



COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

December 2024

A core value of our work is the belief that educating and caring for children is vital and meaningful. As a result, Wonders holds a deep commitment to empowering our educators and caregivers to build careers and grow professionally. This commitment extends beyond Wonders through our advocacy to voice the needs of the sector. I serve on the Leadership Group of Montgomery Moving Forward (MMF), a cross-sector collective impact group. Over the past 18 months, MMF has focused its work on the early care and education workforce and has generated six [recommendations](#) to strengthen the early care and education system. MMF is seeking your engagement to strengthen the ECE workforce by calling for a creative, collaborative, and resourced solution to systemic challenges. Sign the statement below to voice your support for their crucial advocacy efforts.

“Together, we – business, education, government, nonprofits, and philanthropy – urgently believe our economy and our children depend upon a strong Early Care and Education workforce that is qualified, culturally responsive, and adequately compensated.”

Sign on opportunity is linked [here](#).

Wonders has always been strengthened by its community, and we appreciate all of you! We wish everyone in our community a happy holiday season and all the best for 2025!

Joanne Hurt
Executive Director

wonders 2024 ANNUAL GIVING CAMPAIGN

Donate Today



As a non-profit organization, Wonders depends on tax-deductible contributions to enhance our capacity and strengthen the impact of our work. **The Wonders Annual Giving Campaign celebrates our shared commitment to providing high-quality care and education to children and families throughout the year.** Join us in making a difference by contributing by December 31, 2024! **Thank You!**

Wonders Highlights



2024 Montgomery County Early Care and Excellence Nominees:

We're excited to share that Elena Campo (Lead Teacher, Edgemoor) and Ebony Ellis (Program Manager, Wonders Extended Day) were nominated for the 2024 Montgomery County Early Care and Excellence Award! Community members submit nominations to recognize Montgomery County educators for their dedication, hard work, and exceptional teaching. **Thank you to those who submitted nominations for Elena and Ebony! This recognition is a testament to the contributions both Elena and Ebony make daily for the families at Wonders.**





A Wider Circle Good Karma Holiday Drive:

Thank you to our early learning families for contributing to Wonders' Canned Food Drive for A Wider Circle's Good Karma Holiday Program. **Your donations of canned goods and shelf-stable items helped restock the food pantry and support families in our community this holiday season.** To learn more about A Wider Circle and its additional needs, please visit their [website](#)!



Wonders Professional Development Center (PDC) Highlight:

Wonders Programs Directors and Assistant Directors participated in an engaging leadership training workshop titled "Leading with Purpose: Exploring Leadership Styles and Accountability in Early Childhood Programs." This workshop, facilitated by Artful Education Consulting, focused on examining different leadership styles and how they influence our work. Participants reflected on their roles as leaders, the ways they lead, and how they can foster environments that promote effective learning and teamwork among their staff.

Register for Summer Camp!

We are excited to announce that registration for Wonders Summer Camp is open! **Wonders Summer Camp offers enriching experiences designed to spark children's creativity, curiosity, empathy, and joy.** Our camp leaders plan engaging, cognitive-rich activities that complement our focus on social and emotional development. Get ready for an amazing summer!

Summer Camp Details:

- **Schedule:** Weekly sessions, June 16 - August 8, 2025
- **Hours:** Monday - Friday, 7:30 AM - 6:00 PM
- **Age Group:** Rising Kindergarteners to 12 years old
- Activities include weekly themed camp sessions, weekly field trips, hands-on, cognitive-rich activities, and more!

To learn more and register, visit wonderslearning.org/summercamp. If you have any questions, please email us at summercamp@wonderslearning.org.



Community Spotlights



Wonders Board Reunion

In November, Wonders held its third annual Board Reunion. This gathering celebrated the leadership and dedication that have contributed to Wonders' ongoing sustainability and growth, reinforcing a Board legacy of community and connection. **A special thank you to Debbie and Jeremy Brown for hosting Wonders in their home.** We would also like to express our gratitude to **Total Wine & More** for their generous in-kind donation of Winery Direct Wines.



Ribbon Cutting at Leland

This past November, we gathered at Wonders Early Learning Center at Leland for a ribbon-cutting ceremony and tour of our facility. It was a wonderful occasion to celebrate the recent upgrades to our learning environment made

possible by the generous support of the Town of Chevy Chase. A special thank you to Mayor Irene Lane for joining us for this special event!



Andy and Julie Klingenstein Family Fund

On behalf of the Wonders team, we would like to express our heartfelt gratitude to the Andy and Julie Klingenstein Family Fund for their generous grant of \$30,000. This funding will help us deliver high-quality early care and education and support essential services and resources that directly benefit children and families throughout the school year. Thank you!

Insightful Articles + Helpful Resources



[“Why Trust is Key to High-Performing Teams,”](#) Simon Sinek



[“Climate-Resilient Parenting campaign of the Positive Parenting Newsfeed,”](#) a Child Trends project.



[“Teaching and Modeling Gratitude in Elementary School,”](#) by Livia Chan. Edutopia.

GIVE BACK WITH MINTED THIS HOLIDAY SEASON

Looking for a simple way to support Wonders while planning your holiday greetings? Use our exclusive promo code **FUNDRAISEWELED** for 20% off your Minted holiday cards and gifts. 15% of your purchase will go back to Wonders!



Upcoming Events



PEP Family Resiliency Webinar

The Parent Encouragement Program will sample their Family Resilience Program, an 8-week online course designed to support parents in building mental health resilience for their children while enhancing parenting skills.

Date: Wednesday, January 15, 2025

Time: 1:00 - 2:00 P.M.

Register Here: [BIT.LY/3V0GLT0](https://bit.ly/3V0GLT0)



January Virtual Parent + Caregiver Workshop

Topic: Terrific Transitions from Start to Finish

Date: Friday, January 17, 2025

Time: 1:00 - 2:00 P.M.

Register Here: <http://bit.ly/3VBuRFA>



February Virtual Parent + Caregiver Workshop

Topic: Self-Regulation: Strategies that Support Development in Young Children

Date: Friday, February 21, 2025

Time: 1:00 - 2:00 P.M.

Register Here: <https://bit.ly/3VAIWES>



Save the Date! Join us on March 3, 2025

Join us on March 3, 2025, for a special presentation by [Micheal Thompson](#), Ph.D., co-author of “Raising Cain: Protecting the Emotional Life of Boys.” With over thirty-five years of experience, Thompson will address the emotional struggles boys face today and explore what they need that they are not receiving. This presentation will provide insights into the challenges boys encounter in school and guidance for parents on fostering emotional awareness and empathy. Stay tuned for more details!

Wishing you a wonderful holiday season
and a happy New Year!

Teaching children through play and a nurturing and diverse community.

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