DEAR FRIENDS AND SUPPORTERS,

As we, like many of you, look back over the past year, I feel the weight of it all -- from the aftereffects of the pandemic and resulting inflation to the conflict in our world. However, we also look forward to the future possibilities for our school. We remain as committed as ever to filing the needs of the families and children we serve in our school family, including some of our own team members.

In 2019 and 2020 we enjoyed an incredibly low staff turnover rate uncharacteristic of our industry -- 8% in 2019 and 13% in 2020. By 2021 this had grown to 33%. This hit our small organization hard. The entire community struggles to keep adequate, qualified staff and early childhood education is no exception. However, our industry’s work demands an unparalleled amount of knowledge, energy, and compassion that we must bring to the office each day. There is no remote work in our field. We must all be fully present with our students and their families to truly impact our community.

To address staffing issues, The Winter Park Day Nursery responded quickly to increase the pay scale for all our teaching staff, existing and new. In March 2022, the board gave the green light to raise starting pay from $12 to $15.60 an hour. This has allowed us to attract new staff (most of whom are parents). Yet, despite the ability to hire at higher hourly rates our staff still struggle to make ends meet in the current economic climate with its skyrocketing rents and other costs.

At Winter Park Day Nursery, our staff has defined core values that serve as our guideposts. These provide us with a clear understanding how the decisions we make each day have lasting impact on our fellow staff members and our children and families. These core values are:
1. Passion that comes with commitment, dedication and a genuine love for the work we do.
2. Integrity that comes with reliability, sincerity, and the ability to know right from wrong.

By embracing core values, we strengthen the culture within our school, and create a safe space for our students to grow and learn. One of the best indicators of a child’s success is the relationship he/she has with their caregivers.

As I enter my 19th year with WPDN in 2023, I will assure these values continue to drive our work and the work we do with children, their families and our community.

While we continue to experience many challenges, we are so grateful for our community, donors and volunteers. Without the support of major funders such as The Joe and Sarah Galloway Foundation, The City of Winter Park and the Heart of Florida United Way, among many others, the Winter Park Day Nursery would not enjoy the financial stability we have today.

I will be forever grateful to our committed, knowledgeable board of directors for steering us through the perils of the pandemic. Without them we may not have emerged as positively as we did. To each and every one of the board members, donors, and staff, I am truly grateful. Our students and their families are better off for being connected with and supported by the Winter Park Day Nursery.

Thank you,

Ali O’Marie
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, behavior 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 looking for a school to enroll my first child for VPK, I came across a recommendation for WPDN from a friend whose son was currently a student. After visiting the school and meeting the incredible teachers and staff, we knew we had found the place for our family. Now with my second second child enrolled, I can easily confirm that this is still the place for us and we couldn’t have found a better facility for our children. Between the education received, how safe my children feel with the educators and staff, and the constant care and support from everyone there, we feel honored to be part of the WPDN school family. I am already looking forward to my daughter starting there next year!"

- WPDN Parent, 2022
A SNAPSHOT OF 2021 - 2022

96  
total students  
(ages 0 - 5)

37  
children on the wait list

60%  
of students received tuition scholarships

$96,141  
in tuition scholarships funds provided

33,055  
nutritious meals and snacks

98%  
average enrollment throughout the year

70%  
staff retention in 2021

Family Household Income

- unknown income: 14.1%
- < $25,000: 8.2%
- $25 - $50,000: 37.6%
- $50 - $100,000: 20%
- $100,000 +: 20%
The 21st Annual Orange Blossom Jubilee was held at the prestigious Interlachen Country Club in Winter Park on April 29, 2022 with 180 guests! We were able to surpass our goal, raising over $87,000, thanks to our sponsors, community members and businesses. A special thank you to the Joe & Sarah Galloway Foundation for being our presenting sponsor each and every year!

Noah's Landing Mobile Petting Zoo visited the preschool in the summer and brought sheep, bunnies, a baby cow, and more! The children were so excited to spend time with the animals. We are grateful to Thomas & Zurcher, P.A. and their volunteers for providing the petting zoo visit.

The Orlando Philharmonic has brought the joy of music to WPDN for several years. They come four times a year to present Symphony Storytelling, where they engage our students in storytelling that is accompanied by a section of the orchestra to bring the story to life through music. WPDN's students have heard stories such as Ferdinand the Bull, Carnival of the Animals, and Spooky Serenades.

The Winter Park Fire-Rescue Department made lots of children very happy bringing their fire truck by and doing an engine display. The firefighter also gave a lesson in the protective gear they have to wear and why it helps them. Each child was able to sit in the truck and have their picture taken! It was the highlight of their day.
2021-2022 FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

TOTAL INCOME:  
$1,402,053

- Tuition Income: 28%
- Contributions: Foundations, Individual Donors, Corporate Donations
- Government: VPK, School Readiness, Food Program
- Miscellaneous: Interest, Parent Fundraiser, Federal/State Employee Campaigns

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

Management General: Operations, Professional Fees

TOTAL EXPENSES:  
$1,180,775
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Nicole R. Finegan, Chair
Emily Lemieux, Vice Chair
Amelia Storer, Treasurer
Hannah Menard, Secretary
Dr. Janelle Barfield
Peg Cornwell
Annette Dennig
James Franzese
Christian Iselin
Charles Kulmann
Alan Leeds
Cecilia Scott
Frederick Szydlik

ADMINISTRATIVE TEAM

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

TEACHING TEAM

Paige Baldocchi
Nadine (Meme) Batoche
Destinee Carter
Deja Craig
Beryl Chung
Alessandra Dabdoub
Stephanie DeScalzo
Brittany Ely
Da'Mya Grimes
Tiara Hart
Stacey Hayes
Natalie Kinscy
Bailey Lankford
Keyanni McGill
Vanessa Melendez
Fallon Parker
Taylor Rentz
China Vaillant
Madison Weil
Alyssa (Andi) Williams

SUMMER YOUTH INTERNS

Sarai Bangura
Nylah Jones
MAJOR DONORS & SPONSORS

The 4R Foundation, Inc. dba Cows 'N Cabs
Carolyn Gentile
The Chesley G. Magruder Foundation, Inc.
The City of Winter Park
Clark Aesthetics
Elizabeth Morse Genius Foundation
Givinga Foundation
Harper Family Charitable Foundation
Heart of Florida United Way
Hope for More Foundation
James and Jackie Hughes
James Raymond Duggan Estate
The Joe and Sarah Galloway Foundation
John Picciano
The John R. and Ruth W. Gurtler Foundation
Linda Piantieri
Michael and Aimee Kakos
Michael Dick and Priscilla Church
Rotary Club of Winter Park Charitable Fnd.
VNA Foundation, Inc
Warren and Augusta Hume Foundation
Winter Park Health Foundation

BUTTERFLY SOCIETY
MEMBERS

Red Admiral Butterfly Member
Frederick Szydlik

Blue Wave Butterfly Members
Jennifer and Phil Anderson
Pam and Steve Brandon
Erik Larsen
Karen and Al Leeds
Emily Lemieux
Hannah Menard
Bobbie Peel
Carol Stanton and John Parrell