

# Award Program Sends Seven

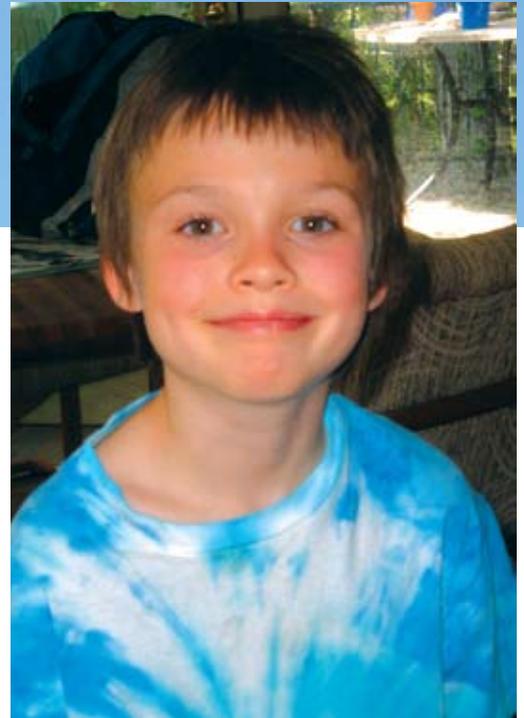
**In our second year of the program,** CHADD is pleased to announce that Harvey Jones, Jessey Rogers, Landon Gaines, Max Harkness, Adriyel James-Bennett and Alex and Tiana Passalacqua are all recipients of the CHADD/UCB, Inc. Summer Camp Award. Each will attend a camp designed to address the unique needs of students with AD/HD.



# to Camp in 2007

By Jar Lampard

**T**HE BENEFIT of comprehensive treatment for children with attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (AD/HD) is well-known, but getting treatment and living day-to-day can still be a challenge. "It's difficult living with these kids; there are ups and downs," says Allison Jones, parent of Harvey. "I had to call in all my resources to get the services and treatment he needs." Camille Passalacqua, parent of Alex and Tiana, says life at home with five kids with needs can be very difficult and that she "lives by a calendar... Counseling, tutoring, medication, it all gets very expensive, but put it all together and that is what works; without it they don't make progress."



Max Harkness

Summer programs for kids with AD/HD are gaining in popularity, but finding an appropriate placement can be difficult. "Most camps offer academic only or play only, but my kids need both", says Passalacqua. Carol May, parent of Max Harkness, believes that for kids with AD/HD "school is the antithesis of what they are set up to do well. Camp and being outside are high stimulus and provides a path to success. They come out of [camp] having done things that are hard, rock climbing, canoeing and, hiking, and see themselves as successful." According to May, when they are faced with things that are hard in other environments, like paying attention in class, they know they can do it because they have "learned they can do hard things."

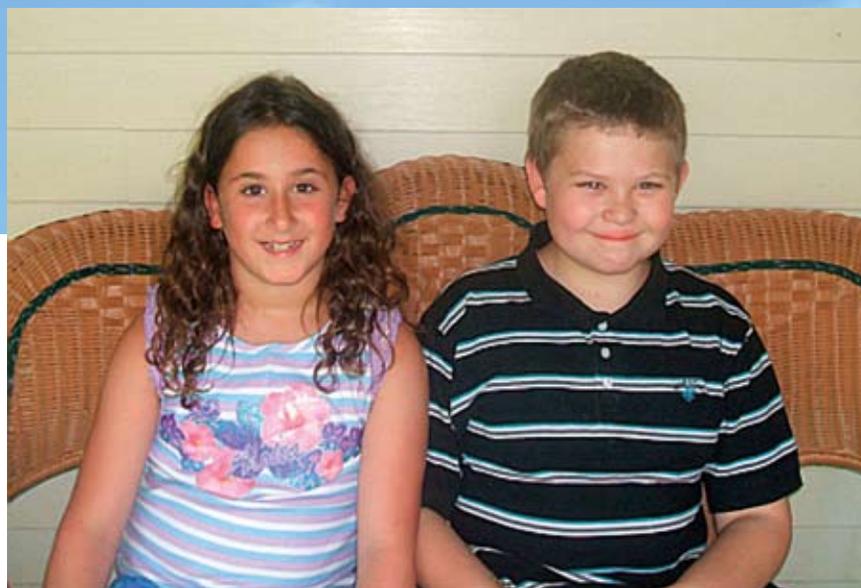
There is no doubt that kids with AD/HD may lose ground over the summer. Daily routines, academic and social skills are practiced and reinforced every day in the classroom. Once summer rolls around, many kids with AD/HD don't have the opportunity to improve or maintain their skills, so they begin to backslide. "I'm always looking for more," Passalacqua says about her children's treatment. Unfortunately, there are barriers to accessing summer programs. As Jones points out "the price puts [camp] out of reach for a lot of people," otherwise many more kids could benefit. May adds that the "nature of these kids is that [they] need a lot of support," so the added costs of tuition, gear, transportation

to and from camp, and extra fees prevent many parents from sending their kids to a camp that truly understands and works with AD/HD and co-occurring disorders. "I'm so thankful for this opportunity," says Lenore James. "It makes a difference," adds Passalacqua.

**MAX HARKNESS**, 8, is an avid reader, outdoor enthusiast, and athlete. A precocious child who speaks as easily about his challenges as he does his strengths, Max recounts how he has learned to channel his excess energy into sports. "I have really big feelings that come over me fast; the impulsivity is hard because I don't have time to think." He's had to learn to calm himself down and keep active. Playing outside seems to help. Soccer, hiking, and riding his bike are all favorite activities. Hearing Max describe himself as creative and an imaginative storyteller, it is no surprise that he likes art, music, and Spanish classes the best, but Max is quick to point out that other subjects are okay, too. The coolest thing he's learned so far this year is how to calculate the area and circumference of a circle. Writing is a different story. "I hate getting started . . . my mind just locks up," but once started "it gets easier." "We work really hard on self-esteem," says Max's mom Carol May, and she hopes camp will help boost his self-image. "Max knows that everyone has stuff that is hard," says May. "He gets that every kid has gifts and has things that

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**Tiana and Alex Passalacqua**

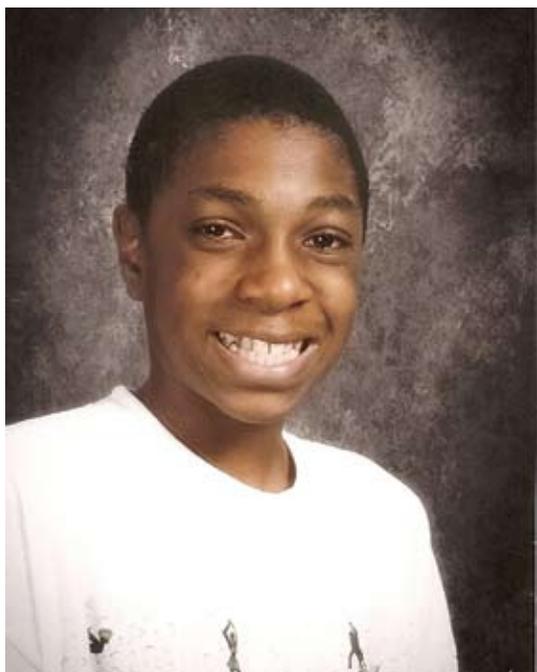


are challenging and he's got great empathy." When Max heard about the award, he said "I'm going to camp. I don't care what we do the rest of the summer because I am so excited about camp!" Max lives in Asheville, NC with his parents and younger brother.

"Cool!" said **TIANA PASSALACQUA**, 9, when she found out that she won an award to go to summer camp. Camp seems like a good fit for the lively nine-year-old, who is active in swimming, tumbling, soccer, basketball and competitive cheerleading. Tiana says she is looking forward to spending time outdoors this summer. "I love the trampoline and can't wait to go to the water park," she declares. A fan

of gym class, science, and social studies at school, Tiana does best with hands-on learning. She says she is "getting good at sharing," but would like to be better at it. For that reason her mother, Camille, is thrilled Tiana will be able to attend a camp just for kids with AD/HD. In addition to academic work, and active sessions such as learning how to cook and use a computer, her camp also does a lot of group work, which will help Tiana practice patience and work toward her goal.

**Harvey Jones**



Tiana lives with her parents and four siblings in Jackson, NJ.

**ALEX PASSALACQUA**, 11, describes himself as nice: "I'm the kid who helps his sisters with their homework." His mom, Camille, quickly echoes the sentiment, "Alex is a very thoughtful kid. I've taught my kids that you need to respect yourselves before you can respect others," says Camille. Frequently seen helping out around the house, tending to the horses, or spending time with his grandmother and his eight-month-old niece, "Uncle Al" has taken that message to heart. This summer Alex is looking forward to playing at the water park with friends and meeting new people at camp. Alex is great at meeting new kids and welcoming them into a group, but like many kids with AD/HD, sustaining friendships is harder. His mom hopes that the emphasis on social skills during summer camp will help improve his ability to maintain close friendships beyond the initial setting.

**HARVEY JONES**, 14, is looking forward to camp this summer. Harvey enjoys group activities and team sports and spends his free time playing basketball, running track, or practicing karate. He is also enthusiastic about making new friends at camp. Unlike many students with AD/HD, Harvey's self-image remains strong: he is confident in his strengths, his personality, and his willingness to meet new people. A new environment filled with different people will allow Harvey to practice using his strong social skills and make new friends. "He doesn't feel bad about his AD/HD and it doesn't hold him back. He is a leader; I admire that in him," says his mom, Alli-



**Landon Gaines**

son Jones. Harvey lives with his mother, grandmother and three sisters in Thornton, PA.

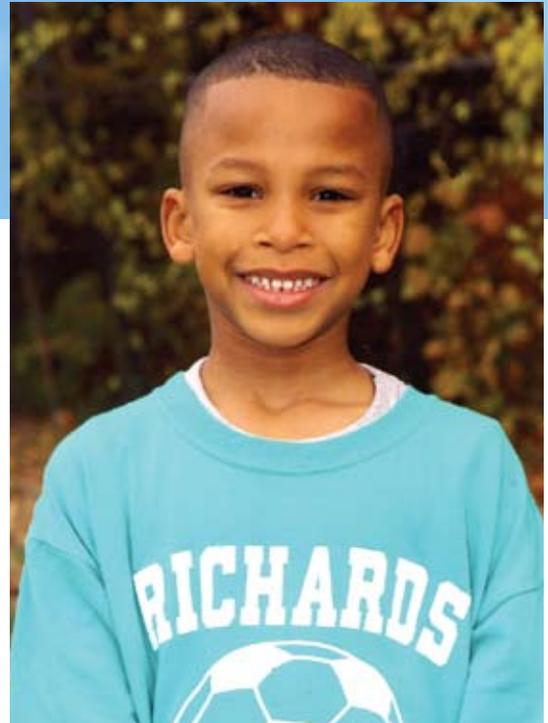
**LONDON GAINES**, 12, does well in school. His favorite subject is current events, and he particularly enjoys reading the local paper. Landon knows that academics are his strength, and he's good about helping his brother with his homework. He also enjoys playing Xbox 360, baseball, and basketball, and likes being on a team. Landon is looking forward to swimming in the ocean this summer, a first for him, and maybe finding some time to go fishing with his friends. "It's hard sometimes," he says about his interactions at school, "because I act different ... but I'm working on it." His grandmother, Sharon Willingham, hopes that Landon will be able to relate to others at camp. "There's only been one other boy with AD/HD in his school, and I want him to know that there are others, and to share experiences and learn how they deal with their difficulties." Landon lives with his grandparents and younger brother in Seminole, OK.

**ADRIYEL JAMES-BENNETT**, 6, likes board games, playing his Game Boy, baseball, and soccer, but he is most notably into basketball. Watching games on TV, pulling for his favorite team, and tracking player stats, especially those of his idol, Shaquille O'Neal, are Adriyel's favorite pastimes.

**Adriyel James-Bennett**

As a recent reward, his mom, Lenore James, bought him a binder for his prized NBA player cards that he earns for improved behavior. She notes that Adriyel is very loving, thoughtful, and engaging, especially with adults, but she would like to see him strengthen his social interactions with kids his age. Finding the right support at school has been a challenge, but he is doing well in a smaller class and he feels good about his recent progress. "He is starting to see himself in a different, more positive light," says James. She hopes that a summer program with consistent behavior strategies will better equip him to face a new school environment this fall. When he heard that he had won the Summer Camp Award, Adriyel asked his mom, "Does that mean I'm an important person?" By the end of summer, CHADD hopes he knows the answer to his own question. Adriyel and his mom live in the Bronx, NY.

**JESSEY ROGERS**, 16, is in many ways a typical teenager. He is very focused on socializing, doesn't like all the rules at school, but has recently made an effort to get his work in on time. He is keeping his grades up and shooting for the honor roll. Jessej likes writing, especially narratives, which are easier to get started and even then he must type to keep up with his thoughts.



**Jessey Rogers**



The added costs of tuition, gear, transportation to and from camp, and extra fees prevent many parents from sending their kids to a camp that truly understands and works with AD/HD and co-occurring disorders.

Jessey also likes computers and is considering a career in graphic design. "I am definitely going to college," he declares sagely. "It will help me go farther in my career." Jessey is confident that camp will be a fun experience. He looks forward to mingling with his peers, listening to their experiences, and sharing tips of his own. Having dealt with some difficult issues, Jessey has worked hard to make changes and is learning to pick up on subtle cues about his interactions. He is in a better place now and encourages other kids with AD/HD to "live life freely. Don't dwell on the past, don't worry about the future. Focus on what is going on now—life as it is." He notes how much his grandmother, Brenda Ricker, has helped him, "She expects a lot from me. She expects me to take responsibility."

Ricker believes that this opportunity came at just the right time for Jessey and she hopes that he "comes out of this experience saying 'I tried new things and I want to learn more. I want to venture out and do something.'" Jessey and his grandmother live in Bradford, VT.

**CONGRATULATIONS** to all of our awardees! ■

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**Jar Lampard** is the manager of the Summer Camp Award Program and a senior health information specialist for the National Resource Center on AD/HD, a program of CHADD funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.