

## **The John E. Fogarty Foundation Supports Initiative to Inspire Summer Campers to See their Strengths**

Every one of us has unique strengths that make us who we are. Knowing our strengths builds confidence. We gain pride, a sense of belonging and greater enthusiasm to share our strengths with others.

This past summer, The John E. Fogarty Foundation generously supported the “I Can Do It” Initiative at Looking Upwards’ Summer Fun Days camp. The goal: notice the ways that each camper shines and celebrate them every day.

The celebration might take the form of sharing a piece of art a camper has made. Or a camper might be asked to tell the story of her triumph at bat with the Newport Gulls baseball team. It could be as simple as noting a kindness or a moment when a camper’s sense of humor created laughter for everyone.

Strengths were not only shared at the camp, but were also communicated to families. Daily, each camper took home a note highlighting a particular strength the camper demonstrated that day. At the end of the summer, a Family Fun Day featured activities that celebrated campers’ accomplishments.

The results: in summer camp satisfaction surveys, 100% of the families who responded said their child felt encouraged about their strengths by the end of camp.

Says camp administrator, Valory McHugh “Looking Upwards has always had a focus on creating a fun, dynamic and positive experience for campers. Yet, we wanted to take that one step further. With the support of The John E. Fogarty Foundation, we were able to build an integrated, formalized system for celebrating campers’ individual strengths, which we plan to continue every year.”