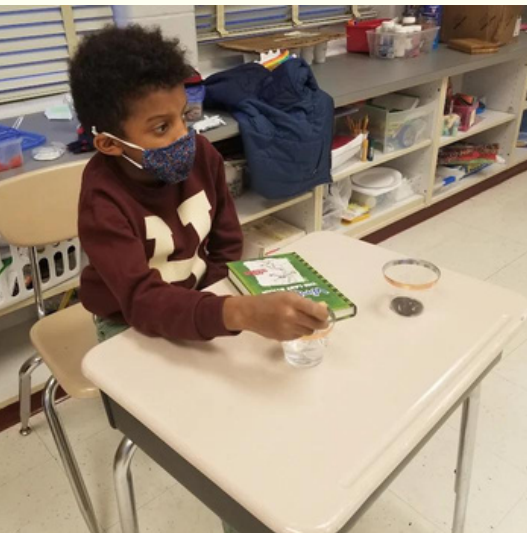


WONDERS EARLY LEARNING + EXTENDED DAY

# ANNUAL REPORT

2020-2021



Dear Wonders Family,

The 2020-2021 school year demonstrated what we already knew - we are stronger together. The trust demonstrated by families who enrolled their children in Wonders as most schools in the area remained closed, was matched by the commitment of Wonders staff who dedicated themselves to creating healthy, safe, and joyful learning environments for our children. During the 2020-2021 school year, we operated 5 of our 8 programs, each at a much-reduced capacity. We transformed 3 of our extended day programs into virtual learning hubs, which supported students while they attended school on zoom, and our 2 early learning programs created pods to limit possible exposure or transmission. Our tuition revenue in September 2020 was 20% of what it was in September 2019. Our staffing expenses were down only 40% due to ratio and health and safety requirements.

Wonders initiated a variety of tactics to ensure that we not only remained open, but emerged from this crisis stronger than before. The Wonders Board of Directors was strategic in leading the organization and the administrative team was vigorous in securing a variety of financial investments including federal loans, county grants, city grants, a foundation grant, and donations. Through careful stewardship over the years, we have managed to save a modest amount in a reserve fund. We drew upon the reserves to close the gap between tuition revenue and expenses.

While we focused on our financial stability, we were also actively engaged in sharing our stories to encourage more and permanent public investment in early care and education.

In the midst of this extremely challenging year, we paused to celebrate 45 years of Wonders! Although we couldn't get together to celebrate, we had a number of creative mini celebrations with the children – after all, they are the reason we do what we do!

Sincerely,

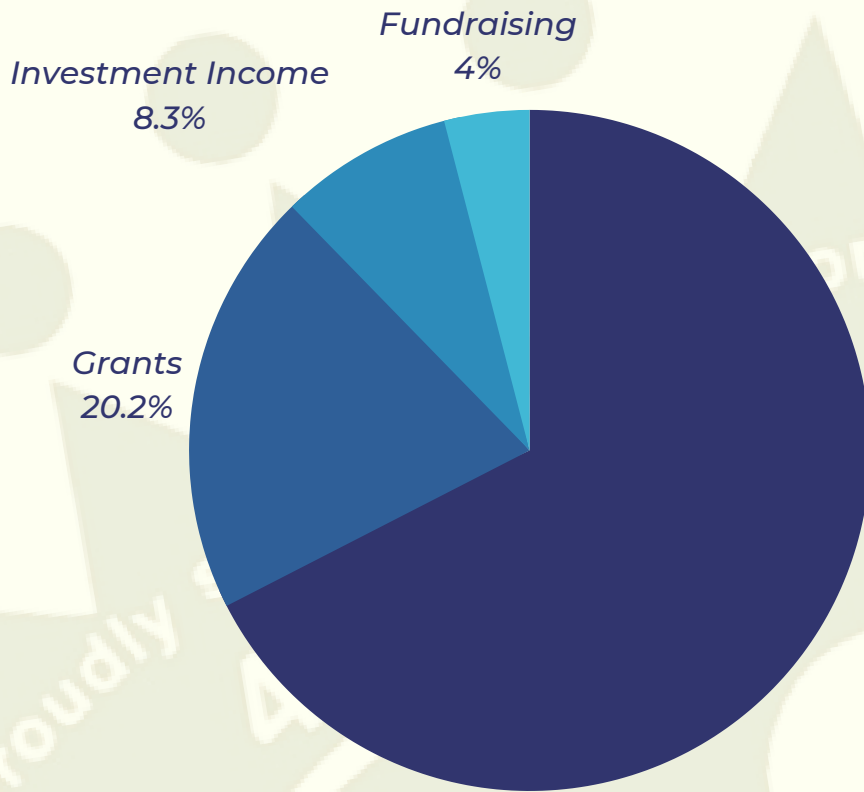


Joanne Hurt  
Executive Director



# FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

2020 - 2021



## REVENUE & SUPPORT

Tuition & Fees	\$1,534,762
Grants	\$460,656
Fundraising	\$91,976
Investment, Net	\$187,872

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<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>\$2,275,266</b>
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## PROGRAM & SUPPORTING SERVICES EXPENSES

Employee Compensation & Program Services	\$2,292,812
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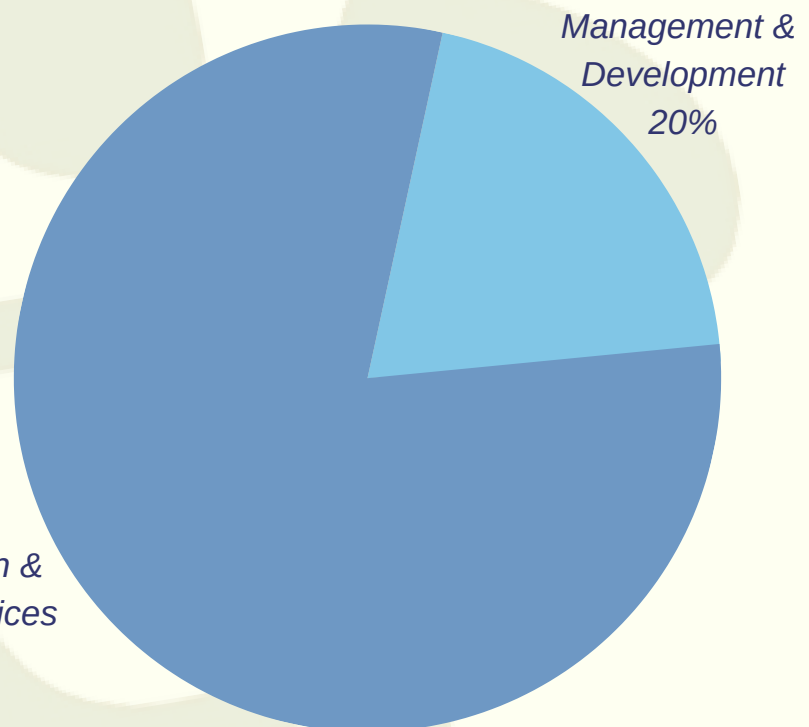
Management & General Development	\$574,917
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<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$2,867,729</b>
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Compensation & Program Services  
80%





## Equity in Early Learning (EELI)



For four years, ending in 2021, Wonders was part of a regional partnership called The Equity in Early Learning Initiative (EELI). This was a pilot program, funded by the Washington Area Women's Foundation, that sought to develop best practices around equity in all aspects of early learning. The partnership included Bright Beginnings, Briya Public Charter School, The Campagna Center, School Readiness Consulting, and Wonders. Partners sought to develop a clear agenda to elevate the DC metro area as an early learning model for exemplary work in equity leadership and social justice education at the programming, systems, local policy, and state/national advocacy levels. EELI became a critical catalyst in promoting important conversations and learning among the participating partners. As the result of our participation in the EELI Project, Wonders has strengthened its commitment to equity in education with a goal of ensuring that personal and/or social circumstances are not obstacles to any child achieving her or his potential.



Early Care & Education Funders  
**COLLABORATIVE**



**campagna center**  
*Learn. Grow. Share.*

## Professional Development Consortium



Wonders Professional Development Consortium (PDC) is a MSDE-certified training program offering continued education and career development for early childhood educators. Specialized courses encourage critical thinking and intentional teaching around the topics of relationships, equity, inclusion, and social justice. Not only is the PDC part of Wonders' organizational mission of supporting lifelong learning, it is also essential to our commitment to program quality.

## Parent + Guardian Education

Wonders PDC partners with Childhood Development Consultants (CDC) to offer parents and guardians throughout the DMV a variety of workshops on topics to encourage the healthy development of young children and their families.

[www.wonderslearning.org/professional-development-consortium/](http://www.wonderslearning.org/professional-development-consortium/)



# wonders

# STORY TIME

## Virtual Book & Live Performance Readings

**Arjun Krishnan**

*Barnes & Noble Children's Short Story Competition 2020 Winner*

**Jeffrey Robb & Caroline Lux**

*Regina is Not a Little Dinosaur & Wonder Walkers*

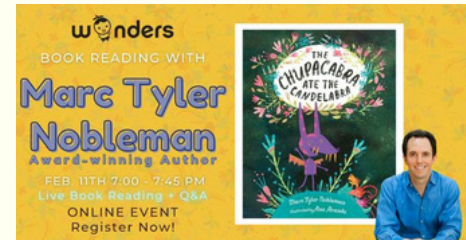


**Brendan Wenzel**

*They All Saw a Cat*

**Marc Tyler Nobleman**

*The Chupacabra at the Candelabra*

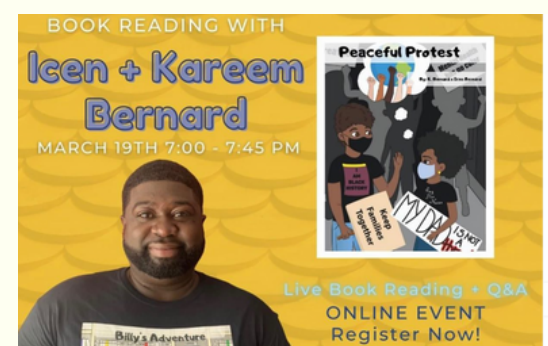
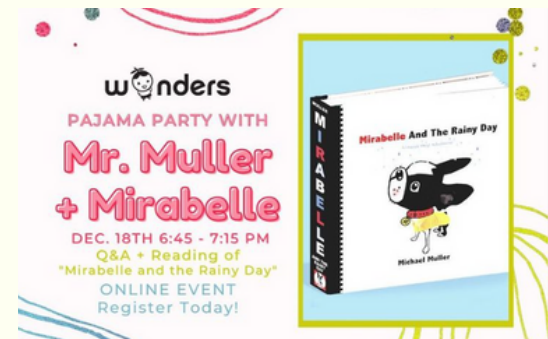
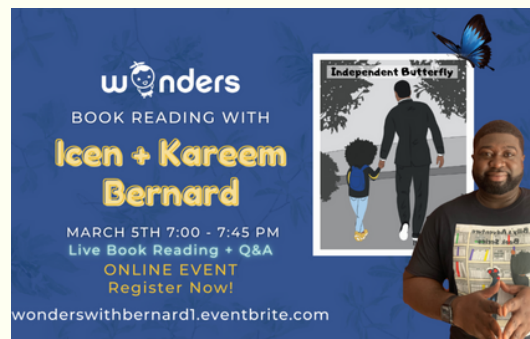
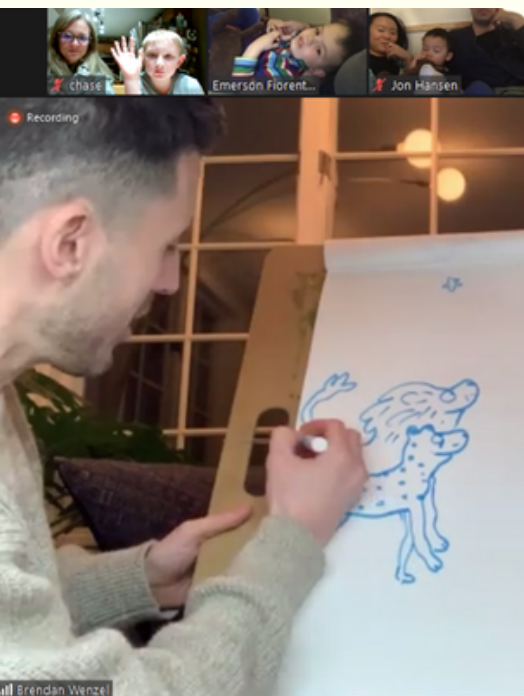
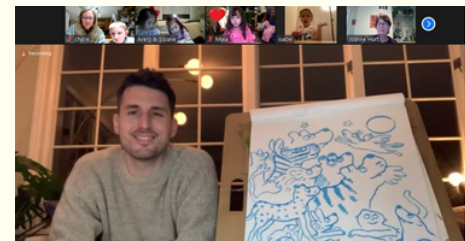


**Icen & Kareem Bernard**

*Independent Butterfly & Perfect Protest*

**Michael Muller & Mirabelle**

*Mirabelle and the Rainy Day*



## OUTCOMES:

Elevate the voices of the workforce/families  
Position Wonders to leverage new investments  
Ensure staff compensation is fair and competitive  
Strengthen corporate, nonprofit, community partnerships  
Advocate for systems that will maximize increased public investment  
Full enrollment across programs to serve maximum number of children

# Framework

**IMPACT:** To create and advance high quality, diverse educational communities that teach children the foundations of life-long learning and social responsibility.

## LOOKING FORWARD – NEW INITIATIVES IN 2021 – 2022

The Build Back Better Task Force is designed to position Wonders to respond effectively to the rapidly changing policy, funding, and service delivery landscape for early care and education. The Task Force will provide expertise, perspective, and strategic thought in crafting potential short-term, medium-term, and long-term action items for consideration by the Wonders Board of Directors and management teams.

### SHORT-TERM 6 - 12 MONTHS

Conduct a market survey to gather compensation information for our area

Research and select program quality assessment tools

Conduct advocacy training for staff and families

Review the Blueprint for Maryland's Future regulations for professional development requirements

Establish goals for Quality Rating & Improvement Systems ratings by program with input and support from staff

### MEDIUM-TERM 1 - 3 YEARS

Develop a tool to vet potential program partnerships

Implement program quality assessment tools

Promote/track advocacy by staff and families

Develop professional development tracks for educators that align with regional initiatives

### LONG-TERM 3 - 5 YEARS

Prepare for Universal PreK expansion including pay parity, staff qualifications, program standards, and curriculum

Advocate for systems that recognize the quality and values of Wonders programs

Ensure Wonders' ability to maintain existing programs and potentially expand programming

Work towards compliance with relevant federal and regional requirements to access greater public investment

As we build back better, it is a critical moment to reflect on and elevate guiding principles that have been integral to Wonders' work for the past 45 years; and envision and build new systems that replace the fragile and inadequate structures that have limited the early care and education sector for decades. Wonders Early Learning + Extended Day believes that our work - caring for and educating children - is integral to the social fabric of our community. Wonders invests in our workforce because we believe that our educators and leaders have a significant impact on how and what children learn each day and that this work deserves to be valued and respected. A strong business model, supported by a well-resourced infrastructure, will ensure an intentional learning environment that is engaged in a cycle of continuous improvement led by knowledgeable leaders and educators.



## Our Mission

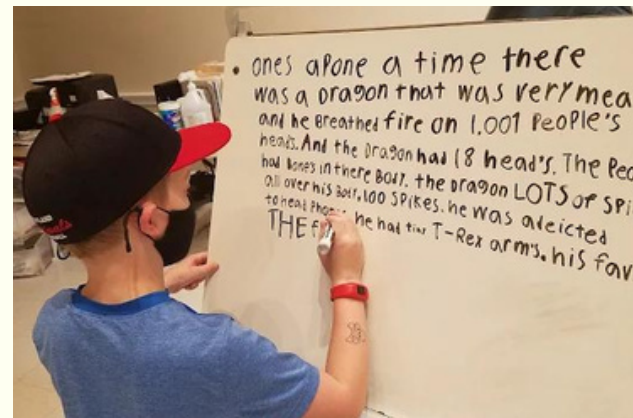
*To create and advance high quality, diverse educational communities that teach children the foundations of life-long learning and social responsibility.*

## Our Organization

Founded in 1976, the goal was to provide non-profit quality child care to working families in Chevy Chase. Since then, Wonders Early Learning + Extended Day has expanded from a single center in the basement of All Saints' Church, to multiple Early Learning, Extended Day, and Summer Camp programs in the DC Metropolitan Region. With our mission guiding our work, we strive to create a learning community that addresses the needs of children, families, and staff, which we believe creates an environment that encourages agency, creativity, and curiosity.

## Our Commitment

A vital aspect of our work is our commitment to anti-bias and social justice policies and education and our commitment to our workforce through compensation, professional development, and advocacy.





## Wonders Early Learning

*Ages 2 months - 5 years*

### Early Learning at Edgemoor

4805 Edgemoor Lane  
Bethesda, MD 20814

### Early Learning at Leland

4301 Willow Lane  
Chevy Chase, MD 20815



## Wonders Extended Day

*Ages 4 years - 6th grade*

### Extended Day at Bethesda

7600 Arlington Road  
Bethesda, MD 20814

### Extended Day at CESJDS

1901 E Jefferson Street  
Rockville, MD 20852

### Extended Day at Chevy Chase

4015 Rosemary Street  
Chevy Chase, MD 20815

### Extended Day at Horace Mann

4430 Newark Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20016

### Extended Day at Little Falls

5450 Massachusetts Avenue  
Bethesda, MD 20816

### Extended Day at Milton

6045 16th Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20011

"Wonders is a tremendous asset to our Town, providing quality early childhood education and afterschool care. Our family simply couldn't function without Wonders; we're two working parents and one very active child, who loves being with other children after school."

### Extended Day at Gesher

4800 Mattie Moore Ct  
Fairfax, VA 22030

## Wonders Summer Camp

*Ages 5 years - 6th grade*

### Wonders Summer Camp at Little Falls

5450 Massachusetts Avenue  
Bethesda, MD 20816

### Wonders Summer Camp at Horace Mann

4430 Newark Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20016

The Board of Directors governs our organization. The volunteer Board is made up of current and alumni parents, community members, and experts in the fields of education and non-profit leadership.

## Board of Directors

**Jay Johnson**  
Board President  
Executive Committee

**Mary Gross**  
Vice President  
Executive Committee,  
Governance Committee, Chair

**Bill Goldberg**  
Secretary  
Executive Committee  
Governance Committee

**Timothy Brennan**  
Treasurer  
Executive Committee  
Finance Committee, Chair

**Maurine Beasley**  
Advancement Committee

**Brandon Howard**  
Finance Committee,  
Vice Chair

**Debbie Brown**  
Advancement Committee,  
Chair

**Jane Wu Brower**  
Advancement Committee,  
Vice Chair

**Christine Menendez**  
Governance Committee,  
Vice Chair

**Mike Strollo**  
Finance Committee

**Will Hellems**  
Finance Committee

**Jessica Kelly**  
Advancement Committee

**Rosanna Taormina**  
Governance Committee

**Sharon Strauss**  
Advancement Committee

**Michelle Neuman**  
Advancement Committee

**Joanne Hurt**  
Executive Director  
Advancement Committee  
Finance Committee

"Wonders is an absolutely wonderful early childhood learning center. They helped our kids learn and grow in ways we didn't think were possible, and we are forever grateful for the experience!"

## 2020 - 2021 Donors

### \$10,000 and Up

Chris Betti & Meggie Tortoleno  
Jay Johnson & Sarah Moore Johnson  
Jeremy & Debra Brown

### \$5,000 - \$9,999

Henry & Maurine Beasley  
Jason Berman & Jennifer Smolin  
Rossetter Foundation

### \$1,500 - \$4,999

Andrew & Shannon McMahon  
Anita Padmanabhan  
Brian & Mary Gross  
David Kay & Christine Menendez  
Jessica Kelly  
Pier & Sarah Schaffer-DeRoo  
Timothy & Hilary Brennan

### \$500 - \$1,499

Adam Hess & Rebecca Hess  
Alex & Bailey Edelson  
Alfonso Encinas & Angie Chau  
Bill Goldberg & Gony Frieder Goldberg  
Brad & Tristan Goodrich  
Brian & Allie Gershen  
Changsu Kim  
David & Erica Sward  
David & Julia Whiston

David Scouras & Michelle Neuman  
Emilio Bunge  
Eric Fingerhut & Kara Stein  
Eric Fingerhut & Kara Stein  
Erin Sheppard  
Greg Weingast  
Jane Wu Brower  
Joanne Hurt  
Joel Parriott & Laurie Mignone  
Joshua & Chelsea Madden  
Justin & Kim Wollos  
Katherine Mullens  
Katy Platt  
Matthew Allen & Lindsay Garriss  
Melissa Reyes  
Michael & Michelle Strollo  
Omar Biancaniello & Fausta Corsini  
Oscar Powers  
Ruth Powers  
Saori Katlaps  
Walter & Edith Mossberg  
William & Emily Hellams

### \$250 - \$499

Brandon Howard  
Caitlin Miller  
Daniel Felton  
Fan-Li Chou  
John Bramlette  
John Fuher  
Jorge Uquillas  
Katherine O'Rourke

\*this list reflects our records prior to our recent switch to a donor management system  
for Wonders fiscal year, September 2020 - August 2021



## 2020 - 2021 Donors Continued

Katherine Smith  
Mike & Sharon Strauss  
Nicole Burroughs  
Richard & Pam Feinstein

### Friends up to \$250

Alastair Rae  
Alixandra Steier  
Andrew & Shannon McMahon  
Anne Clinton  
Ashlie Bagwell  
Belinda Wilborn  
Brain & Shannon Morrison  
Brian & Jacqueline Gelb  
Bryonie Byers  
Carole Klein  
Caroline Laub  
Cecily Baskir  
Chamanikia Davis  
Cynthia Dixon  
Daniel Chwasty  
Dylan Carson  
Eleanor Robb  
Elizabeth Morse  
Elizabeth Whisnant  
Elliot Kaye  
Emily Carrier  
Emily Helms  
Ethan Drath  
Frans Meuwissen  
Gabriel & Catherine Weiz

Gabriel Braga  
George & Mimi Hayward  
Impact Americas  
Jael Maack  
Jason Kirwan & Kimberly Gainey  
Jason Pressberg  
Jeffrey Lavine  
Jennifer Rivera  
John Pressberg  
Jonathan Siegel & Michelle Gavin  
Joshua Shakin & Nina Schichor  
Julie Marlowe  
Julien & Maud Million  
Katalin Horvath  
Ken Clark & Rosanna Taormina  
Lan Chu  
Lauren Bramlette  
Lawrence Gordon  
Leonard Laquinta  
Lori Schantz  
Louis Koplin & Alla Brukman  
Mara Bralove  
Margaret Hayward  
Mark & Susanna Montezemolo  
Missy Mandell  
Nichola Jessee  
Nick Miranda & Judy Wen  
Nicole Dobson  
Patrick & Kelly Quay  
Pia Bernardini  
Rachelle Saint-Jean

\*this list reflects our records prior to our recent switch to a donor management system  
for Wonders fiscal year, September 2020 - August 2021

## 2020 - 2021 Donors Continued

Ranz Cunanan  
Rebekah Jones  
Richard Monk  
Robert & Tami Axelrod  
Sadik Aruoba  
Saif Khan & Sarah Siddiqui  
Sallie Mitchell  
Sallie Van Tassel  
Sam & Elissa DiCarlo  
Sara Levitch  
Sarah Fradkin

Shannon Bratt  
Stacie Mann  
Stefano & Melissa Constanzi  
Suzanne Laporte  
Tamara Halle  
Tammy Trainer  
Veljko Petkovic  
Vince & Carmen Mezzera  
William & Shannon Powers  
William Bruno  
Zakia Redd

## 2020 - 2021 Corporate Partners

AMR Commercial  
Benjamin Office Supplies  
Capitol Office Solutions

## 2020 - 2021 Grants

DC Child Care Stabilization Grant  
Maryland State Department of Education Child Care Stabilization  
Maryland Workshare Grant  
Montgomery County Early Childhood Education Initiative  
Washington Area Women's Foundation Early Care and Education Funder's Collaborative

*Thank  
You*





## Annual Giving

As a non-profit, Wonders' community of supporters is key to our success. The involvement of the generous, strong, and committed Wonders family allows us to provide extraordinary opportunities for learning and discovery and to help meet emerging needs and challenges. We have 100% participation in our fundraising and community efforts from our Board of Directors and our goal is to achieve 100% participation from the entire Wonders family. Fundraising and community-building opportunities include:

### Annual Giving Campaign

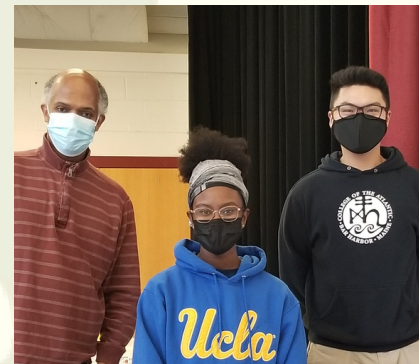
Our fall campaign supports a variety of Wonders activities, including, but not limited to, professional development, financial assistance, and program needs.

### Teachers Bonus Fund

The Teachers Bonus Fund is an annual giving campaign to fundraise for a meaningful end-of-the-year bonus for all Wonders educators. This tradition was founded by Wonders families to recognize educators' impact.

### The Circle Fund

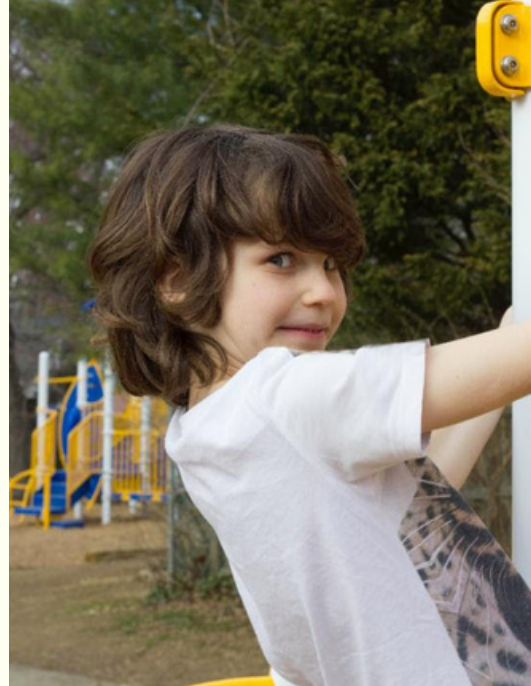
Wonders' Circle Fund provides tuition assistance to enrolled families. We aim to ensure economic diversity as well as accessibility to our programs for as many families as possible.





<b>1976</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All Saint's All Day (ASAD) opens with 8 children in one classroom</li> </ul>
<b>1984</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The first Extended Day program opens at the Chevy Chase Circle location</li> </ul>
<b>1985</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Extended Day programs begin at Chevy Chase Elementary School</li> </ul>
<b>1986</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Extended Day programs begin at Somerset Elementary School</li> </ul>
<b>1989</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A full-day early learning program opens at Leland Children's Center</li> </ul>
<b>1992</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Kindergarten Enrichment program opens at Rosemary Hills Primary School</li> </ul>
<b>1997</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Extended Day programs expanded to the North Chevy Chase Elementary School</li> </ul>
<b>1999</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Extended Day programs begin at Rosemary Hills Primary School</li> </ul>
<b>2001</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Kindergarten Enrichment and Extended Day programs begin at Bethesda Elementary School</li> </ul>
<b>2003</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The first DC-based Extended Day program opens at the Jewish Primary Day School (JPDS)</li> </ul>
<b>2004</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Extended day programs begin at Horace Mann Elementary School</li> </ul>
<b>2005</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Early Learning Center opens at Edgemoor Children's Center</li> <li>ASAD changes its name to Wonders Child Care Center</li> </ul>
<b>2009</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Edgemoor Children's Center receives its first accreditation from NAEYC</li> </ul>
<b>2010</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Wonders launches the Professional Development Consortium (PDC)</li> </ul>
<b>2013</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Wonders Extended Day at Little Falls opens, serving Wood Acres Elementary School</li> </ul>
<b>2016</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Wonders modifies its name to "Wonders Early Learning + Extended Day"</li> </ul>
<b>2019</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Wonders begins Extended Day programs at Charles E. Smith (CESJDS)</li> </ul>
<b>2020</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Wonders closes all programs in March due to the global pandemic.</li> <li>Edgemoor is the first program to reopen in June followed by Leland in August.</li> <li>Summer Camp is offered virtually.</li> <li>In September, Wonders Extended Day programs at Bethesda, Chevy Chase and Little Falls begin operating full-day Distance Learning Hubs to support children with virtual learning.</li> </ul>
<b>2021</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Wonders Celebrates its 45th Year Anniversary</li> <li>All Extended Day programs resume a modified schedule in March 2021</li> <li>Summer Camp resumed in-person</li> <li>The first Virginia-based Extended Day program opens in the Fall at the Gesher Jewish Day School</li> </ul>





**wonders**  
early learning + extended day

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Suite 530  
Bethesda, MD 20815  
(301) 654-5339  
wonderslearning.org**

