



COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

November 2025

It is pretty safe to say that it has been a stressful fall for our local community. The political and economic landscape has contributed to varying levels of uncertainty that have impacted many families. Wonders has been helping families navigate the effects of the federal shutdown with flexibility and support. We have offered learning opportunities with parent education workshops on topics such as managing parental stress and better understanding and handling challenging behaviors. Additionally, we have been creating spaces to come together as a community.

This newsletter highlights some of the ways that Wonders teaches the importance of community and social responsibility. Teaching children the value of individual and collective responsibility for one another is also building the characteristics that support resilience, gratitude, and hope.

As we enter the season that celebrates gratitude, we are grateful to everyone in our community. Wonders is a caring community for which I am incredibly grateful to be a part of.

Sincerely,

Joanne Hurt
Executive Director



Program Highlights



Celebrating Community

Now that the school year is fully underway, our programs are finding fun ways to bring families together to continue to build the valuable partnership shared between Wonders and families. Early Learning classrooms have been enjoying fall family picnics, while Extended Day programs have hosted fall festivals and family game nights, complete with games and activities the children enjoy after school, including the always-popular Bingo. These events give parents a chance to deepen the connection with their children's educators and caregivers, as well as with other families. Coming together to play and have fun is central to building a caring community.

Teaching Social Responsibility Through Community Giving

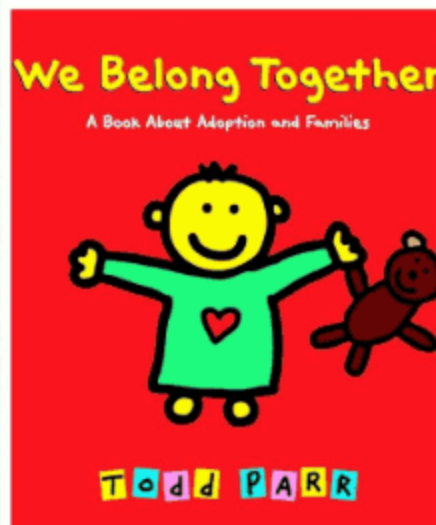
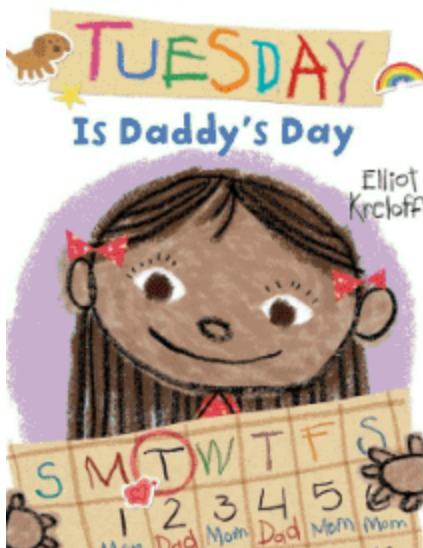
The Wonders mission is to teach children the foundations of life-long learning and social responsibility. We define social responsibility as acting individually or collectively to contribute to the good of the community. There are many opportunities to learn and practice these concepts in our classrooms and programs, but it is especially meaningful learning when we join efforts taking place in our broader community. Currently, several of our programs are helping neighbors in need by holding food drives.

- **Edgemoor and Leland Early Learning Centers are supporting the B-CC Regional Services and Bethesda Urban Partnership.** ([learn more](#))
- **Bethesda Extended Day is hosting a food and toiletry drive for the National Center for Children and Families (NCCF).** ([learn more](#))
- **John Francis Extended Day is collecting for the John Francis Education Campus food pantry.**

These efforts not only provide vital support during this time of need, as the holiday season approaches, they also offer children and families an opportunity to actively contribute to the good of the community. If you have any questions or would like to contribute, please reach out to the program directors at each site.

We Are Family

Ndara G. Miles, Early Learning EELI Specialist



The preschool years are a critical time for children to begin to understand the world around them, and learning about families plays a central role in that process. When children are encouraged to share about their own families, it fosters a sense of belonging and pride in their identity. It also helps them recognize and respect the diverse family structures and traditions that exist, promoting empathy and inclusivity from a young age.

By learning about the unique ways families celebrate, support, and live together, children develop social skills and a broader worldview, preparing them for positive interactions both inside and outside the classroom.

During November, classes will explore a variety of stories related to families. Families can contribute to the learning experience to create an authentic, diverse perspective in the classroom. When children hear directly from family members, it helps make abstract ideas about family structures and cultures more concrete and relatable. This involvement fosters an inclusive environment where children learn to appreciate differences and similarities among families, building a sense of community. All families are invited to be a part of the learning through various suggested experiences:

Read your family's favorite story to the class

Share a song, dance, or musical tradition that is special to your family

Create a short video showing your family engaged in activities or traditions

Facilitate a small cooking project with the class that demonstrates a simple traditional dish or snack

Wonders Fall Book Fair- A Storybook Success!



A huge thank-you to everyone who joined us at the Wonders Fall Book Fair at Wonderland Books this past weekend in Bethesda! It was wonderful to see families, children, board members, and staff from all of our programs come together to celebrate stories, support learning, and strengthen our community.

A special thanks to our staff who led the story time:

Shawntay Cook with Wonders at Milton Gottesman Extended Day

Eryn Mitchell with Wonders at Chevy Chase Extended Day

Aaliyah Kinard with Wonders at Leland Early Learning

Anila Rawasia with Wonders Admin Office, Recruitment Specialist

John Martinez with Wonders at Murch Extended Day



Annual Giving

October - December 31, 2025

As the extended federal shutdown comes to a close, its impact continues to be felt by many families in our community. The disruption has placed additional financial strain on working parents, and more families are turning to Wonders for support.

The demand for tuition assistance through the **Wonders Circle Fund** has grown significantly. Your support today helps bridge the gap - ensuring that children continue to benefit from the high-quality early learning and extended day programs that define Wonders.

We are grateful to share that, so far, we have raised **\$35,324** in pledges and donations. Our goal is to raise **\$105,000** through individual gifts, employer matches, corporate partnerships, and grants. Every contribution makes a tangible difference, and with your help, we can reach families who needs our support.

[Download our 2025 Annual Giving Brochure](#)

wonders 2025 ANNUAL GIVING CAMPAIGN

nonprofit since 1976

Annual giving plays a vital role in sustaining high-quality programs beyond what tuition alone covers. Tuition provides 90% of the operating budget. The remaining 10% is raised through a combination of contributions, corporate sponsorships and grants from foundations.



CULTIVATING PROFESSIONALISM + EXPERTISE

At Wonders, we invest in our teachers through ongoing training, workshops, coaching, and mentoring. Competitive compensation and benefits ensure that our team and our programs thrive. We believe that when teachers succeed, children succeed. Our commitment to staff development strengthens both our workforce and the learning experiences we provide every day.

ENSURING ACCESS FOR FAMILIES

In order to ensure access to our programs, Wonders participates in subsidy and employer assistance tuition programs. Additionally, Wonders offers faculty, staff, and sibling discounts; and the Circle Fund - Wonders' tuition assistance program. We need to close the gap created by subsidy reimbursement rates that do not cover the full cost of high quality care and provide needed resources to expand affordability to many families.



SUSTAINING HIGH-QUALITY CHILD CARE

Wonders thrives on strong leadership and dedicated support to serve our community effectively. By investing in strategic planning, staff development, curriculum innovation, and family engagement, we advance our mission and ensure that Wonders' programs remain vibrant and sustainable for generations to come.

DONATE TODAY

Giving Thanks for 50 Years of Wonders



This November, we are overflowing with gratitude for the children, families, alumni, educators, and dedicated board members who have made Wonders the heart of our community for 50 incredible years.

What began as a single center in the basement of All Saints' Church in Chevy Chase, Maryland has grown into a thriving community of accredited early learning, extended day, and summer camp programs across Montgomery County, MD, and Washington, DC- impacting thousands of lives along the way. Your support has made every step of this journey possible.

As we enter a season of gratitude, we're thrilled to give you a glimpse of the **exciting events planned for Wonders' 50th Anniversary in 2026**- a year-long celebration honoring our past, present, and the bright future

ahead!

Wonders 50th Anniversary Garden Party

Date: Saturday March 28, 2026

Location: Imagination Stage, 4908 Auburn Ave. Bethesda, MD

Our **Spring Anniversary Garden Party** will be the perfect chance to gather with families, alumni, and friends for an evening of joy, connection, and community. Stay tuned for details on activities and how you can be part of this very special day. Tickets on sale soon!

Wonderspalooza Family Carnival

Date: Saturday May 2, 2026

Location: Chevy Chase Elementary School, 4015 Rosemary St. Chevy Chase, MD

Wonderspalooza is more than just a carnival- it's a celebration of our community's spirit, values, and resilience. It's an inclusive gathering where families, friends, and neighbors of all ages can come together to connect, create, and celebrate what makes Wonders so special.

Anniversary Highlights

Alumni Spotlights



Wonders alumni Sufyana and Aydina (Edgemoor and Chevy Chase) created the Maryland Native Plants Search app, designed to help local homes and businesses support pollinators and native wildlife. Their innovative work, recognized by the **National Wildlife Federation** and **Chesapeake Bay Trust**, contributes to Maryland's **5 Million Trees** initiative

[Watch and share their video tutorial to support their amazing effort!](#)

Family & Staff Story Collection- We're still gathering your favorite Wonders memories, photos, and reflections for our digital archive and 50th anniversary displays—[share yours today!](#)

Wonders Merchandise

We are thrilled to launch our new Wonders merch that is available now!



Wonders Early Learning + Extended Day Merchandise

Pricing:



\$35

Adult Crewneck Sweatshirts
Sizes: XS-3XL



\$20

Youth Long-Sleeve Shirts
Sizes: XS-XL



\$15

Toddler T-Shirts
Sizes: 2T-5T



\$15

Bear Keychain



\$15

Penguin Plush



\$3

Crayon Set



\$5

Colored Pencil Set



wonderslearning.org/donate

Additional Ordering Instructions

- When purchasing online, please include in the comment section: Program site location, item purchased, and size needed.
- All purchased items can be picked up at your program site; please coordinate with the Program Director.
- If you need your item mailed to you please indicate in the comment section.

Parent + Caregiver Workshops

Join us for our virtual Parent/Workshop Series! We continue to partner with the Child Development Consultants for informative sessions for parents, guardians, and caregivers. Each workshop in the series highlights a different topic.

We will no longer use Eventbrite for parent workshop registrations, but each session remains free and open to the public.



January Workshop Topic: Big Problem or Little Problem? Exploring the Mysteries of Sensory Processing and Strategies to Help Young Children Self-Regulate + Helping the Child with Speech and Language Challenges

Date: Wednesday January 14, 2026

Time: 1:00pm- 2:00pm

Location: ZOOM (Virtual)

[Register Here](#)

March Workshop Topic: Wondrous 2's Formerly Known as Terrible 2's

Date: Wednesday March 11, 2026

Time: 1:00pm- 2:00pm

Location: ZOOM (Virtual)

[Register Here](#)

May Workshop Topic: Developing Communication and Conflict Resolution Skills in Young Children

Date: Wednesday May 13, 2026

Time: 1:00pm- 2:00pm

Location: ZOOM (Virtual)

[Register Here](#)

Wonders Summer Camp 2026

Calling all campers,
ages 5 - 12 years old!

wonders summer camp

June 22 - Aug 7

Wonders Summer Camp will be here soon! Registration opens in December 2025. We look forward to an exciting, fun-filled, and memorable summer with campers at our Bethesda location!

LEARN MORE

wonderslearning.org/summercamp



Donate to Wonders

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

Our Contact Information

{{Organization Name}}

{{Organization Address}}

{{Organization Phone}}

{{Organization Website}}

{{Unsubscribe}}