

Reflections from our Founder

We envision a world where all children and families who experience the loss of a parent receive the support they need to thrive.

Last spring, the Wildflower community paused to think about where we have come from and how we want to grow. As we crafted our vision statement, our future charge came into clear focus. We were determined that every family suffering from traumatic loss of a parent and spouse should have the tools they need not only to recover, but to thrive.

Using this vision as our guide, we are more inspired than ever to serve as many families as we can. Children have only one chance to experience the uncomplicated joy of childhood. If lost to overwhelming complications of grief, that chance cannot be recaptured easily. Every child needs to have the opportunity to grow, learn, develop, and feel protected in this world. And our support of our parents brings stability to the entire family.

We invite you to join us as a volunteer or donor to help us fulfill our future vision by helping our organization grow. You will be glad you did --it may just be a gift for you as well!

Best wishes for a wonderful holiday season, Cyndi Jones



Cyndi (on right), along with Board member Miriam Mandell, speaking at Wildflower's Annual Meeting



Arthur, with his wife Linda, at a Wildflower Concert

Volunteer Spotlight: Arthur Greenberg

Arthur Greenberg would tell you that his many summers at Camp Skylemar in Naples, ME, contributed to the person he is today. When he retired as COO of Goodwin Procter after a 20-year career, he knew he wanted to find a nonprofit volunteer opportunity where he could use his business background to help the organization grow. "When I heard about Wildflower's mission and met with founder Cyndi Jones, I knew I had found the perfect fit."

Arthur understands the importance of camp to any child, especially those healing from the loss of a parent. With this understanding, he has fully embraced Wildflower's mission. According to Cyndi, "Arthur has already had a significant impact on Wildflower and is committed to our growth and financial health." Arthur is a board member, treasurer and serves as a key member of the strategic planning and governance committees. Wildflower is so pleased that he has become an active member of our team and Arthur says, "the experience has exceeded my high expectations."

We gratefully acknowledge Arthur's role in connecting us with Goodwin Procter. The law firm generously donated the office furniture for our new Wildflower offices. We are so very appreciative!

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With Your Help, Our Mission Grows

Wildflower relies on the generosity of our donors to continue our good work. Please consider making a donation to help us send our 2017 kids to camp this summer. Thank you! To donate, go to: www.wildflowercampfoundation.org to donate.



Wildflower's Benefit Concert Features
Hank Wonder Live at Cary Hall



Wildflower friends new and old enjoyed a wonderful night of live music by the local band Hank Wonder in support of our campers and families

Our Mission

Wildflower is dedicated to serving children and families who have experienced the loss of a parent. By providing the gift of camp and enrichment opportunities for children, as well as consistent support and respite for parents, families are able to strengthen their resilience and create positive opportunities for the future.



Navigating a New Normal After Loss: Mom's Story

A Wildflower mom has graciously agreed to share her story with the Wildflower community. Her words, as told to staff member Laura Krotky, are an important illustration of how loss affects the entire family.

Melanie's husband died when their twins were in 5th grade. "My husband was ill for a few years, so things were already challenging, but I had a compass next to me. When he died, I lost that sense of direction for a while." Melanie spoke of the grief she experienced, a grief that was intensified when she saw how her children were impacted by their father's absence. "As a mother, you always want your children to be happy and confident. When their dad died, I ached for their loss more than mine. I constantly wonder how his death will affect them as they grow into young adults."

As a single parent, Melanie was now solely responsible for her children's financial and emotional needs. She found a new, full-time job that required working during the summer and worried about how to manage her kids' summer vacation with her new work schedule. "Wildflower came to my rescue! Literally. They understood that I was overwhelmed by all the decisions I was faced with."

Melanie talked with Deborah Shapiro, her Wildflower family liaison, about enrolling the twins at the Fessenden Camp located a short distance from her home. It would mean the kids could walk to camp together and, as Melanie stated, "that would take a big worry off my shoulders." Wildflower was able to make summer camp a reality for Melanie and her family, managing many of the details that can be so overwhelming for a grieving parent. (cont. to next column)



Melanie's daughter loved camp from day one saying, "I'm going next year. I don't care what I have to do!" Her son, on the other hand, was initially very negative about camp. The first few days, he argued and complained. But by the third day, he started talking about his "camp friends." Camp became his favorite summer experience and, like his sister, he also wants to return next summer. Melanie stated, "I am so thankful for my connection to Wildflower. The financial assistance is something I am eternally grateful for, but the memories that I am sure my children will take away from this summer will be life altering."

The chaos that often follows loss can make even the most mundane tasks difficult. Melanie crystalized her new reality by saying, "My children, like me, are navigating a new world, theirs without a very loving and involved father, and mine without an amazing husband. It is organizations like Wildflower that understand the financial difficulties and extreme grief that so many families deal with . . ." Wildflower is honored to be a part of Melanie's journey through grief and we look forward to being by her side for as long as she needs our help.

National and Local Granting Organizations Support Wildflower with more than 60k in grants

Wildflower is grateful to the corporate and family foundations that have shown confidence in our mission by selecting us as a grant recipient.

- **The Eastern Bank Charitable Foundation** selected Wildflower from a large pool of applicants to receive their Strengthening Families grant.
- **Orville W. Forte Charitable Foundation** endorsed our mission with a grant for growing our program. Students participating in
- **Wellesley Youth in Philanthropy** program managed by the **Foundation for MetroWest** selected Wildflower to receive a grant for program expansion, specifically in the Wellesley area.
- **Kars4Kids** supported the growth of our program through their Small Grants program.
- **The New York Life Foundation** awarded Wildflower a Grief Reach grant to support our development activities and growth of our program.
- **Risa S. Rosengard Foundation** extended its support of Wildflower families affected by cancer with a very generous grant.
- **The Salah Foundation's** mission is to strengthen families and communities. Salah awarded Wildflower a substantial matching grant to increase the number of families we serve.



Wildflower loves our Boston Marathon runners

Run the Boston Marathon for Wildflower

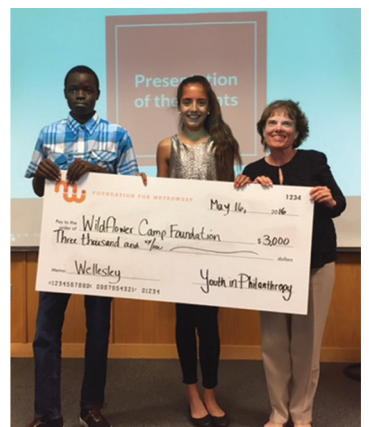
Thank you Tara Colby, Courtney Roggekamp and Trish Yuse for running strong for Wildflower in 2016. We are now accepting applications for our 2017 team. Contact us today for details.



Our largest team of Wildflower riders enjoyed a great day of "biking for a cause" at the Rodman Ride for Kids

Rodman Ride: It's a Great Day to Help Kids

The Ride raised more than \$13 million for at-risk children across Massachusetts! Thank you riders, volunteers and more than 300 Wildflower donors, including our sponsor Group One Partners, for helping us reach our \$150,000 fundraising goal!



Founder Cyndi Jones accepts a Foundation for MetroWest, Wellesley Youth in Philanthropy grant award from Wellesley students