

Quest Summer Camp Program

Preface to the Camp's Handbook

March 15/ 2013

A grave social and moral challenge facing America today is the growing opportunity gap between kids from well-off backgrounds and kids from less-well-off backgrounds. This growing gap, which affects all races, threatens to undermine the American Dream itself. Nationwide, compared to only a generation ago, kids from low Income families live more isolated lives, with less support from their stressed-out families, from their churches, from their communities, and often even from their schools. Their aspirations, their test scores, and even their physical and mental health bear indelible marks of social deprivation. Through no fault of their own, these kids have much less chance to lead satisfying and productive adult lives. For the country this outcome is economically improvident and morally

The Quest Summer Camp Program, the product of a remarkable grassroots collaboration among the Jaffrey-Rindge Rotary Club, the Jaffrey Rindge School District and Franklin Pierce University, is among the most promising efforts I know anywhere in the country to address the opportunity gap. Using the latest pedagogical techniques to foster one of the oldest values of our nation—equality of opportunity—the Quest Summer Camp Program is proven to provide academic and socio-emotional support to kids who need help,

This booklet explains how a well-organized community group of dedicated adults can make a measurable difference in the lives of these kids—our kids.

Robert D. Putnam

Professor of Public Policy, Harvard's Kennedy School

Author, *Bowling Alone*