

Family Profile: Mom, Daughter and Wildflower

As told to Laura Krotky

Wildflower is so grateful to our families when they allow us to share their stories with our community of supporters. This story presents the perspectives of both a camper and her mom. Kathleen and her daughters have been a Wildflower family for 7 years. The girls were 11, 8 and 5 years-old when their dad passed away unexpectedly. Kathleen shares her story about connecting with Wildflower.

There is no training for being a widow with three young children and a new job. Especially in the months immediately following my husband's death, my life was chaos most the time. I was always scrambling and couldn't focus on seemingly simple things, least of all filling out paperwork. Once I connected with Wildflower, they made things so much easier. They helped me consider a safe and enriching place for my girls during the summers while I worked. The staff at Wildflower had so much experience with a wide range of camps. With their help, I began to think about camps that I would have never considered on my own. We found the perfect match for my girls, even when they themselves didn't know exactly what they wanted.

It is comforting to know that there are people who understand the situation I am in. So many people I know say "you're so amazing; you manage everything so easily." They have no idea how crazy everything is and how much trade-off there is to make things work. Wildflower understands what we're going through and for 7 years they have been making summer easier for me and my girls. I am so grateful.



Emma, pictured in center, with her sisters wrote the following letter

My family has been with Wildflower for seven summers, I believe. My dad passed away when I was eleven and my family nearly fell apart. My mom and my two little sisters and I have made it through seven summers without my dad and that was made possible with the amazing support and generosity of Wildflower. Wildflower has sent me to five different summer camps and amazing programs including Beaver Summer Day Camp, Meadowlark, French Woods, Apogee Adventures, and Acting Manitou (not to mention the camps my sisters have been to). My sisters and I have gotten opportunities my mom was not able to give us on her own. We have so many memories that will last us our entire lives from the summer adventures Wildflower has given us. On behalf of my mother and sisters, I would just like to thank you for all you have done for us. Thank you so much for touching our lives and our hearts and giving us the gift of joy, love and new experiences. I am heading off to college in a few days and I am so grateful for the memories and experiences my sisters and I will have for the rest of our lives. Thank you so much on behalf of my whole family. 🌸

Sold-Out Event Celebrating Wildflower's 10th Anniversary



Wildflower celebrated 10 years of helping children at the beautiful **Elm Bank Gardens** in **Wellesley** on June 3rd. The magic of Wildflower was in full bloom for more than 200 guests who attended the celebration. The event began with a dash of whimsy as guests were greeted by street artists performing throughout the gardens. After a repast of delectable food by **The Catered Affair**, the program began with founder Cyndi Jones sharing her own touching story of loss, an experience that led her and her family to launch Wildflower. The program continued with the presentation of the first Wildflower Impact Award given to **Dr. Robert Brooks**, a leading expert on the theme of resilience. The evening ended with an appearance by Wildflower dad Scott who shared his experiences with Wildflower. The crowd was spellbound by Scott's emotional recounting of losing his wife, who he spoke of as "his best friend and soul mate" and how Wildflower helped him recognize "the goodness we still have in our lives."

*We are grateful to our lead sponsors, the **Wellesley Bank Charitable Foundation** and the **Rodman Ride for Kids**, contributing sponsors **Middlesex Bank**, **Bank of Cape Cod** and **The Village Bank** and to the attendees who made our anniversary celebration a night to remember.*

SAVE THE DATE

Join us at

The Wildflower Gala

September 10, 2015

The Lighthouse at the Seaport Hotel | Boston 🌊

Granting Organizations Choose Wildflower



Wildflower’s good work is supported by a growing collective of granting organizations and family foundations. We are profoundly grateful to the **Risa S. Rosengard Foundation**, an organization that helps children and families during or after cancer treatment or bereavement. Their vision is that no child or family member should go through these dark times feeling alone and helpless. Wildflower was selected to receive a 2013 Rosengard grant for our work with our campers who suffered a loss due to cancer.

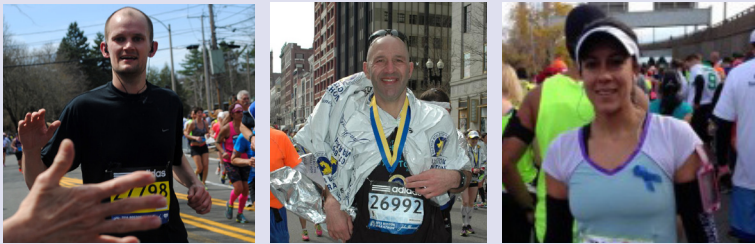
The **Orville W. Forté Charitable Foundation** is a Newton-based foundation that awards grants to organizations working with disadvantaged Greater Boston youth. In October, Wildflower proudly accepted a significant 2014 grant award from the Forté Foundation. Thank you for investing in the Wildflower children and families who benefit from our long-term commitment to their recovery from loss.

The **Bailey Family Foundation** has been a long-time supporter of Wildflower and our mission. In July 2014, the foundation again awarded Wildflower a grant in support of our children and their families. Thank you **Ann and Mark Melanson** and the entire Bailey family for your generosity.

Getting Creative: Donors Think Outside the Box

We would like to thank a few special donors who have shown great creativity in spreading the word about Wildflower’s mission. **Scott Ravelson** jumped on the phone to personally invite a long list of his friends to our anniversary celebration. Through his personal touch, 25 of Scott’s friends attended the party, had a wonderful time and became new members of Wildflower’s donor community. **Audrey Loria** and **Denise Widman** each hosted a party, taking the opportunity to raise money and awareness for Wildflower while enjoying wonderful food, friends and, in Audrey’s case, live music. **Judy Levine** is one of the last great letter writers in a tech-saturated world. Judy has made 82 donations to Wildflower in honor or memory of her loved ones. With each donation, Wildflower sends an acknowledgement with Judy’s personal sentiments announcing the donation. We are so grateful for the commitment, energy and creativity each of you have put into sharing Wildflower’s mission with your friends.

Wildflower Runs the Boston Marathon



Congratulations **Tara Colby, Reed Juckett and John Stoller** for representing Wildflower in the 117th running of the Boston Marathon. We are so thankful to **The Halpin Family** for making it possible for Wildflower to run our first Marathon. Many thanks, also, to **Sherri Goldberg** who graciously opened her Commonwealth Avenue home to Wildflower’s enthusiastic band of merrymakers who cheered our runners on to the finish line!



Thank You Riders, Thank You Rodman Ride Supporters

Team Wildflower rode 25 miles on a picture-perfect September morning in the 24th Rodman Ride for Kids. Thank you to our 17 riders (real and virtual) for riding and raising money in support of our campers. And thank you donors! Through the support of more than 350 donors and our lead sponsor **Group One Partners**, we reached our lofty goal of raising \$100,000! With this accomplishment, Wildflower receives a 6% bonus from the Rodman organization. The Rodman Ride is Wildflower’s biggest annual fundraising event and our success translates into helping more children attend the summer camp of their dreams.

A Community of Committed Donors

Our community of donors continues to grow each year. We are so thankful to every donor, no matter the size of the donation, for helping us to further our mission of helping children and their families after losing a parent. In particular, we thank the following new and active members of The Friends Network, a donor group consisting of our leading patrons.

- Altamira Foundation
- Jeff and Deb Baron
- Bessye Bedrick Ravelson Fund
- Jeffrey and Suzanne Bloomberg
- Laurie Burt
- Camp Kennebec Alumni Fund
- Margy and Mark Cohen
- Sherri Goldberg
- Cyndi Jones and Steve Birnbaum

- Marsha Jones
- Robi Josephson and Ted Reiss
- Jim and Silvia Kyrios
- John Kyrios
- Audrey and Michael Loria
- Miriam Mandell
- Carol McKean
- Shlomo Pinkas
- Adam Puritz and Robin Neiterman
- Gordon Russell and Heidi Condon
- Sword and Spoon Foundation
- Amy and Barry Sylvetsky
- Denise Widman and Allan Lauer
- Alison Wintman

A note to our anonymous donors. While your names do not appear in our donor list, we would like to note here that your patronage is so very much appreciated. We thank you for your steadfast support of our mission.

Board of Directors

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MISSION

Wildflower helps children who have lost a parent with the gift of camp, enrichment opportunities and ongoing support. We provide summer-camp placement and funding, along with long-term support, to both the camper and their family while they recover from their loss. We are committed to making a real and lasting impact on the lives of the families we serve.

To learn more visit:
www.wildflowercampfoundation.org

Volunteers Wanted: Please consider joining our team of volunteers. Call Cyndi at 781.861.1413 to get involved!

Your Donation Will Send a Child to Camp This Summer

We are profoundly grateful to our donors for their generosity and support of our mission. Please consider making a contribution today. Your support will help us send more deserving children to camp this summer.

Online: www.wildflowercampfoundation.org
Checks payable to *Wildflower Camp Foundation*
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