

Too Many Chefs in the Kitchen

Local Chefs Support Above & Beyond Students Afterschool Program

Some of the city's finest chefs served up a delicious evening for guests at Too Many Chefs in the Kitchen, the annual fundraiser for Above & Beyond Students afterschool program. The event was held Uptown at Sydney's, with music provided by the Harvey Cummings Project.

Above & Beyond Students (ABS) is an extraordinary afterschool program serving neighborhoods throughout Charlotte-Mecklenburg. Executive Director Carmen Blackmon is a mother of three with a passion for education. 15 years ago she had a vision to provide a model afterschool program and was called to pursue her dream. Since then ABS has grown from one site with 35 students to

eight sites with over 500 students served annually.

"My goal was to give each child our absolute best," she said. ABS not only provides mentoring and tutoring for students but also works with their families to achieve excellent results. Carmen was pleased in 2014 when the funding auditor stated, "ABS is a model afterschool program. This is how afterschool should look." The Site Coordinators and staff have embraced the work that was begun 15 years ago and strive to make each location a model site for academic and personal development.

When asked to participate in Too Many Chefs in the Kitchen, our local culinary community showed up, including Chef Antron Cobb from Sydney's,

Chef Chris Coleman of The Asbury at The Dunhill, owner Rob Nixon and Chef Shelton Blackwell of The Peculiar Rabbit, Chef "Kev" Winston of Elite Culinary Concepts and Chef Mary Guin from UChef.

Carmen is grateful for the community support and credits her family for their part in making her vision become a reality. "When I was called to do this work, I left behind a 9-5 job that I loved. My husband Jon and children LaToya, Courtney and Cameron graciously understood the work that needed to be done and shared unselfishly," she said. "I thank them for their ongoing love and support."

Visit www.aboveandbeyondstudents.com or call 704.281.4491 for more information.



ABS Executive Director Carmen Blackmon thanks Chef Antron Cobb of Sydney's, who hosted the event



Chef Chris Coleman of The Asbury at The Dunhill



Hostess Dawn Hill, Youth Programs Manager, City of Charlotte, with Executive Director Carmen Blackmon



Owner Rob Nixon and Chef Shelton Blackwell of Peculiar Rabbit



James Williams and Chef Kevin "Kev" Winston of Elite Culinary Concepts



Chef Mary Guin of UChef



Camp Ton-A-Wandah
is a girls' summer camp
located in the mountains
of Western North Carolina.
Since 1933, girls aged 6-15
have come to discover
Ton-A-Wandah is more than
a place; it's a place
in your heart.

Camp Ton-A-Wandah

There is real centering of the soul when you find something pleasant that is constant. For well over 80 years, girls have travelled from Charlotte and, in fact, all over the world, to return to a special touchstone; the summer experience afforded at Camp Ton-A-Wandah. Located in the mountains of western North Carolina, Camp Ton-A-Wandah has nurtured a commitment to core values: character, community, sportsmanship, work and fun for generations.

The most distinctive aspect of Ton-A-Wandah has been its ability to deliver a similar experience to the women in multiple generations of families. Grandmothers, mothers and daughters share the savoir-faire of their camp adventures... each relating because the experience is so magnificently unchanged. "I attended in the sixties along with all my cousins. Now my granddaughter shares a cabin with my cousin's granddaughter. It's delightful when we all get together and laugh, sing camp songs and relate our experiences," says Sally DiLucente, a former camper. The camp has a large fan base of attendees from the Charlotte area.

The beautiful campus opened its heart to campers in 1933, when the camp's founder Grace Haynes personally greeted the first 65 girls who arrived to learn sport skills, crafts and self assurance. Today, Camp Ton-A-Wandah welcomes 600 campers in four sessions throughout the summer. Now managed by another generation of the Hayne's family, the camp continues to provide an ever expanding selection of activities like swimming, archery, tennis, horseback riding, canoeing, and much more. Every summer is full of excitement and new adventures for campers. Each camper designs her very own activity schedule on the first day of camp. Staff members serve as instructors for the various activities.

To learn more about Ton-A-Wandah, visit www.camptonawandah.com or call 828-692-4251.



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