



WINTER PARK  
*day nursery*

EXCELLENCE IN EARLY EDUCATION



## DEAR FRIENDS AND SUPPORTERS,

Only one major theme dominated Winter Park Day Nursery's 2020 - 2021 school year: Navigating the significant challenges of managing a preschool in a pandemic! I am pleased to report; however, that Winter Park Day Nursery has not only survived, we have thrived as an organization.

At the school year's end, we had increased our enrollment to 90% from a low of 67% in the summer of 2020. In keeping with the trend early childhood providers saw across the state, our Pre-K/VPK classroom was never fully enrolled.

Miraculously, the school made it through the school year without any major closures due to COVID-19 cases. Our staff retention rate was 87% ~ which is outstanding in the throes of a pandemic and for the industry itself. I want to credit our board of directors for the key role they took in steering us through previously uncharted waters. Our board took the pandemic seriously. They appointed a task force to help our administration guide our staff and families by creating decision trees and disclosure agreements for staff and families to follow. Thanks to their leadership, it was much easier to navigate the challenges of COVID-19 along with the usual early childhood illnesses of stuffy noses, tummy aches and fevers.

Among our accomplishments this past year was securing forgiveness for our first Payroll Protection Program (PPP) loan. We are in the process of seeking forgiveness for our second PPP loan, which we also expect to be forgiven. These loans were boosted by our amazing community support and generous donors as well as grants for childcare providers offered by the state through our local Early Learning Coalition. Through all the challenges, Winter Park Day Nursery has been able to continue providing the high quality early childhood education and care that is the hallmark of our program.

We're also proud that we found a way to slightly increase staff salaries this past school year. We believe this is important not only to increase our ability to attract quality candidates but also to prepare us for Florida's legislative plans to gradually increase the minimum wage to \$15/hour. In that respect, we are well ahead of schedule. We appreciate the strong correlation between providing quality care and taking care of our quality team. Our staffing costs are 75% of our annual budget, as is characteristic of quality early childhood schools.

The board continues to lead the organization in setting ambitious, yet realistic goals, and to increase the awareness of the deep commitment we have for the community. We continue to take steps to address the limitations of our small space and aging building, with the goal of providing the most optimal environment for our students and the team that fulfills our mission every day.

The school's future is bright! We know we wouldn't be able to do what we do for our children and families without the steadfast support of YOU, our donors, volunteers, and community partners.

Thank you!



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ali Di Maria". 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 & 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.



*"My children and I do not have family in Orlando but we never feel lonely. Everyone at WPDN fills our lives with so much love that they are our family. We don't want to imagine a life without them."*

*– WPDN Parent, 2021*



# A SNAPSHOT OF 2020-2021

**93**

total students  
(ages 0-5)

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**8**

Voluntary Pre-K  
graduates

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**37**

children on  
the wait list

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**5**

school  
volunteers

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**33,055**

nutritious meals  
and snacks

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**6**

hours of  
parent education

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**70%**

of students received  
tuition scholarships

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**470**

hours on  
the playground

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**87%**

of teachers  
retained in 2020

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Our food pantry was stocked all year long!

# WPDN'S 81<sup>TH</sup> YEAR



- ◀◀ The 20th Annual Orange Blossom Jubilee was held outdoors at Celebration Gardens in Winter Park on April 30th 2021. The event was a HUGE success thanks to our sponsors, community members and businesses. A special thanks to our presenting sponsor the Joe and Sarah Galloway Foundation, who have supported the event every year! With an amazing turnout of 130 guests, and several virtual guests, we were able to exceed our goal, raising \$65,538.

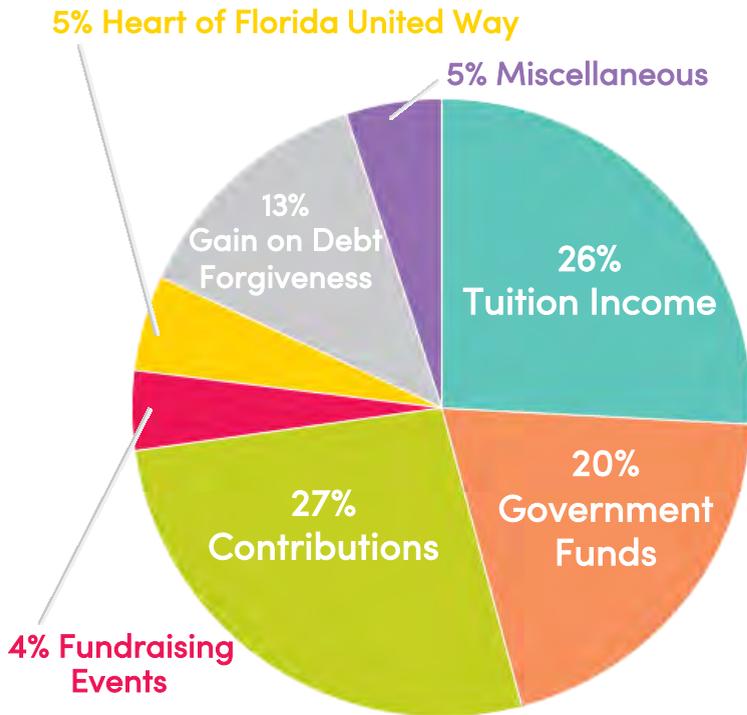


- ◀◀ The Victory Cup Initiative is equipping select nonprofit organizations with the skills and training to better tell their story. WPDN was proud to be a finalist in this year's Victory Cup. Eleven Central Florida nonprofit organizations received cash prizes ranging from \$1,000 to \$20,000. Winners were determined by audience participation so everyone left a winner!



- ◀◀ As part of our summer program activities, Winter Park Day Nursery continues to have fun water days and implements special activities such as drama, art and nutrition classes. Students at WPDN attend year round so we try to make our summers extra fun and exciting!

# 2020-2021 FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

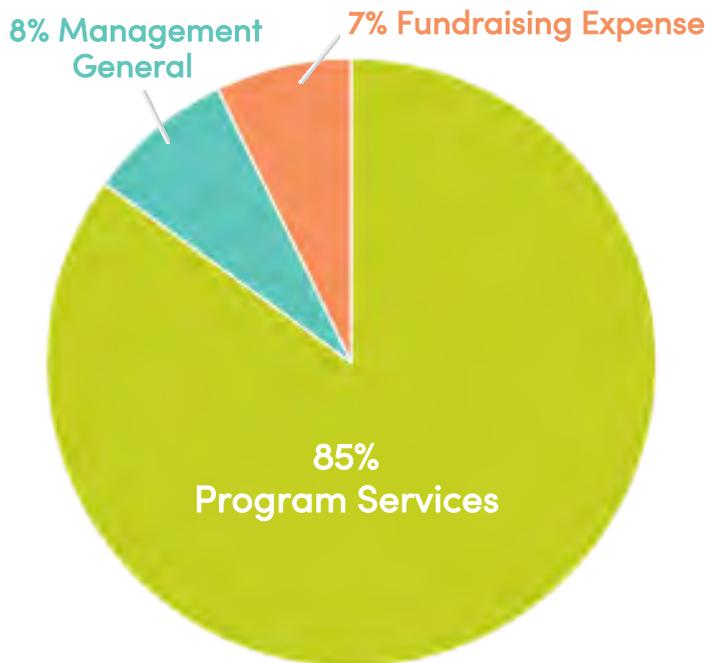


Total Income:  
**\$1,203,089**

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

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

**Miscellaneous:** Interest, Parent Fundraiser, Federal/State Employee Campaigns



Total Expenses:  
**\$1,004,927**

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

**Management General:** Operations, Professional Fees

Fiscal year is July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Nicole R. Finegan, Chair  
Emily Lemieux, Vice Chair  
Amelia Storer, *Treasurer*  
Hannah Menard, Secretary  
Dr. Janelle Barfield  
Peg Cornwell  
James Franzese  
Larry J. Herring  
Christian Iselin  
Charles Kulmann  
Alan Leeds  
Abby New  
Cecilia Scott  
Frederick Szydluk

## ADMINISTRATIVE TEAM

Ali DeMaria, Executive Director  
Megan Martin, Dir. of Family Services  
Crystal Levens, Dir. of Facilities  
Amy Wenner, Assistant Director  
Dara Caulder, Executive Assistant/Donor Relations  
Shirley Shankle, Kitchen Manager  
Heather Horne, Administrative Assistant  
Valorie Mace, Administrative Assistant  
Lakishia Singleton, Cook

## TEACHING TEAM

Paige Baldocchi  
Nadine (Mémé) Batoche  
Steven Chang  
Beryl Chung  
Stephanie DeScalzo  
Vicky Diel  
Lisa Franzese  
Stacey Hayes  
Natalie Kinscy  
Bailey Lankford  
Jessica MacWittney  
Vanessa Melendez  
Fallon Parker  
Yulissa Santana  
Shasheila Sheffield  
Maria Velez  
Madison Weil  
Naryha Williams Lewis



# MAJOR DONORS & SPONSORS

The City of Winter Park

Chesley G. Magruder Foundation

Michael Dick and Priscilla Church

Elizabeth Morse Genius Foundation

Carolyn Gentile

Givinga Foundation

Harper Family Charitable Foundation

Joe & Sarah Galloway Foundation

John R. & Ruth W. Gurtler Foundation

Jay Johnson

Michael and Aimee Kakos

Dr. Phillips Charities

John Picciano

The Ryan Foundation

Frederick Szydlik

Thomas, Zurcher & White, P.A.

Warren and Augusta Hume Foundation

The Heart of Florida United Way

## BUTTERFLY SOCIETY MEMBERS

Jennifer & Phil Anderson

Erik Larsen

Al & Karen Leeds

Emily Lemieux

Carol Stanton & John Parrell

Bobbie Peel

Frederick Szydlik



## **WINTER PARK DAY NURSERY**

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