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## NEWS RELEASE

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For immediate release

### **FIFTEEN FAMILIES TAKE PART IN FAMILY CAMP FUNDED BY PAR EXCELLENCE ACADEMY**

**NEWARK, OHIO (July 01, 2019)** – Fifteen Par Excellence Academy families were invited to take part in Camp Joy, a 3-day retreat designed to strengthen families through togetherness, fun and experiential learning. The cost of the retreat was covered by Par Excellence Academy, through a 21<sup>st</sup> Century federal grant which includes goals for strengthening families. The grant covered the cost of the families' lodging, food and activities for the retreat.

The 2019 camp: *Summer of Magic and Moments*, began at 3pm on Friday, June 28 and concluded on Sunday morning, June 30. Activities at this year's camp included: fishing, hiking, swimming, canoeing, arts and crafts, archery, star-gazing, a climbing tower and a family scavenger hunt, in addition to the traditional singing and smores around the campfire.

Ouila Hill, Par Ex after-school enrichment program was instrumental in helping coordinate family participation. "Spending time with families and getting to know them was definitely one of the many highlights of the camp," Hill shared.

"I am thrilled that we were able to cover the costs associated with supporting twenty local families," commented Gisele James. "We always look for ways to strengthen family and community connections in Licking County, and Camp Joy has a fabulous reputation for giving families memorable experiences that help them grow together!"

Spending time with the families and getting to know them was definitely one of the many highlights of the trip

Camp Joy was founded by the St. Barnabus Episcopal Church in 1937. It sits on a 317-acre site in Clarksville, Ohio. Camp Joy was one of the first summer camps in America to integrate families of color into their summer camping program, which occurred in 1948. Camp Joy's mission is to help people grow and succeed through life-long, experience-based learning.



Par Excellence families enjoy fishing from a bridge at Camp Joy, Saturday, June 29.