




wildflower

Impact  
Report

2023



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# Letter from the Executive Director

Dear friends of Wildflower,

I am delighted to introduce to you our second Impact Report, a testament to the remarkable strides we have made in our ongoing mission to support bereaved children and families across the Greater Boston area. Since assuming the role of Executive Director, I have been continually inspired by the resilience and determination of our community.

In the pages of this report, you will discover the evolution of Wildflower – from our modest beginnings to our current standing as a beacon of hope and healing. With each passing year, we have not only expanded the breadth of our reach but also deepened the quality of care and support we provide to those in need.

The accomplishments of our dedicated team are made possible by the unwavering dedication of our volunteers, the extraordinary generosity of our donors, and the steadfast support of granting organizations. Together, we are infusing hope and possibility into the lives of families navigating the turbulent waters of loss.

I extend my heartfelt gratitude to each and every one of you for your commitment to our cause. Your support enables us to extend a lifeline to those in their darkest moments and illuminate the path toward healing.

With warmest regards,



Erin Lynch  
*Executive Director*



# Board of Directors

*Thank you to our esteemed Board of Directors for their exceptional leadership and dedication. With your continued partnership, we are poised to reach new heights and make an even greater impact on the communities we serve.*

\*Onboarded 2024

Cyndi A. Jones, MSW, *Founder and Chair*

Gledia Agolli\*

Edward Bell

Steve Birnbaum, MD

Robert Brooks, PhD

Ceci Cordeiro

Shondell Davis

Steven Fischer\*

Arthur Greenberg

Garey House

Abhishek Khatri\*

Nicole Leavenworth

Janet Ryan

Debbie Whitehill, MSW

Denise Widman

Roz Wong

*It is an honor to be on the Wildflower board. This organization has made such a difference in our lives during the most difficult times.*

- Shondell Davis, Board Member

# Making an Impact

## Mission + Vision

Wildflower is dedicated to serving children and families who have experienced the death of a parent. We provide the gifts of camp, enriching experiences, and consistent, long-term support to help families strengthen their resilience and create positive opportunities for the future.

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

## Values

These core values describe the spirit of Wildflower. Staff, Board members, and volunteers incorporate these values in every interaction with all of our constituents.



## DEI Commitment

Wildflower understands how devastating it is when the parent of a child dies. This burden falls disproportionately on some communities more than others. For some families, systemic racism, intergenerational trauma, as well as discrimination and marginalization based on other facets of identity, can compound the pain of early parental loss. These aspects of identity include but are not limited to race, ethnicity, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, religion, age, neurodiversity, and physical disability.

We are committed to fostering diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) in our organization's efforts to support families through the experience of losing a parent. Wildflower works to ensure equitable access to our programs and is prioritizing organizational diversity across our staff, Board, and volunteers so that our community reflects the families we serve. In acknowledgement of our society's disproportionate injustices, historically and currently, against communities of color, Wildflower prioritizes racial equity in our approach.

# Impact by the Numbers: 2023

68

families

\$200k

Wildflower scholarships

172

camp experiences

503

weeks of camp

110

children

\$483k

total tuition relief

# Programs

Wildflower provides summer camp and enrichment opportunities to children in the Greater Boston Area who have lost a parent. Our unique program provides opportunities for at-risk children to receive the incredible experience of summer camp, while also providing individually tailored support to the surviving parent/guardian. In 2023, our reach extended to the following towns:



Once a child becomes a Wildflower camper (as early as age 5), we support them and their family for as long as our assistance is needed, up to age 18, with the following services:

- Family Liaison support
- Camp selection support
- Tuition reduction advocacy
- Camp to College support
- Additional family programming
- Crisis intervention and referrals
- Emergency support and funding

*My girls will both enjoy summer camps this year because of your generosity. This year has been very difficult for our family with the sudden loss of my husband. The peace of mind of having this assistance with camp tuition has been so touching. Please know how appreciative we are.*

– Wildflower parent



# Camp to College

As our Wildflower teens move beyond their camping years, we continue to support them through our college planning program, assisting them as they begin to navigate the college admissions process. We have partnered with **Apogee Adventures, Campus Bound, and Summit Educational Group** to provide the following services:

- College selection services
- Essay prep and assistance
- ACT/SAT test preparation
- Financial aid counseling

In 2023, Wildflower supported **8** campers in the Camp to College

*Our graduating seniors are now attending the following schools:*





# Camp Partners

Our camp partners play an integral role in renewing the promise of summer for children and families living with grief. The following camps partnered with Wildflower in 2023 by providing tuition reductions that, when combined with our scholarships, ensured that the camp experiences were feasible for our financially stressed families.

Academy MetroWest  
Apogee Adventures  
Arlington Boys and Girls Club  
Beaver Summer Camp  
Belmont Day Camps  
Berkshire Running Camp  
Bobcat Swim Camp  
Boston Leadership Institute  
Boxboro Recreation  
Brimmer & May Summer Camp  
Broadreach Caribbean  
Buck's Rock Camp  
Cambridge School of Culinary Arts  
Camp Becket  
Camp Bernadette  
Camp Burgess and Hayward  
Camp Cobbossee  
Camp Echo Bridge  
Camp Grossman  
Camp Hawkeye  
Camp Howe  
Camp Kabeyun  
Camp Kippewa  
Camp Med-O-Lark  
Camp Merriwood  
Camp Micah  
Camp Rince Ceol  
Camp Sewataro  
Camp Skyemar  
Camp Squanto Boy Scout Camp  
Camp Starfish  
Camp Thoreau  
Camp Wigwam for Boys  
Camp Winaukee  
Camp Wing  
Camp Woodhaven  
Camp Yawgoog Boy Scout Camp  
Camp Young Judaea  
Capitol Debate  
Carroll Center for the Blind  
Cedar Hill Girl Scout Camp

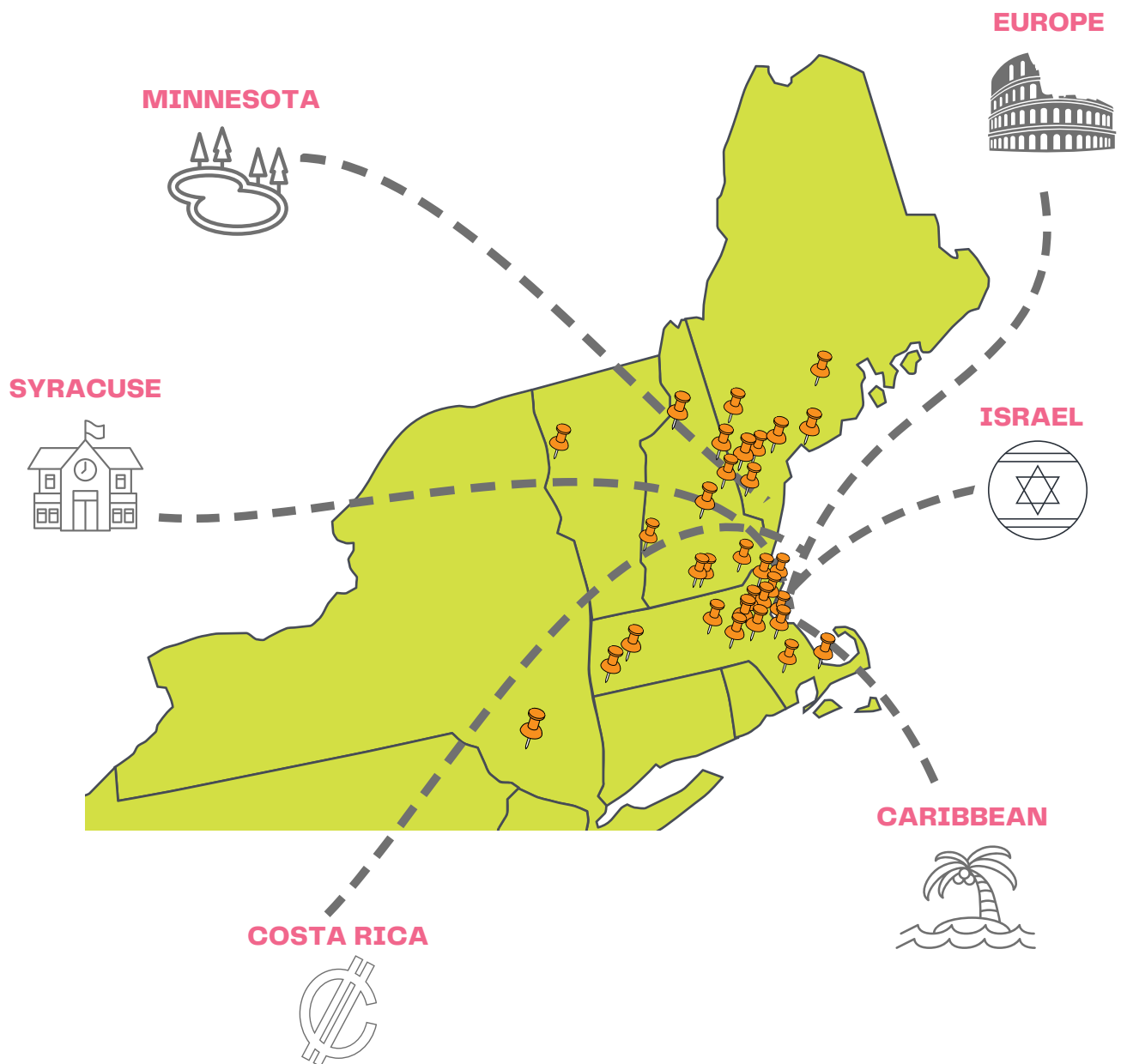
Charles River Creative Arts Program  
Cohen Camps - D'or L'Dor Israel  
Chimney Corners Camp  
Code Ninjas, Arlington  
Danforth Summer Camp  
Dexter Southfield Summer Camps  
Dream Big Hockey Stars  
Elemen-Tree House  
Everwood Day Camp  
EXPLO - Wellesley College  
Fessenden Summer Camps  
Franklin Public Schools  
Friends Camp  
Greg Carter Hockey Camp  
ID Tech  
Kingsley Pines Camp  
Land's Sake Farm Camp  
LINX Camps  
Lynnfield Recreation (SOFA)  
Maine Teen Camp  
Mass Crease Goalie Camp  
MetroRock Littleton  
MetroWest YMCA - Hopkinton  
New Art Center  
Norfolk Recreation  
North Woods Camp for Boys  
Northborough Recreation  
Northern Tier Scouts - Minnesota  
On Your Toes Dance & Theater Co.  
Pleasant Valley Camp for Girls  
School trip to Syracuse  
Summer Springboard  
URJ 6 Points Sci Tech Academy  
West Coast Connections - Costa Rica  
West End House Camp  
West End House Girls Camp  
West Suburban YMCA Chikami  
Westborough Community Education  
Weston Recreation Adventure Camp  
Yallah! Israel  
Zebra Robotics

*Further support from the Department of Mental Health, Combined Jewish Philanthropies, and Jewish Big Brothers Big sisters helped make some of last year's summer camp dreams a reality.*

# Where We Traveled

We sent **110** campers to **84** different camps.

In addition, **11** of our campers traveled to **6** unique travel and service programs.



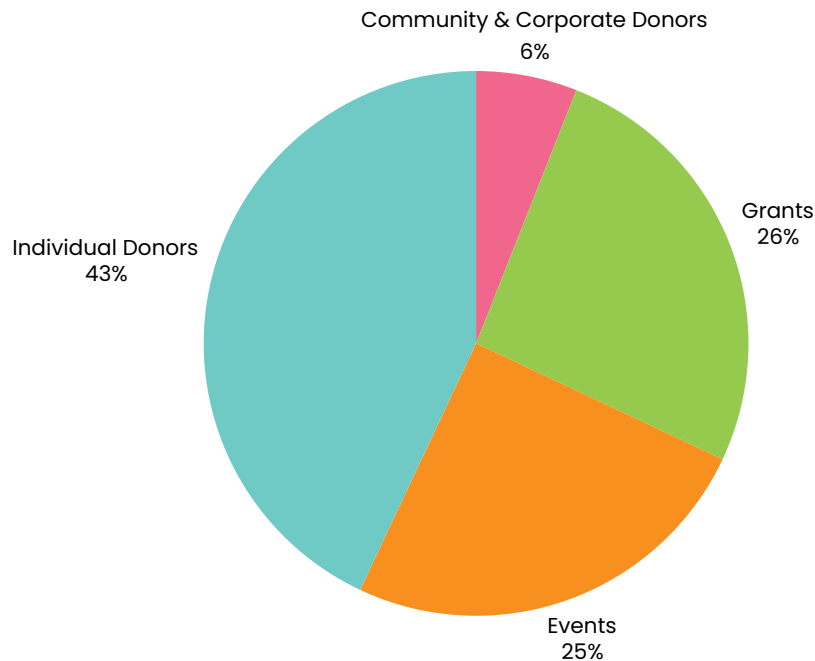
*Thank you for giving [my child] a memorable experience in Italy...one that has built a foundation for future interest and awareness of new ways of interpreting and living the world.*

- Wildflower parent

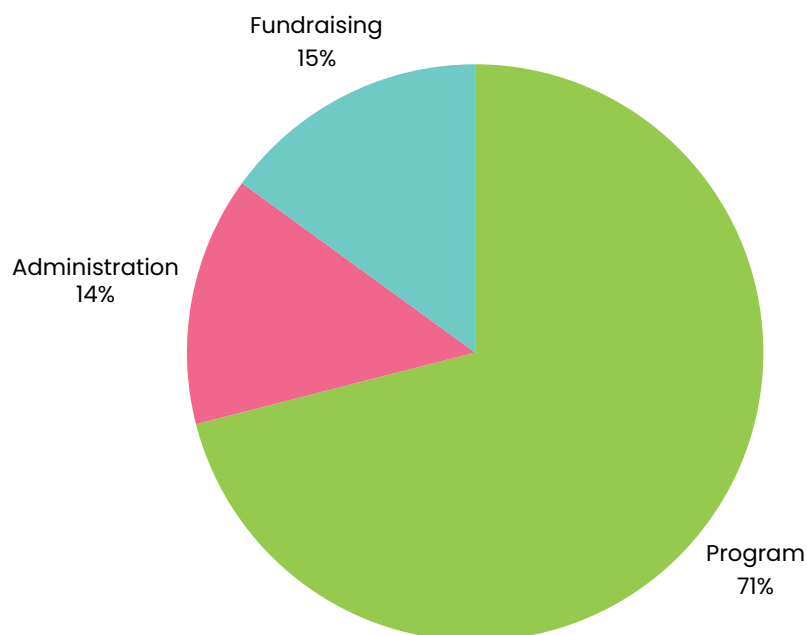
# Financials

We believe transparency is key to maintaining a positive relationship with our supporters. Here are the 2023 finances highlighting funding and expenditures. For additional financial information, please [visit our website](#).

## Revenue



## Expenses



# Thank you to our supporters

Our on-going support to bereaved children and families is possible due to many generous donors and partners. The following individuals generously gave \$500 or more in 2023.

## DONORS

Anonymous (3)

Victoria and Michael Abend

Kenny and Susan Abrams ◇

Nancy and Matthew Allen\*

Dr. Peter and Luanne Andreotti

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Ed Bell and family ◇ \*

Don and Nina Berk

Barbara Berke ◇ \*

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Stephanie Callen\*

Camp Kennebec Alumni Fund\*

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Mark Condon and Jean Hynes ◇

Carlos A. Cordeiro Family Trust ◇

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Friends of Camp Matoaka

The Gabelli Family

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Kara Hines

The Hursen Family\*

Ironside Insurance Group\*

Cyndi Jones and Steve Birnbaum ◇ \*

Marsha Jones and Gary Scardina

Reed Juckett and Lyndsay Paris ◇

Doug Kamerow and Celia Shapiro

Bob and Barbara Kayne

Erin and Patrick Kent

Matthew Kleker

◇ Donors who gave \$5,000 or more

\* Sponsor A Camper donors, a special group of donors who gave \$2,500 to support an individual camper.

Leadership Circle donors who gave \$1,000 or more





## DONORS CONTINUED

*The Kotler Family\**  
*Karen and Peter Kotzen\**  
Michael Krones  
*Jim and Silvia Kyrios*  
*Nicole Leavenworth and Brett Levy\**  
*Gail Levy* ♦ \*  
Laraine and Jeff Levy  
Amanda Lipitz  
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*Audrey and Michael Loria* ♦ \*  
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*Gail and Andy Mills*  
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*Wendy Traynor and Hal Mason*  
*Susan and Tom Turpin*  
*Mieke Van der Wansem and Steve Lanou*  
*William E. Weber and Susanne F. Weber*  
Debbie Whitehill and Howard Zaharoff  
*Denise Widman and Allan Lauer* ♦ \*  
*Simon Wieczner*  
Roz and Gari Wong  
*Christopher Woodworth*  
*Madeline Wu and Jonathan Tang*

*Working with an exceptionally  
dedicated team while helping children  
and families during a time of great  
need has truly been an honor.*

– Denise Widman, Board Member



## GRANTING ORGANIZATIONS

Agnes M. Lindsay Trust  
Anonymous  
Community Foundation for Metrowest  
Cummings Foundation  
DCU for Kids  
Eastern Bank Foundation  
George Harrington Trust  
The Hamilton Co. Charitable Foundation

Million Dollar Round Table Foundation  
The Parmenter Foundation  
Rockland Trust Charitable Foundation  
The Schrafft Charitable Trust  
The Sudbury Foundation  
Town of Lexington  
Winning Home, Inc.



Representatives from Winning Home Inc., awarding a grant to the Wildflower staff in November 2023

There is a great need in our community to support children dealing with death and loss, and our friends at Wildflower are rolling up their sleeves to help.

The Rev. John H. Finley  
*Head of School at Epiphany*

## SPONSORS



Thank you to Rodman for Kids for their continued support and partnership.



# Thank you for your ongoing support



*15 of our campers and their parents at the Bruins vs. Jets hockey game on January 22, 2024.  
Thank you to Highland Street Foundation for donating the tickets, t-shirts, and gift cards!*

## Ways to Connect

Click to follow us on social media:



Visit our website:

[www.wildflowerforkids.org](http://www.wildflowerforkids.org)

Have questions? Email us:

[info@wildflowerforkids.org](mailto:info@wildflowerforkids.org)



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