

## Letter from the President

On behalf of the Wildflower Camp Foundation, I welcome you to our first annual newsletter created to inform and inspire those affiliated with Wildflower and those who might not know us as well. Our inspiration is powerful - knowing the daunting tasks facing grieving families and knowing the strength of the camp experience to help heal children and provide respite for single parents. The creation of Wildflower grew out of this understanding.

We have heard story after story of families who have benefited from WCF scholarships. As people in the community hear about what we are doing, they encourage us through their confirmation and support for our vision. A recent letter from a camp director stated it this way:

*"First of all, congratulations for all that you do. Now that I have wiped the tears from my eyes after reading your story from your website, I would like to inquire a bit more about your organization."* -Erica Silverman, Camp Ramah in New England

I am grateful to all the individuals who joined us to help the Foundation realize the mission it was founded on over two and half years ago. The work of *Wildflower* could not happen without the dedication of its board, the help of volunteers, and the generosity of our donors. This dedication could not have been more evident than at our first fundraiser this year at the JFK Library.

We are aware that there are many more families who need our help. Please consider including us as you make your year-end contributions. With your help the magic of *Wildflower* will continue to grow.

Warm Regards,

Cyndi Jones, Founder

If you would like to learn more about the story of *Wildflower* visit our website at [www.wildflowercampfoundation.org](http://www.wildflowercampfoundation.org) or call us at 781-235-5301.

## Board of Directors

Cyndi A. Jones, Founder

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Debbie Whitehill

## WCF Receives Major Grant

We are extremely pleased to announce that Wildflower Camp Foundation has received a \$10,000 grant from the Bailey Family Foundation. When an article appeared in the *Wellesley Townsman* about WCF last March, Ann Melanson and her husband Mark, first heard of our Foundation. Understanding the impact of loss on children and families through a personal experience, Ann called and invited us to submit a proposal for a grant from their family foundation.

With this financial support we can confidently reach out to meet the financial needs of an increasing number of grieving families who are brought to our attention. Moreover, a portion of this grant will be used to establish an endowment fund to secure our ability to provide scholarships in years to come.

We want to thank the Melanson family and the Bailey Family Foundation for their enormous support and wisdom in understanding the impact that small community efforts can make in the lives of families.

### Please support *Wildflower Camp Foundation* [WCF]:

Your charitable contribution to the Foundation would be greatly appreciated. The more we raise the more families we can help. Consider *Wildflower* when making donations in memory or honor of an individual or in celebration of an event. Checks may be written to:

*Wildflower Camp Foundation Inc.*  
P.O. Box 81116  
Wellesley Hills, MA 02481

WCF is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization and donations are tax-exempt to the fullest extent of the law.

## Wildflower Blossomed on Boston Harbor

WCF held its first fundraiser at the JFK Library and what a wonderful night it was! A delightfully warm evening of old friends and new, private tours of this magnificent museum, and interesting conversation over delicious food and wine. We were touched by a moving speech by one of our parent recipients explaining what *Wildflower* meant to her and the lives of her children. The music moved us all to dance away the evening.

Intended as an introduction of the Foundation to the community, the proceeds were added to our scholarship fund. The success of the event exceeded our expectations. It felt like *Wildflower* had truly blossomed!

We want to specifically thank Mike Dowling of WCVB for serving as Master of Ceremonies, the staff of the JFK Library and *Gourmet Caterers* for making it possible for us to host our event in such beautiful surroundings, *Boston Organ and Piano* for the donation of a piano for the evening, *Music Maker Studios* for their music, and Winston Flowers. Thank you to the Host Committee: Jeanne Bolo DeAmicis, Amy and Norm Gorin, Leon and Harriet Kaplan, Karen and Joel Siegel, Kelli Webb, the Event Committee for all their efforts, and all of you who attended the event.



Leon and Harriet Kaplan, Cyndi Jones and Steve Birnbaum, Gail and John Kaplan



Courtesy of American Camping Association

## Eight Scholarships Granted in 2006

It has been an exciting two years for Wildflower Camp Foundation. We went from granting five scholarships in our first year, to eight scholarships in our second year. All of the families we served in our first year returned enthusiastically. Through the scholarship process and follow-up we were able to get to know our families well. The feedback from the families was heartwarming, "The process made me feel very comfortable," said one mom. Another offered, "It was a relief to know that everything had been arranged ahead of time. I could not believe it went so smoothly."

The best part of being on this committee is hearing the stories about the camp experiences. In one follow-up phone interview a parent enthused, "My children had the best time. My daughter even won an award for being the most helpful. She was surprised and I was so proud." Another mom whose son attended day camp for the first time said, "He had a ton of fun and his favorite activity was frogging! He is now even considering overnight camp."

When the committee hears about how these children grow and thrive at camp, we know we are providing a great service. And when we hear the appreciation in the voices of the parents, we share their joy.

-Debbie Whitehill, Application Committee