



COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

January 2025

We've had a snowy start to the year, bringing closures, delays, and creative flexibility. Snow days often challenge work-life balance, but they also remind us how important child care is for working families. The recent [Child Care and the Economy Report](#) from the Maryland Comptroller's Office highlights the integral role child care has, especially for working mothers. While the report is specific to Maryland, it highlights national concerns around affordability, capacity, and investment in the child care workforce.

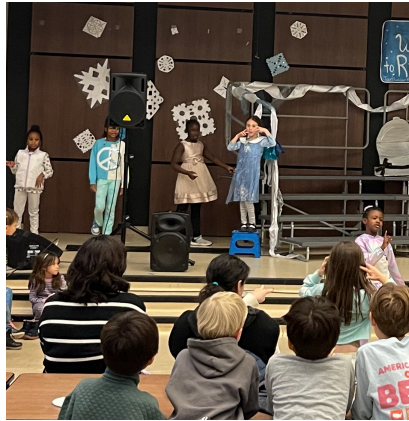
Strong leadership is necessary for finding meaningful solutions to the fragile system of care in our country. Wonders has always been fortunate to have continuous strong Board leadership which is critical to our sustainability and high quality. Wonders is currently seeking board candidates from a wide variety of backgrounds to serve three-year terms on its Board of Directors (beginning fall 2025). We aim to ensure that the Wonders board reflects the diverse perspectives of the families, staff, and communities we serve. We welcome interest from folks who have a wide range of lived experiences, a commitment to equitable practices in governance, and a passion for the Wonders mission of creating and advancing high quality, diverse educational communities that teach children the foundations of life-long learning and social responsibility. If you are interested in learning more about Wonders Board service, please contact Franca Brilliant, franca.brilliant@gmail.com.

Joanne Hurt
Executive Director

Annual Giving - Thank You!

Wonders Early Learning + Extended Day extends our gratitude to our community, including current families, alumni, grandparents, grandfriends, former board members, and friends of Wonders, for their support and belief in our mission. Your contributions to our Annual Giving Campaign strengthen our investment in high-quality childcare programs that children love, and parents depend upon. Thank you for ensuring that Wonders continues to Strive, Build and Thrive!

Program Highlights



Winter Wonderland

Winter Wonderland is an annual favorite for many of our Extended Day families. The students are the directors, scriptwriters, artists, actors, and musicians who create a magical night for families. Our Horace Mann and Bethesda locations held their showcases before winter break. We can't wait to share the excitement and fun at Chevy Chase's January showcase!



Holiday Cheer

Our Early Learning staff kicked off the holiday season with a heartwarming gathering filled with joy and camaraderie! They played games, exchanged thoughtful gifts, and shared plenty of laughs, all while enjoying each other's company at Guapo's Restaurant. This wonderful time together helped strengthen the bond between our team.



Staff Updates

We are excited to announce leadership changes at Wonders at Chevy Chase. Gerald Bolden, Program Director, will expand his role as Wonders Instruction Specialist and Workforce Development Trainer, dividing his time across all Extended Day programs. With over 20 years of experience, Gerald will continue mentoring educators and offering curriculum guidance, as well as conducting professional development workshops.

We are also pleased to announce Eryn Mitchell as the new Program Director at Chevy Chase. Eryn, who began at Wonders as a student teacher from Howard University, has demonstrated outstanding leadership as Assistant Director under Gerald's mentorship for the past two years.

This transition is another example of Wonders' commitment to professional development and strengthening our mission.

Register for Summer Camp!

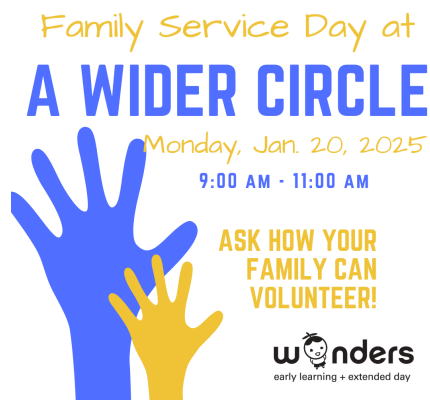
Register for Summer Camp! Wonders Summer Camp offers enriching experiences designed to spark children's creativity, curiosity, empathy, and joy. Our camp leaders plan engaging, cognitive-rich activities that complement our focus on social and emotional development. Get ready for an amazing summer!

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 Spotlight



Martin Luther King Jr. Day

We will observe **Martin Luther King Jr. Day** on **January 20, 2025**, by volunteering at A Wider Circle for our annual Family Service Day. This service-learning event brings the Wonders community together to do our part to help put

an end to poverty in the DMV area. It also provides children a learning opportunity as they see how their actions help others and builds connections in the community.

Workshops & Talks



January Virtual Parent + Caregiver Workshop

Topic: Terrific Transitions from Start to Finish

Getting young children from Point A to Point B is often easier said than done, especially when time is of the essence, like in the morning before work! Come learn tried and true strategies for getting little ones out of the house in the morning or to bed at night with fewer tears and less stress.

Date: Friday, January 10, 2025

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

Learn More + Register Here: bit.ly/4fVoAMh

A flyer for the Family Resiliency Program Workshop. At the top is the logo for 'pep + wonders' with the tagline 'early learning + extended day'. Below the logo is the title 'Family Resiliency Program Workshop' and the date/time 'January 15, 2025 at 1:00 - 2:00 PM (via Zoom)'. The flyer is divided into sections: 'WHAT' (Join our friends from PEP - the Parent Encouragement Program, as they present a short sample workshop of their PEP Family Resiliency Program. You will engage in learning a few practical tools that you can practice in your everyday life.), 'TOOLS' (Improving motivation by strengthening your connection with your child, Reflective listening, The value of developing routines and rituals), and 'WHO' (This workshop is open to families and care providers with children enrolled in MCPS programs.). At the bottom, there is a registration link 'REGISTER HERE: BIT.LY/3VOGLTO', a QR code, and a 'SCAN QR CODE' button. The footer contains the website addresses 'WWW.PEPPARENT.ORG | WWW.PEP-FRP.ORG | WWW.WONDERSLEARNING.ORG'.

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: 12:00 - 1:00 P.M.

Register Here: bit.ly/3VOGIT0



February Virtual Parent + Caregiver Workshop

Topic: *He Can Hear: Why Doesn't He Listen? Discover the Mysteries of Auditory Processing*

Date: Friday, February 21, 2025 via Zoom

Time: 1:00 - 2:00 PM

Register here: <https://bit.ly/3PtU6q3>

This workshop will be hosted by Child Development Consultants.



Save your seat! Join us on March 3, 2025

Join us on March 3, 2025, for a special presentation by [Michael 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.

Date: March 3, 2025 at 7pm

Location: St. Dunstan's Church, 5450 Massachusetts Ave, Bethesda, MD 20816

Register here: mthompsonphdatwonders.eventbrite.com

Teaching children through play and a nurturing and diverse community.

[Make a donation today to ensure access to quality care and education.](#)

Follow Us On Social Media



Contact Us

{{Organization Name}}

{{Organization Address}}

{{Organization Phone}}

{{Organization Website}}

{{Unsubscribe}}