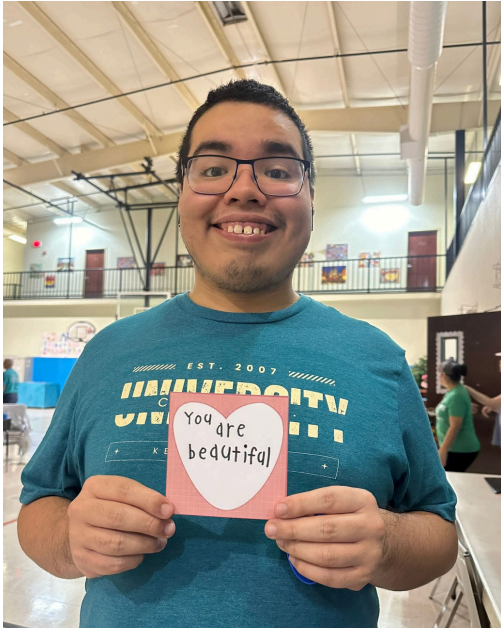
We are also grateful to Aqua-Tech, Lumatec Lighting Services, and McAllen Refrigeration for their support in building maintenance. Aqua-Tech rewired our sprinkler system, Lumatec Lighting Services upgraded all of our outdoor lighting, and McAllen Refrigeration has serviced our air conditioning units.

Valley Baptist Missions Education Center recommends C.A.M.P. University to various churches throughout the year for mission trips. Recently, we had the joy of hosting Rice Temple Baptist Church, which organized a range of engaging activities for our CAMPer, including games, crafts, songs, and much more.



C.A.M.P. LIFE

The effort put into running the CAMP Kids Lemonade Stand was rewarded with an enjoyable trip to the Gladys Porter Zoo. The CAMPers explored the zoo by train, fed the flamingos, and visited the gift shop. Following the adventure, everyone unwound at the park with a tasty Whataburger.



In December, the CAMPers participated in 25 Days of Giving to spread joy throughout the community. Each day introduced a new activity, including giving hugs, holding doors open, creating potpourri gift bags, decorating candy canes for teachers, and leaving uplifting notes in books at the McAllen Library. These initiatives not only strengthened community bonds but also imparted valuable lessons in empathy and generosity. The CAMPers learned that by sharing a bit of themselves, they received much more in return—a deeper appreciation for their community and a heartwarming sense of fulfillment.



Special Olympics - Basketball is a time when the CAMPers come together to cheer for their peers, fostering an environment of support and encouragement. The excitement in the air is palpable as everyone gathers in the gym, ready to witness the display of skill. The athletes demonstrate not just their abilities but also the spirit of sportsmanship.



C.A.M.P. LIFE

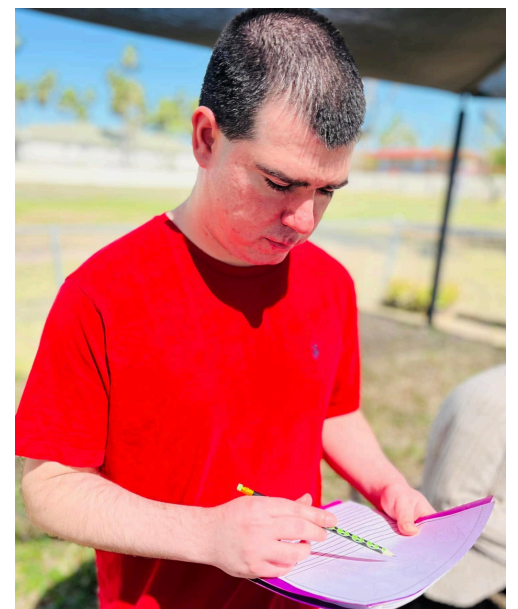
Acquiring cooking skills is an amazing asset, but meal preparation is just one aspect of the overall process. Meal planning encompasses a variety of tasks, such as creating shopping lists, managing budgets, and familiarizing yourself with grocery store layouts. Now, trips to H-E-B have become a key part of our curriculum.



A short visit to Shary Road Alpacas is consistently one of our top picks. The decorations are incredible, and there are fun coloring activities along with a giant Jenga game. Who can resist the joy of feeding and petting these adorable alpacas? Additionally, you'll also find rabbits, goats and a turtle to enjoy!



Unfortunately, the CAMPerS aren't able to embark on a field trip every day. However, the incredible teachers at CAMP ensure that learning remains enjoyable. Nature walks inspire writing activities, fitness routines turn into games filled with cheers and smiles, arts and crafts enhance fine motor skills, and essential life skills are shared collectively. The spirit of exploration and creativity is woven into every moment, making each day a new adventure. The CAMPerS are constantly engaged and excited. The teachers' dedication to creating an inclusive and nurturing environment ensures that every CAMPer feels valued and confident.



C.A.M.P. UNIVERSITY'S 15TH ANNUAL A NIGHT AT THE Races

TRANSFORMING LIVES, CELEBRATING ABILITIES

Greetings from C.A.M.P. University!

We are a 501(c)(3) local non-profit organization, established in 2007, committed to offering specialized services for adults with diverse abilities after high school. Since our founding, we have accumulated over 270,000 man-hours of collaborative work aimed at fostering the development of adults with different abilities while providing respite for their families.

Our influence reaches throughout the community, as we support caregivers in maintaining employment, thereby reducing the risk of unemployment due to their responsibilities in caring for special education graduates.

In the Rio Grande Valley, there are very few organizations like C.A.M.P. Now, as we celebrate our 17th year of service, we acknowledge the increasing prevalence of autism and developmental disorders, recognizing the thousands of individuals we need to serve and the decades of work that lie ahead.

Typically, a service like ours would cost families over \$1,100 per month, a burden that many in our Valley demographic cannot afford. To address this, we actively engage in fundraising efforts to subsidize 67% of the tuition costs for our families, making our services more attainable.

Our event, A Night at the Races, aims to raise the majority of funds needed to sustain our mission. Due to our growth, we have welcomed two new teachers and continue to expand rapidly! On Tuesday, May 6, 2025, we will host our 15th Annual Gala at the McAllen Convention Center. We invite you to contribute auction items and join us for this FUN-draising event by becoming a table sponsor and celebrating with us! Every contribution, no matter how small, makes a significant impact. Please respond to this message or visit NATR25.GiveSmart.com. We hope you will join us in any capacity and greatly appreciate your support.

As we say at C.A.M.P., "God Bless & Many More!"

Pam Vess
Executive Director




TRIPLE CROWN
\$12,500

- Enjoy 2 x Tables of 8/Each = 16 Total Guests
- Preferred Table Placement
- Name & Brand Your Own Race Horse for our Contest!
- Plated Dinner & Open Bar for Derby Drinks all Night!
- Premium Recognition
- Impact 25 Campers in 2025-2026



BELMONT STAKES
\$ 7,500

- Enjoy a Table for 8 Guests
- Preferred Table Placement
- Name & Brand Your Own Race Horse for our Contest!
- Plated Dinner & Open Bar for Derby Drinks all Night!
- Preferred Recognition
- Impact 15 Campers in 2025-2026




PREAKNESS
\$ 5,000

- Enjoy a Table for 8 Guests
- First 4 RSVP's Get to Name & Brand Their Own Race Horse!
- Plated Dinner & Open Bar for Derby Drinks all night!
- Recognition
- Impact 10 Campers in 2025-2026



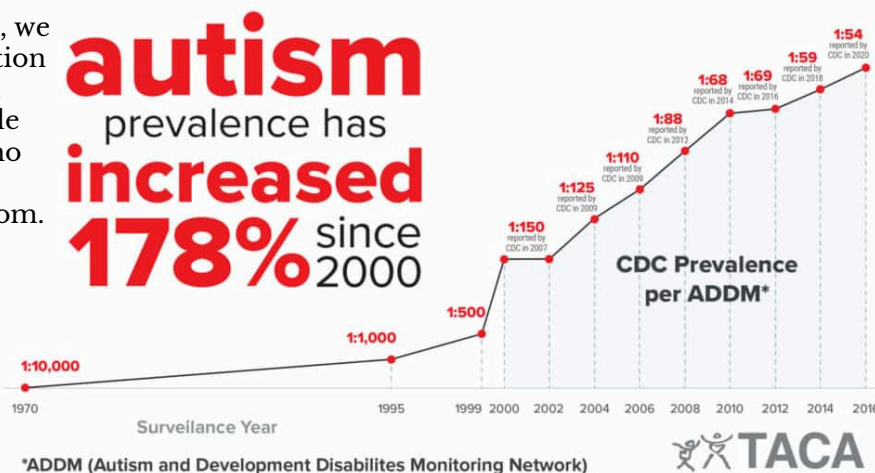
KENTUCKY DERBY
\$ 2,500

- Enjoy a Table for 8 Guests
- Plated Dinner and Open Bar for Derby Drinks all night!
- Recognition
- Impact 5 Campers in 2025-2026



SOLO RIDER
\$ 325

- Dine, drink, race, raffle, and bet!
- All proceeds go directly to C.A.M.P. University's operating budget. We heavily fundraise so that RGV families can afford C.A.M.P. Autism is drastically on the rise, with the duration and intensity of other diagnosis following. C.A.M.P. helps!



CONTRIBUTIONS 10.01.24 - 03.10.25

Premier Platinum (\$10,000+)

Carlos I. & Mayte Garza
Valley Baptist Missions/Education Center
Rio Bank
Fred & Donna Schuster

Platinum (\$5,000 to \$9,999)

Loring Cook Foundation
James W & Kathleen C. Collins Family Foundation
Robert Lanham
UTRGV
Vantage Bank

Gold (\$2,500 to \$4,999)

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Silver (\$1,000 to \$2,499)

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Chasse & Lisa Conque
Ernst & Elise Leiss
Joe & Dora Brown

Bronze (\$500 to \$999)

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Amy Allen

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In Memory of Carlene Wells

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Chasse & Lisa Conque

In Memory of Ed Zinsmeister

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In Memory of Jack Scoggins Jr.

Whitney & Ruth Ann Jones

In Honor of Cole & Allison Abbott

Trudie Abbott

In Honor of John & Melinda Wright

Ruben & Melinda Bosquez

In Memory of Julia Myerscough

Rick & Susan Myerscough

In Honor of Kacie Fielder

Guillermina Soto

In Memory of Kirby Fagg

Mike & Melissa Holland

In Memory of Larry Buck Holland

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In Memory of Laura Mesquita

Nivia Wilson
Teri Hebert

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Cameron & Kathryn Henry

In Memory of Rosie Herrera

Chris & Pam Voss

In Honor of Ruben & Melinda Bosquez and

Richard Dondlinger
John & Melinda Wright

In Honor of Tim & Becky Curl

Rusty & Kathy Lewis

In Memory of Tula Morgan

Laura Hutchins
Mike & Melissa Holland

In Memory of Betty Bentsen Winn

Chris & Pam Voss
Trudie Abbott



Beautiful artwork for "A Night at the Races" is being crafted at McAllen Stained Glass

C.A.M.P UNIVERSITY
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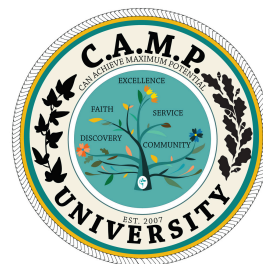
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C.A.M.P. is...

an educational environment offered to adults with special needs. Admission is by application. Call for an appointment @ 956.800.5292



CAMPUNIVERSITY.ORG/GIVE

Next Events Are...

May 6th - A Night at the Races

Always Accepting...

Advocates and student applications
Gift certificates and card donations



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