wildflower
HELPING KIDS REDISCOVER LIFE AFTER LOSS

NOVEMBER 2026

"No one can replace Mommy…though Wildflower makes it feel like she is still here sometimes"


Tom and his daughters

When their children were 8, 6, and nearly 3, Tom's beloved wife, Jenny, passed away at the age of 37. The couple had just moved into their dream home when doctors discovered two aggressive tumors in her brain; Jenny passed away less than two months after her diagnosis.

You may remember this family's story from our 2021 newsletter. After that first season of camp, Tom described a dark cloud lifting and laughter returning to their house. Every summer since, each daughter has come home from camp with an air of confidence and new skills or hobbies.

Summers have always been a cherished time in Tom's family.

A teacher by profession, Jenny's summers off made for spectacular memories exploring the beach, camping, and doing arts and crafts. With Wildflower's support, Avery, Belle, and Lily continued to enjoy healing summers through local programs at Charles River Creative Arts and Camp Grossman, as well as at Pleasant Valley Camp for Girls in New Hampshire. However, through our partnership with Rodman for Kids, the family had an experience that set the tone for this past year, as detailed in Tom's own words:


Liaison Nancy with a young Avery

It was intermission at The Outsiders play at the Citizens Opera House in the theater district in Boston, an absolute treat for the girls and me. Belle and I were both staring at the ceiling in awe and amazement at the detail of the woodwork with the multiple layers of craftsmanship.

We were feeling the vibes of the atmosphere the theater was giving off. A lot of people were dressed well and looking good for a Thursday night in the city, a school night! I wore a sweater with a collar, and the girls had spent some time picking out nice outfits and doing their hair. We were feeling theater fancy.

As we were discussing the architecture and people watching, Belle started fiddling with her ticket stub. She took a closer look, turned to me and said, *"Whoa, these tickets are expensive."* I responded, *"Yes, it is very generous. Wildflower has created some good memories for our family since Mommy passed."*

Now that Belle is 15, she is becoming more aware of the world and how it works. She looked at me again; I could tell she was working through something in her head.

"Daddy, Wildflower does a lot for us."

Her brain continued to churn. *"Since mommy has been gone, we probably wouldn't have been able to do a lot of the things we do like this play, our camps, and Lily's trip last summer, which I really want to do, please tell them,"* she continued in a hurried voice, to accentuate her point.

"It is like they aren't taking Mommy's place, but they are helping us still do the things that you and mommy would have wanted to do for us."

All I said was "*exactly*." She paused for a moment to ponder the entirety of the thought and effect on our life. I could tell she was processing her final idea in her head by the look on her face.

"No one can replace Mommy…though Wildflower makes it feel like she is still here sometimes. I don't quite know how to explain it, but do you know what I mean?"

I looked at her with one of those parental pride moments swirling in my head and simply said, *"I completely understand and agree with you Belle."*

It was a great moment of understanding for her and a deep appreciation for me, for what you guys continue to do for me as a widower with a broken heart and my girls without a mom.

Mission

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.

You Can Give Hope.
DONATE TODAY
at wildflowerforkids.org/ways-to-give/

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Impact by the Numbers: 2026 Summary

137 Campers + Parents Supported

356 Number of Camp Weeks

70 Number of Camp Partners

$417k Tuition Relief Extended

Thank You

To our donors and supporters, we thank you for making our work possible.

Special thanks to our Sustaining Sponsor

Cummings Foundation

Children's Grief Awareness

NACG NATIONAL ALLIANCE FOR CHILDREN'S GRIEF

November is Children's Grief Awareness Month, and this year's **"Flip the Script"** campaign asks all of us to rethink how we respond to childhood loss, with more empathy and more openness. Follow the campaign on Wildflower's socials to learn how you can flip the script in your own community and help grieving children feel seen, heard, and supported.

Take Action: Give Your Way

$50/mo
Two weeks of day camp

$20/mo
One week of day camp

$10/mo
Camp supplies for one camper

The Buddy System

Join our monthly giving initiative!

- **Make a big impact in measurable increments**
- **Invest in long-term healing**
- **Double your impact with matching gifts**
- **Honor a lost loved one with purpose**

SCAN TO JOIN!

The buddy system is a classic camp practice to ensure that no child has to manage obstacles alone.

Sponsor-a-Camper

Are you interested in providing a child with a truly meaningful experience? With an annual gift of $2,500, you will be carefully matched to a Wildflower camper and receive updates on their progress. The impact of these gifts is priceless. One parent wrote:

"My son grew significantly as both a person and a son. He came out of his shell, gained confidence, and developed into a stronger, more compassionate leader."



Rodman Ride



The Rodman Ride for Kids is an annual fundraiser that awards 100% of money raised by Wildflower's participants to our organization.

This year, Team Wildflower was championed by a slew of virtual riders with champion Program Coordinator, Kathy Cramer, representing the team in person!

Thank you to our sponsors, and wonderful event volunteers, especially Wildflower families!
The next Ride is Saturday, May 22, 2027!

Contact us at info@wildflowerforkids.org for more information on ways to contribute.

Introducing Our Newest Board Member



Ian Moorhouse is a seasoned executive who blends strategic vision with hands-on operational skill. Starting in company and stage management, he built a foundation in production touring, human resources, and logistics. He has since served as Chief Operating Officer at The Wheeler School, Executive Director at Hill House, and Director of Campus Programs at Dexter Southfield School, and he has held leadership roles with the American Camp Association, including Vice President and Board President. Ian is a longtime friend of Wildflower, having served on the Advisory Board for 7 years prior to joining the Board of Directors.

A coach and advocate at heart, Ian develops talent, builds strong relationships, and cultivates a culture of excellence, drawing on expertise in marketing, brand strategy, financial management, and nonprofit operations.

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