

# ANNUAL 2025 REFLECTION

CHARACTER. CONNECTION. OPPORTUNITY.



# EXECUTIVE summary



Each year, Hills to Climb re-focuses intention and improves the quality of the summer camp program. Implementation of year three was no exception. Hills to Climb hosted 59 middle and high school age youth from five unique, Baltimore-based partner organizations. With the theme, “Building the Path”, youth built teamwork, explored hidden talent and discovered joy in outdoor recreation.

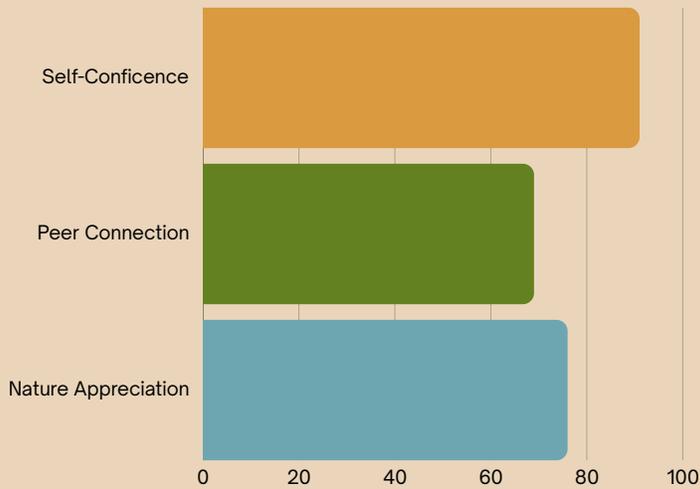
Hills to Climb makes every summer session unique - incorporating activities and projects specific to each partner organization. Camp sessions are tailored to the partner’s mission while also maintaining the core curriculum of outdoor adventure, teamwork and character development.

Even though it is often challenging to get a sense for the impact of this experience on the youth participants, Hills to Climb measures progress towards desired outcomes through participant surveys.

As a result of 2025 programming, youth shared the following feedback:

- 91% are more confident with skills and knowledge in outdoor recreation
- 69% feel more connected to, understood and supported by peers that attended the same camp experience
- 76% feel more connected to, and have a greater appreciation for the outdoors and natural environment

# YOUTH impact



From survey responses, it is clear that the Hills to Climb summer experience is successful in meeting intended outcomes of the camp program.

During the summer session, youth are also asked to reflect on their experiences daily. At the conclusion of camp, youth provide feedback to staff and leadership about their experience and what they learned. Here are a few responses:

“I learned that trying new things may be challenging, but working through it is best.”

“I learned how to canoe, skip rocks and start a fire.”

“How to camp and have fun without a phone.”

“To overcome fears. How to communicate my emotions and feelings better.”

“How to push through and always still try. Being big doesn’t stop you.”

“I learned that I’m closer than I thought to my peers.”

“That I’m tougher than I thought.”



# COMMUNITY outreach



Partner relationships more than doubled in 2025. To support this growth and allow Baltimore groups more time to become comfortable with Hills to Climb partnership, we kicked off a new event - Partner Immersion Weekend. The weekend, hosted in late spring, gave partners the opportunity to visit camp property, meet Hills to Climb board and leadership, and experience a day in the life of a camper! The weekend was a great success that we look forward to repeating year after year. We were excited to welcome three new partners: Command Health & Wellness, Changing Perspectives, and C.A.P.E.S Connect!

In addition to increased community engagement leading up to summer sessions, Hills to Climb also stepped up fall events - offering the first ever Hills to Climb Winter Classic Basketball Tournament! All Hills to Climb summer partners participated in this friendly competition, helping to spread the word about summer camp and the program's impact on youth character and teamwork.



# SOCIAL media



With increased community engagement local to Baltimore also came a strengthened presence on social media. Summer partners helped to spread the word about Hills to Climb youth programming and the excitement of their participants. This caught the attention of even more Baltimore-based potential partners - attending the basketball tournament and starting conversations about future summer partnerships.

62 Posts

682 Views  
(average/post)

391 Followers

22 Interactions  
(average/post)

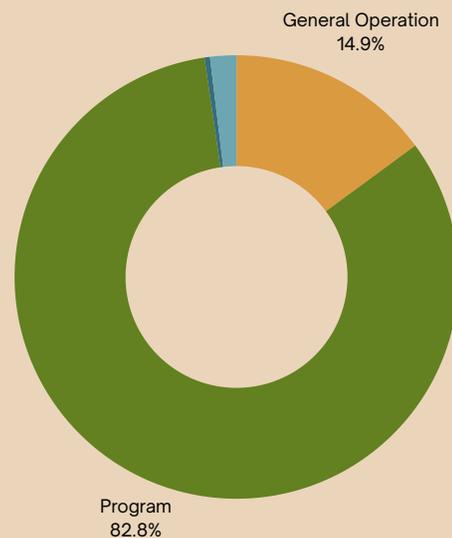
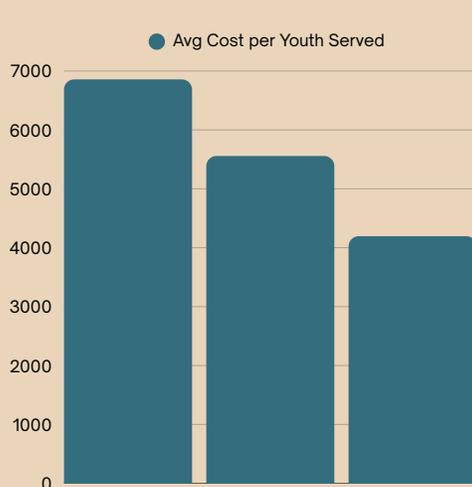
# FINANCIAL summary

## Revenue

|                     |                     |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| Private Donations   | \$177,301.85        |
| Grants              | \$10,000.00         |
| Partner Cost-Share  | \$37,500.00         |
| Accounts Receivable | \$29,331.00         |
| <b>TOTAL</b>        | <b>\$254,132.85</b> |

## Expenses

|                          |                     |
|--------------------------|---------------------|
| General Operation        | \$36,890.34         |
| Program                  | \$204,895.38        |
| Fundraising/Marketing    | \$989.51            |
| Professional Development | \$4,734.08          |
| <b>TOTAL</b>             | <b>\$247,509.30</b> |
| <b>NET</b>               | <b>\$6,623.55</b>   |



# GENEROUS supporters

*Hills to Climb is fortunate to have an increasing number of generous donors and grantors.  
Thank you!*

Robert W. Smith Family Charitable Gift Fund  
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# THANK *You*

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