



WINTER PARK  
*day nursery*

EXCELLENCE IN EARLY EDUCATION



## DEAR FRIENDS AND SUPPORTERS,

The 2019-2020 school year started off like any other at Winter Park Day Nursery (WPDN). There were new smiling faces eager to learn, the school was operating at full capacity and we had the usual 'waitlist' of families hoping spots would open up in our classrooms.

Little did we know what struggles awaited us.

The pandemic hit in March 2020 and WPDN had to close its doors for seven weeks because of the stay-at-home order but, most importantly, to ensure the health and safety of our students, families and staff. Through it all (and, as I write this, the public health crisis is not over), this has been a top priority.

Then in April, as the pandemic raged on, we were hit by a heart-wrenching experience for our entire 'school family' ~ we lost one of our children to brain cancer. I'm proud of how we came together to weave a web of support around this little boy, his parents and four sisters (all students at WPDN).

Nationwide, facilities that care for young children are in danger of closing as revenues from parent fees plunge. While WPDN's enrollment was steady in 2019, at an average of 96% of capacity, it declined to a low of 67% in the summer of 2020 as the full effects of the pandemic hit. The percentage of families able to pay tuition at our top fee bracket (families not in need of scholarship support), which in 2019 averaged 26%, fell to 24% in 2020. More families (35%) required government school readiness funds, up from 32% the year before.

Despite all the challenges, positive things also happened. Our board members really stepped up, thoroughly evaluating what support the school needed. We prepared an organizational assessment through the Edyth Bush Institute for Philanthropy and Nonprofit Leadership (partially funded by the Heart of Florida United Way). This assessment was then incorporated into a concise strategic plan that is focused on steering the school successfully through the pandemic.

The board continues to work diligently to assure we meet our goals. Among them, we want to learn how to better tell our story and articulate the needs of the organization. We created a task force to direct how we can best operate during the remainder of the pandemic. We also continue to ponder the future of our aged building and what steps we need to take to ensure an optimal environment to promote our children's learning.

As we look forward to what lies ahead, I want you to know how much we appreciate your commitment to our mission. We wouldn't be able to do what we do without the steadfast support of our donors, volunteers and community partners!



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ali DeMaria". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Executive Director



## OUR MISSION

Winter Park Day Nursery provides a secure, nurturing and educational environment that is affordable and supports family diversity.

## OUR VISION

Winter Park Day Nursery will build a stronger community by providing high-quality, affordable early childhood education that will prepare our children to succeed in school and life.

## OUR VALUES

### Accessibility

We believe that every child deserves a high-quality preschool education, so we offer scholarships to make our program affordable for all families.

### Quality

We believe that by upholding the highest standards, we inspire others. WPDN is accredited by the National Accreditation Commission (NAC) for Early Care and Education Programs.

### Diversity

We believe that valuing different perspectives is vital to the success of our mission. Our school family reflects the rich diversity of our community.

### Support

We believe that nurturing children means supporting their families with resources like parenting education, healthy meals, behavioral and developmental services and an emergency food and clothing pantry.

### Impact

We believe in advancing the community-wide quality of preschool education by serving as a demonstration site for best practices and advocating for the cause of early childhood education.





"When we decided to enroll our son, we didn't expect to gain an entirely new family. Each day when I walk into WPDN, it is warm and loving. When I dropped my baby off, I knew he would be cared for by the best. In times of uncertainty, they have been there without hesitation; in times my son got a boo boo he was held with love; in times of celebration he was cheered every step of the way. Though his new journey awaits we are both comforted in knowing that this is not goodbye but rather a 'see you later'. We LOVE WPDN and will continue to speak highly of all that it does."

– WPDN Parent



# A SNAPSHOT OF 2019-2020

**151**

total students  
(ages 0-5)

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**11**

Voluntary Pre-K  
graduates

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**19**

children on  
the wait list

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**360**

school volunteers  
(\$9,792 value)

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**29,831**

nutritious meals  
and snacks

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**6**

hours of  
parent education

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**74%**

of students received  
tuition scholarships

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**470**

hours on  
the playground

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**94%**

of teachers  
retained in 2019

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**94%**

of teachers  
retained in 2020

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**80%**

of students stayed  
enrolled the whole  
school year in  
2019-2020

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**22%**

of preschools in  
Winter Park are  
nationally  
accredited

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# WPDN'S 80<sup>TH</sup> YEAR



◀◀ U.S. Congresswoman Stephanie Murphy spent an afternoon with us volunteering in the classrooms and discussing with our leadership the needs of our organization and the families we serve. In 2019, she introduced a bipartisan bill to help working families in Central Florida have access to affordable childcare. “For far too long, working families have struggled with the rising costs of child care. Our tax code should reflect our priorities, and one of our top priorities must be our children,” said Murphy.



◀◀ **COVID-19 Pandemic:** The COVID-19 pandemic has changed so much for the WPDN teaching staff, the students and their families. In this extraordinary time, WPDN responded in a manner that was thoughtful, responsible and cautious. In order to prepare to reopen in a safe manner, WPDN closed for seven weeks. During the closure, our teachers delivered at-home lessons via Zoom that included songs, story time and conversations to maintain the connections that we had worked hard to build at the start of the school year. WPDN is proud of our team's ongoing response to the pandemic.

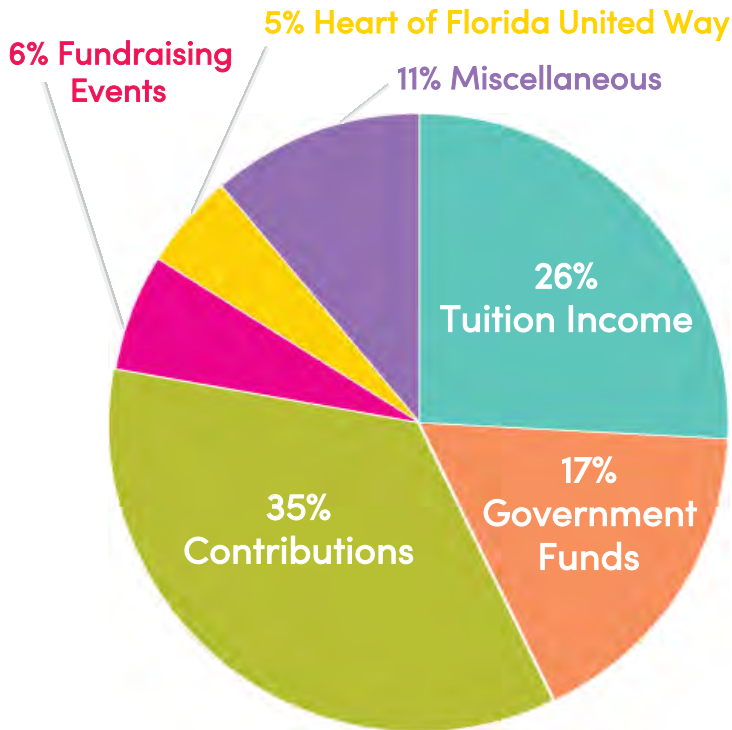


◀◀ **#AHEROFORJUSTICE:** The community came together with an overwhelming response in support of a WPDN student and his family. After a yearlong battle with brain cancer, Justice received a terminal diagnosis. WPDN and his family came together to give Justice a VPK graduation celebration. The start of the COVID-19 pandemic did not stop the community from engaging in a graduation car parade. WPDN staff and families with bright signs and balloons taped to their cars, fire trucks, police cars, and ambulances flashed their lights to celebrate the courageous little boy in reaching the milestone of VPK graduation. Loved by so many, he will never be forgotten.



◀◀ We would like to send out a special thanks to White Coat Disinfecting & Building Wash for helping keep our school family safe.

# 2019-2020 FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

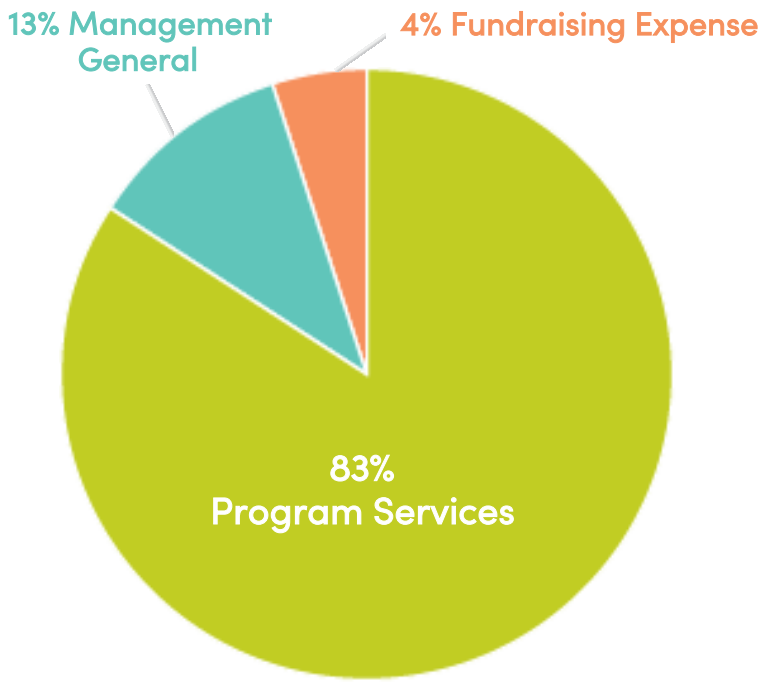


Total Income:  
**\$983,525**

**Contributions:** Foundations, Individual Donors, and Corporate Donations

**Government Funds:** VPK, School Readiness, Food Program

**Miscellaneous:** Interest, Parent Fundraiser



Total Expenses:  
**\$1,059,808**

**Program Services:** Labor, Education and Training, Classroom Supplies, Food Program, Facilities

**Management General:** Operations, Professional Fees

Fiscal year is July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020



Re: Explanation of Deficit as of June 30, 2020

To Whom It May Concern:

This statement is provided as clarification for the audit results and the impact of the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loan received on April 20, 2020. The audited financial statements for the year ended June 30, 2020 for the Winter Park Day Nursery show a change in net assets of (\$76,283), indicating a loss from operations (deficit) of such amount for the year then ended. As you may know, the PPP loan is a forgivable loan if several criteria are met. We are currently in the process of applying for forgiveness of PPP loan received in the amount of \$152,555 and fully expect this loan to be forgiven in its entirety. As such, the impact of this forgiveness would be positive to our bottom line. Taking the forgiveness into account would yield different results to our June 30, 2020 fiscal year end change in net assets. The change in net assets would be \$76,272 surplus instead of a deficit.

Sincerely,

Ali DeMaria  
Executive Director  
407-647-0505  
exec@wpdaynursery.org



## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Christian Iselin, *Chair*  
Nicole R. Finegan, *Vice Chair/Treasurer*  
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Amelia Storer, *Secretary*  
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Hannah Menard  
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Cecilia Scott  
Frederick Szydlik

## ADMINISTRATIVE TEAM

Ali DeMaria, Executive Director  
Megan Martin, Program Director  
Crystal Levens, Director of Facilities  
Amy Wenner, Assistant Director  
Dara Morris, Executive Assistant/Donor Relations  
Stephanie DeScalzo, Resource & Intervention Specialist  
Shirley Shankle, Kitchen Manager  
Heather Horne, Administrative Assistant  
Yulissa Santana, Volunteer Coordinator  
Lakishia Singleton, Cook

## TEACHING TEAM

Paige Baldocchi  
Nadine (Mémé) Batoche  
Steven Chang  
Beryl Chung  
Vicky Diel  
Stacey Hayes  
Elizabeth (Jinger) Iselin  
Alondra Kenon  
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## BUTTERFLY SOCIETY MEMBERS

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Emily Lemieux

Carol Stanton & John Parrell

Bobbie Peel

Frederick Szydlík



## **WINTER PARK DAY NURSERY**

741 S. Pennsylvania Avenue

Winter Park, FL 32789

407.647.0505

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