

Children's Winter Garden with White Wing School - Annual Report 2019-2020

Members: Barbara Halevi (Co-Chair), Tiffany Holmes (Co-Chair), Amanda Murray (Treasurer), Caitlin Allen (Secretary), Amanda Bonnette, Amanda Banner, Allison Annand, Chris Clanin (School Director), Allison Palm (UUCN, Executive Director/Minister)

Overview: 2019-2020 initially brought with it continued stability and growth to the school. COVID-19 had other plans, but we are extremely proud of the way both the school staff and the families and students have responded.

The current board continues to function in more of an advisory capacity than as a working board. This year we have seen a large board turnover where 4 members out of 7 have stepped down. We were very fortunate to have a great group of new members step in and quickly step up.

The school saw enrollment stay flat this past year with 78 students enrolled in 2019-2020, which is about full capacity. The afternoon programs have become quite popular and continue to be so. For 2020-2021, we currently have 65 students registered (the same as this time last year) and registration is still open.

We ended the fiscal year of 2019 with a ~\$20K surplus. We are currently on track to end our 2020 fiscal year on budget even with the current COVID-19 situation. The surplus in our account provides much needed stability and a financial cushion for the school, which is particularly important when anticipating a future downturn year. The additional funds have also allowed additional programming to be available to the school (such as a music program and other enrichment projects), the director to attend the NAEYC Annual conference, and the school to contribute to the improvements to the outdoor spaces, etc.

This year has been a year of planning and preparation for the school's NAEYC Accreditation. Chris Clanin has once again gone above and beyond to ensure the school satisfactorily maintains this accreditation. Both Chris and her staff have spent many night and weekend hours in preparation of portfolios and folders, strategic plans, and a site visit. As of March, NAEYC has suspended all site visits so a timeline for reaccreditation will need to be established in the near future.

The school year started out well with the children going to Brookdale Farms for apple picking and a hayride. They had visits from firefighters, Halloween parades, hosted Habitat for Humanity and painted paddles for their 25th anniversary celebration, celebrated Hero's Day, ate Thanksgiving Feasts, collection donations for NSKS, hosted Holiday Performances, held Book Fairs, and the list goes on. The school is providing an exceptional education to these children that is full of enrichment and outreach.

Unfortunately, come mid-March with the closing of the Nashua Public Schools due to COVID-19, so did the closing of the CWG-WWS. While this scenario could have gone many ways, we are so very proud of how the staff, students and families responded. The teachers

quickly adapted and pulled together take-home packets, developed daily videos amongst other ways in order to remain connected. They recently went on a “roadtrip across the country” where they virtually visited NH, New York, Louisiana, Texas and California. Parents are sending in pictures and videos of their kids performing school activities at home, that the staff then collaborate into a montage of weekly fun. These videos can be seen on their Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/WhiteWingSchool>

While graduation will not look the same this year as in years past, there is still a great deal of planning and cheers to be had! The staff are making signs for each student and will have a diploma, t-shirt, graduation bubbles, and a personal letter to hand out via a drive through on May 29th.

It was critically important to the board that teachers remained paid during this time of closure. We reached out to the parents and asked if they could continue to contribute some amount to their child’s tuition, while understanding that not everyone may be in a situation to do so. We were pleasantly surprised by the response and received in 42 tuitions in April and another 43 in May! These paid for approximately half the payroll for the month. This combined with the surplus in our account from years past, we were in a position to continue payment to all staff and could comfortably do so for the remainder of this fiscal year. With the approval of the Payment Protection Program (PPP), this provided even more support. While the horizon for fall programming is still very much hazy, we are hopeful that we will be open in some capacity and continue to provide for our students, families and staff.

To say that the board and the school were amazed with the generosity of the UU Congregation during the month of March for the Donna Purkhiser and Gregory McDevitt Memorial Scholarship Fund is an understatement! We were unsure how online services would impact charitable giving, but we are so happy to report that we received approximately \$5,000! Given the current economic uncertainty, having these funds available to families in need will go a long way. Scholarship applications will be sent out in the next month to all families as a reminder that if there is a need, we will do our best to accommodate to ensure their child gets a healthy head start on their education.

Our parent co-chair, Barbara Helevi, just recently stepped down after 3 dedicated years to the board. Amanda Bonnette will be taking over the co-chair position. Amanda Murray (parent) was just voted in as the board treasurer taking over for Mike Brown whose membership was also finished this year. We said goodbye this year to UUCN members Ellen Fisher and Victoria Agnew and welcomed Allison Annand and Amanda Banner.