



## COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

June 2023

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June is here and with it, we are immersed in all sorts of celebrations and transitions. One of our favorite June activities is the collecting and sharing of parents' appreciative notes for Wonders educators. When families contribute to the Teacher Bonus Fund, they are offered an opportunity to share a note with their child's teachers. These messages are compiled on a weekly basis and shared with the staff. These heartfelt messages have a huge impact – the shared sense of pride and accomplishment is felt across programs and classrooms. This ripple effect reflects the far-reaching impact that so many individuals have on Wonders. We are grateful to all of you who help make Wonders a part of your lives.

Have a wonderful summer,

Joanne Hurt  
Executive Director

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### Wonders Board of Directors

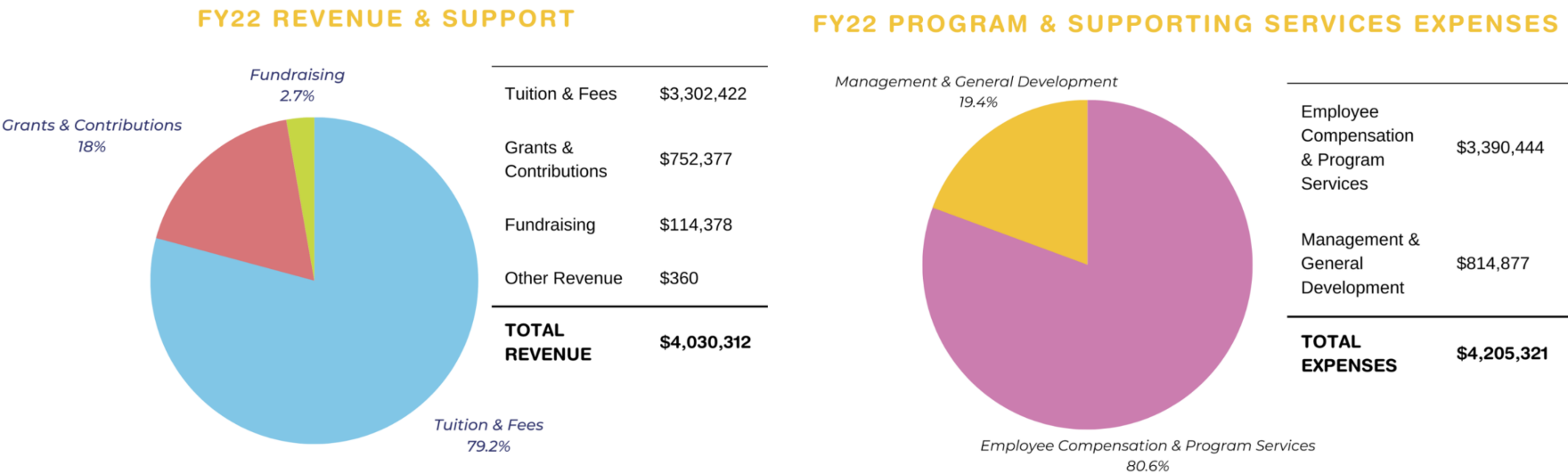
Thank you for your service!

We would like to extend our gratitude to the Wonders Board of Directors for their leadership and dedication to the governance of our organization. As a nonprofit, the Board of Directors is responsible for the fiduciary oversight of Wonders as well as leading the strategy and planning for the future. This volunteer Board is generous with their time and expertise and Wonders is all the stronger for it. **Thank you to this year's members:**

- |                                     |                     |                        |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------|------------------------|
| • Mary Gross, President             | • Shana Bartley     | • LaDon Love           |
| • Kristen Darling, Vice President   | • Franca Brilliant  | • Michelle Neuman      |
| • Timothy Brennan, Treasurer        | • Debbie Brown      | • Farrell Rodd         |
| • Christine Menendez Kay, Secretary | • Richard Callaghan | • Sarah Schaffer-DeRoo |
|                                     | • Courtney Cason    | • Kara Stein           |
|                                     | • Colin Jones       | • Judy Wen             |

We want to give a special thank you to the three Board members whose terms are ending in August: Christine Menendez Kay, Debbie Brown, and Michelle Neuman.

FY22 in Review  
2022 - 2023 Financial Report



Teachers Bonus Fund  
Thank You!

We are grateful to all of our wonderful families and community members who have generously contributed to our Teachers Bonus Fund campaign. Thanks to you, Wonders educators received end of year bonuses to thank them for another year of learning and caring.



We Appreciate You  
Thank you for your support!

The Wonders community demonstrated its commitment to our mission and this year by investing in Wonders. Thank you to all who contributed to our work – your gifts have a meaningful impact!

## 2022 -2023 Donors

Christine L. Abrams  
Tigist Adulala  
Matthew Allen  
Diana Alvord  
Anthony's Coal Fired Pizza  
Tami & Robert Axelrod  
Ashlie Bagwell  
Shana Bartley  
Cecily Baskir  
Corey Beasley  
Maurine & Henry Beasley  
Becker-Bollom Family  
Bishop Family  
Blue Mash Golf Course  
Sandra Blumenrath  
Amy Blumenstein  
Caryn & Chris Bohac  
Patrick Bollom  
Bond-Osius Family  
Julia Borman  
Boveja-Chan Family  
Meredith Bowers  
Laurel Bradley  
Bramlette Family  
Timothy Brennan  
Franca Brilliant  
Bridget Broullire  
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Cava Mezze  
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Anne Clinton  
Brian & Lauren Coblitz  
Joshua Cohen

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Pam & Richard Feinstein  
Eric Fingerhut & Kara Stien  
Jennie Fogarty  
Forester Family  
Fragale Family  
Nicole Fragano  
Carolina Freitas  
Peter Fristedt  
Frost Family  
John Fuher  
Jennifer Galvin  
Gaylord National Resort &  
Convention Center  
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Goldfarb Family  
Aileen & Adi Goldstein  
Tristan Goodrich  
Dan & Jenn Gordon  
Mary Gross  
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Haruka Han  
Tracy & Simon Han  
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Kendra Scott  
Jeff Kim  
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Laura Lytle  
Josh & Chelsea Madden  
Malcolm Family  
Martineau Family  
Mirai & Jan Mauro  
Timothy McCann  
Bitu McManus  
Dallan McManus  
Mendez Family  
Christine Menendez Kay  
Walter Mesia  
Audrey Metzler  
Frans Meuwissen  
Vince Mezzera  
Michelle Newman-Lomasky  
Xiaoxia Michelson  
Laurie Mignone & Joel Parriott  
Cait Miller and Kristian  
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Walter & Edith Mossberg  
Frank & Katherine Mullens  
Jennifer Murphy  
Jenny Murphy  
Gina Ney  
Caroline Nguyen  
Noushin Niknafs  
Beth O'Boyle  
Sibel Oktay & Hakan Karagul  
Kaite O'Rourke  
Edwin Ortiz Quiles  
Kristalee Overdahl  
Padmanabhan Marston  
Family  
Anne Patterson  
Lisa & Anderson Pau  
Dana & Aki Peritz  
Maureen Perkins  
Politics and Prose Bookstore  
Oscar & Ruth Powers

Rachelle Saint Jean  
Saleela Salahuddin & Blake  
Johnson  
Sandy Spring Adventure Park  
Charlie & Lucy Saval  
Sarah Schaffer-DeRoo & Pier  
DeRoo  
Scheipers Family  
Amy Scheithauer  
Schwartzman Family  
Sarah Siddiqui  
Jon Siegel & Michelle Girvan  
William Singer  
Sara, Manish & Shai Singla  
Rebecca Slatin  
Katherine Smith  
Kendria Smith  
Jennifer Smolin & Jason  
Berman  
Ailea Sneller  
Brian Sonfield  
Eva Stark  
Lauren Starks  
Michelle Stephenson & Joe  
Roswarski  
Ari Strait  
Sharon Strauss  
Matt Taffi  
Target  
Emily Tasman  
Ryan Thomas  
Total Wine & More  
Patricia Truitt  
Truitt-Otero Family  
Heidi Ullmann  
Jorge Uquillas  
Urueta Family  
Holly Van Puymbroeck  
Jason Veny  
Dana Vorisek  
Emily Wack  
Zach Wagner  
Wagner Family  
Washington Nationals

Mary Connelly	Jason Kleinman	Shannon Powers	Basebell Club
Justin Connor	Deborah Kobes	Kelly & Patrick Quay	Hillary Webster
Anne Continetti	Kornbluth Family	Seth Rappaport	Wechslers Family
Melissa Costanzi	Amy Kossak	Sandeep Ravindran	Adam Wegner
Cricutry Crafts	Chad Kurtz	Valerie Reed	Cat & Gabel Weisz
Brooke Currie	Lakeshore Learning Materials	Tom Reilly	Jess Weliwitigoda
Dandzurovski family	Amanda Langer	Jennifer Rittberg	Jonathan Wellborn
Kristen Darling	Nadou Lawson	Eleanor Robb	Judy Wen
David Givens	Jason Levin	Farrell Rodd & Jay Kelly	Brenda Werth
Delali Dedo	Levine Family	Ana Rodriguez Larreta	Darrah Weston
Laurie Desai	Ronitte Libedinsky	John Rowan	May Wheelwright
Lisa Devlin	Sarah Lopez	Emily Ruda	Elizabeth Whisnant
Emily Early	LaDon Love	S&S Worldwide	Julie & Dave Whiston
Eckstein Family	Wes Loyd	Nick Sadoski	Phoebe Zimmermann

### 2022 -2023 Grants and Sponsorships

Greater Washington Community Foundation Children's Opportunity Fund  
 Montgomery County Collaboration Council  
 Buchanan Partners  
 NFP Meltzer Group Inc.  
 Operations Inc.  
 Rodgers Consulting

#### A Wonderful First Year Thank You Murch and SWW-FS!

As we approach the end of the school year, we want to thank School Without Walls-Francis Stevens and Murch Elementary School for welcoming us into their communities. We are grateful to all of our teachers, parents, and students who have helped make this inaugural year fun and memorable. We look forward to reconnecting with Wonders families and welcoming new families in the upcoming school year.

#### Saying Farewell Wonders at Little Falls

This June concludes our time serving the families of the Wood Acres and Little Flower communities at Little Falls. We want to express our appreciation for the wonderful, lasting relationships we have formed with our families, students, and community members during the past three years. We also want to express our deep appreciation to St. Dunstan’s Church, and in particular Rev. Patty Alexander, for the many years of partnership.

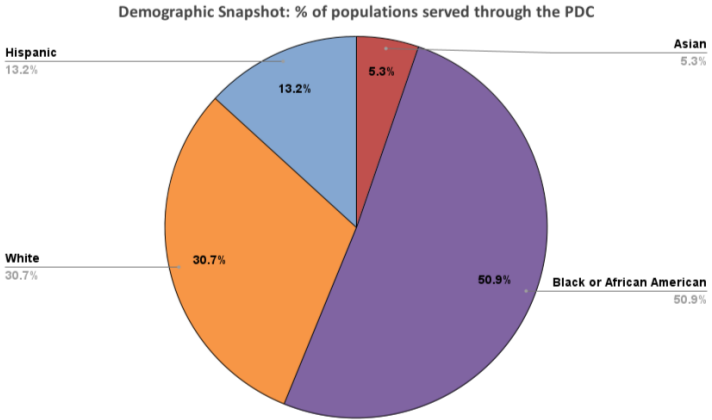
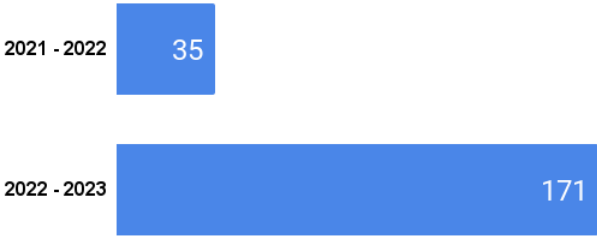




**Investing in the Workforce**  
Enhancing Skills and Knowledge

This school year, Wonders Professional Development Consortium facilitated a **comprehensive program for professional growth**. Through the PDC, Wonders educators completed 18 - 24 hours of professional training, enhancing their skills and knowledge to benefit the children and families of Wonders programs and grow their skills as educators. In addition to benefiting Wonders educators, the PDC extended its reach to provide professional development opportunities to meet the needs of the wider educational community. Through the PDC, a total of 120 regional educators participated in our Professional Development Workshop Series, a series of 11 virtual workshops led by PDC trainers, and successfully hosted the Intentional Out-of-School-Time Environments Conference for 30 Maryland educators who each completed 6 hours of training in a day dedicated to skill-building and professional growth. **This year was a remarkable opportunity to foster collaboration and learning within our professional community.**

Number of Educators who Registered for a PDC Workshop



**Increasing Teacher-Trainers**  
Welcome Lori and Lushonda!

We are excited to announce that Wonders Professional Development Consortium (PDC) has **welcomed two newly appointed MSDE Associated Trainers to our PDC team!** We want to extend our warm congratulations to Lori Schantz, Wonders Program Director at CES, and Lushonda Okoli, M.Ed. In the fall of 2022, Lushonda and Lori were selected from a pool of applicants to participate in the PDC Equity Teacher-Trainer Initiative, a year-long grant-funded program aimed at providing guidance and the tools to become certified trainers. Lori and Lushonda each bring over 15 years of experience in the ECE field and their expertise and knowledge will help

build our library of high-quality training workshops for Maryland early childhood and extended day educators. **Congratulations, Lori and Lushonda!**

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## Ready for Summer!

June 21, first day of Camp



The poster for Wonders Summer Camp 2023 features a blue background with a sun, clouds, and a group of diverse children smiling. At the top, it says "wonders Summer Camp 2023" with a butterfly and a panda icon. Below that, it says "JUNE 20 - AUG 4". A red button with a mouse cursor says "ENROLL NOW". To the right, a white box contains the following text: "FULL-DAY CAMP 7:30a - 6:00p", "Themed Camp Weeks", "Field Trips", "Daily Planned Activities", "TWO LOCATIONS", "Bethesda ES Bethesda, Maryland", "Horace Mann ES NW Washington, DC", "CONTACT US:", "Summer Camp Coordinator, Gerald Bolden at (301) 654-7914", "gbolden@wonderslearning.org", and "WONDERSLEARNING.ORG/SUMMERCAMP". A yellow speech bubble says "We look forward to seeing you this summer!". A yellow circle with a sun icon says "RISING K - 6TH GRADE".

## Family Resources

Check these out!

### Brain-Building Through Play

Activities for Children of all Ages

"From infancy on, play is an important part of a child's life...Through games and playful activities, children can practice and strengthen important executive function skills that will help them throughout their lives, including learning to focus their attention, strengthening their working memory, and developing basic self-control..." [Read and Download the Activities Handout Series Here.](#)

### A Very Asian Guide to Indian Food

Newly published Children's Book

Julie Ajinkya, a Wonders at Murch parent, recently published a children's book: [A Very Asian Guide to Indian Food!](#) Written to inspire children and their families to explore Indian cuisine. [Find Julie's book on Amazon and Kindle!](#)

## Sneak Peek

## Community Events

### Early Learning Trike-a-Thon

Fall 2024

Our early learning centers will host a Trike-a-Thon event to benefit Hope for Henry, a local nonprofit focused on meeting the needs of children facing critical illness. The Trike-a-Thon is a Wonders tradition teaching children that they can make a positive difference in another child's life. [Learn more about Hope for Henry.](#)

### A Wider Circle Family Day

February 2024

We are looking forward to Wonders' Family Day at A Wider Circle, where Wonders families and community members come together for a day dedicated to service. This annual event, celebrates positive community impact and shared responsibility. [Learn more about A Wider Circle.](#)

### Politics and Prose Bookfair

March 2024

Mark your calendars, and join us on March 18, 2024 for another Wonders' Book Fair at Politics and Prose Bookstore, 20% of all in-store purchases will be donated back to Wonders and families will have an opportunity to help grow their program and classroom libraries with on-site book donations.

### Wonderspalooza

Spring 2024!

**We are excited to announce that Wonderspalooza will be making its highly anticipated return in Spring 2024!** This community event, hosted by Wonders, is designed to provide a fun-filled, carnival day for Wonders families, friends, and community members to enjoy together. Stay tuned to our newsletters for further updates, volunteer opportunities, and specifics regarding Wonderspalooza!

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### Enroll in Wonders

2023 - 2024 School Year!

Wonders is accepting enrollment for the 2023-2024 school year! Please help us spread the word by sharing information about Wonders with your communities. [For more information, visit our website!](#)



Serving children Pre-k -  
Grade 8 in locations  
across the DMV

Our mission informs all of  
our work and guides us in  
**creating high-quality,  
safe, and responsive**  
learning environments  
for children.



**Enroll Today!**

CONTACT US  
(301) 654- 5339  
info@wonderslearning.org

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



- \* Before School and After School Programs
- \* Full Day Care when schools are closed
- \* Half-Day Care on early dismissal days

Join us with a contribution today!

Teaching children through play and a nurturing and diverse community.  
[Make a donation today to ensure access to quality care and education.](#)

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**Our Contact Information**

\*{{Organization Name}}\*

\*{{Organization Address}}\*

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