



**2017-18 NBA Ministry and Mission Grantees**  
**Impact Report:**  
**Camp Sunflower**  
**Wichita, Kansas**

**Camp Sunflower** is a three-day camp for Wichita-area LGBTQ youth in the 10th, 11th, and 12th grades. The idea for the camp came about because youth in this age range attend Pine Valley Christian Church, the home church of some of the steering committee members. In addition, living in a politically conservative state, there tends to be greater stigma and fewer resources available for LGBTQ youth, putting them at even higher risk than in some other geographical areas.

**Mission Area:** At-Risk Children and Youth, **Catalyst Grant:** US \$2,000

**Goals, Outcomes, and Learnings:**

- Through pre- and post-camp surveys, we found a significant increase in our campers' sense of connection to resources, support for identity and sense of safety. The number of campers expressing that they feel very safe about their identity nearly doubled to over 60%, and over 90% of campers expressed that they feel mostly or very safe about their LGBTQ identity after camp compared to 50% before camp.
- Bringing in a director, staff, and counselors who had past experience working with LGBTQ youth was greatly beneficial and contributed to the campers sense of comfort and safety.
- To help the youth get to know one another, we met in town for pizza and rode a party bus out to the camp along with the staff. Campers also returned to town in a party bus, which contributed to the camaraderie.

- Youth that were reluctant at first quickly became active participants when having to work together in the challenge course. Campers who had not felt comfortable in a swimming suit in years went swimming. They painted and modeled shoes that expressed themselves. Some were reluctant, but with gentle encouragement, all of the youth participated.
- The youth so enjoyed the camp that we agreed to plan a two-day retreat at Christmastime. In addition, we are planning next summer's camp to include more than 30 campers in a week-long camp. We also plan to have a mental health professional on the staff next year.

**Summary of Data from Campers:**

<b>Question</b>	<b>Not at all</b>	<b>A little bit</b>	<b>Neutral</b>	<b>Mostly</b>	<b>Very</b>
PRE-CAMP: How connected do you feel to LGBTQ+ support resources?	6.7%	20.0%	26.7%	26.7%	20.0%
POST-CAMP: How connected do you feel to LGBTQ+ support resources?	0.0%	7.7%	7.7%	46.2%	38.5%
PRE-CAMP: How supported do you feel in your LGBTQ+ identity?	0.0%	13.3%	20.0%	40.0%	26.7%
POST-CAMP: How supported do you feel in your LGBTQ+ identity?	0.0%	0.0%	7.7%	53.8%	38.5%
PRE-CAMP: How safe do you feel talking about your LGBTQ+ identity?	0.0%	26.7%	20.0%	20.0%	33.3%
POST-CAMP: How safe do you feel talking about your LGBTQ+ identity?	0.0%	7.7%	0.0%	30.8%	61.5%



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*As the health and social services general ministry of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), the National Benevolent Association partners with congregations, regions, general ministries, and a variety of Disciples-related health and social service providers to create communities of compassion and care. Founded in 1887 by six women responding to the needs of the day and on their doorsteps, for more than 130 years the NBA has continued to serve "the least of these." Learn more at [www.nbacares.org](http://www.nbacares.org).*