

# Wildflower At-A-Glance

Wildflower, along with our camp and related partners, has awarded **more than \$1.95 million** in funding to our families since our 2004 founding. To our entire community of supporters, thank you for helping our families rediscover life after loss. Summer 2019 highlights:

Number of Campers Served

80

Tuition Awarded by Wildflower and Our Partners

\$278,000

Number of Camp Partners that Welcome Wildflower Campers

67

Number of Weeks Our Children Spent at Camp

406

International Destinations

Spain, British Virgin Islands, European Alps, Puerto Rico, India, England

Domestic Camp Experiences

College Essay Writing, Leadership, Special Needs, Hockey, Pre-Med Training, Arts/Music, Legos, College Prep, Bereavement

New! College Planning Services

Essay Writing and College Selection Support, Financial Aid Workshops for Parents, Referrals for Scholarship Opportunities

## Growing Up & Embracing Life After Loss

By Laura Krotky

“Dealing with grief can make you afraid – afraid of many things – and I exercised letting go of that fear this summer. This is something I will be forever grateful for.”

Melanie’s 15-year old twins, Rachel and Alex, are growing up. They were just 12 years old in 2016 when the family was accepted into Wildflower’s program. The whole family was still reeling from dad’s death a year earlier. He had been such an important part of their lives. Even though he had been ill for several years, he

was always able to help them get ready for school in the mornings and welcome them home in the afternoons. His passing was unexpected and devastating for the twins and Melanie.



15-year old twins, Rachel & Alex.

When Melanie shared her story with Wildflower, we knew we could help. Melanie and Wildflower selected Fessenden Summer Camp for the twins’ first summer at camp. Fessenden has an incredible staff of passionate, experienced educators. Rachel and Alex filled their days with swimming, team sports, art and new friendships. Both teens flourished there. For Melanie, knowing her children were in a safe and nurturing environment provided real peace of mind while she worked.



The kids with their dad, 2006

This past summer was special for Rachel. In addition to enjoying several weeks at Fessenden as a Counselor in Training (CIT), she also traveled to Puerto Rico on a 12-day service trip offered by Apogee Adventures.

Here is what Rachel wrote about her trip:

“I’d like to thank you for your generosity, because without it, I never would have had the opportunity to help out in Puerto Rico. The bioluminescent bay we were in is the brightest bio bay in the world. My favorite part was when we went snorkeling and I got to touch a sea turtle! Thank you, thank you, thank you!”



Melanie with Alex & Rachel, 2019

Wildflower also received a letter from Melanie. Writing as a widowed single parent, Melanie offered a window into how Wildflower’s support sparked her own growth and renewal while the twins were happy at camp. She wrote:

“Although it was a big step for Rachel and an experience she wanted, it was an experience I didn’t know I needed until her return. As my children get older, I have grown to realize that they can and will move forward, that they are strong, confident young adults. I have to let them experience things and do things “out of the norm.” I can’t be fearful and afraid of new experiences. Dealing with grief can make you afraid – afraid of many things – and I exercised letting go of that fear this summer. This is something I will be forever grateful for.”

Wildflower’s support can be transformative not only for the children we serve, but also for the surviving parents. It has made a world of difference for Melanie, Rachel and Alex.

Your gift makes hope possible.

Please Give to Our *Annual Appeal*

Donate at [wildflowerforkids.org/ways-to-give/](https://wildflowerforkids.org/ways-to-give/)

## SAVE-THE-DATE

Thursday, May 14, 2020

WILDFLOWER'S  
SPRING BENEFIT  
AT DECORDOVA MUSEUM

### INSIDE

[Family Spotlight](#) | [News](#) | [You Can Help](#)

This summer, 80 Wildflower kids  
enjoyed 1,050 nights & countless days  
learning, growing and  
healing at camp...

Helping Kids Rediscover  
Life After Loss

### INSIDE

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### THANK YOU SPONSORS AND GRANTORS



### 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.

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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As you enjoy reading about Melanie and her twins,  
please consider donating to Wildflower's **Annual Appeal**  
to make even more stories of hope possible.  
Donate at [wildflowerforkids.org/ways-to-give/](http://wildflowerforkids.org/ways-to-give/)