

## Dad Shines a Light on Life After the Death of his Wife

Tom reached out to Wildflower thinking, “this is nice, but it will not work out.” Ever since his wife, Jenny, died at the age of 37, a loop played in his head, “things will not work out.” Fast forward to today. Of course, life is still a challenge, but Tom and his 3 daughters are rebuilding their lives. Wildflower has become a big part of that. This is their story in pictures.

Tom wrote on his Wildflower application, “If I can muster up my courage (to raise these 3 girls alone), they will still have a chance at a great childhood.” He joined the Wildflower family in 2018.

With Wildflower’s help, all 3 girls — Lily, Belle, and Avery — attend Charles River Creative Arts Program each summer. Charles River Creative Arts is a long-time Wildflower partner. Their generosity, paired with Wildflower’s financial commitment, makes it possible for the girls to attend for the entire summer.

Nancy Branz is Tom’s dedicated family liaison. After 3 years of helping Tom navigate life after losing his wife, she wrote, “I can hear the change in his voice. Honestly, I knew he was doing so much better. He was energetic and just plain happy. I was smiling for a long while after we talked.”

“The gravity of the commitment Wildflower has made to us brings me to tears. I am overwhelmed with the generosity that you have shown us.”



A day of flight for the whole family.



Tom and Jenny, 2006



Nancy Branz with Avery



Following a summer of adventure at camp, Above the Clouds worked with Wildflower to offer Tom and his girls the experience of a lifetime. Above the Clouds is a nonprofit organization that gives kids facing adverse challenges a day of flight in a small plane. This wonderful organization has taken more than 30 Wildflower kids into the blue skies. Lily, Belle and Avery loved every minute of their adventure! A few days before the flight, Tom wrote, “Avery asked if the plane could fly high enough to go to heaven to see mommy.”

Tom is so eloquent when sharing his hopes, as well as his fears, with us. Three years into his relationship with Wildflower, Tom wrote, “The gravity of the commitment Wildflower has made to us brings me to tears. I am overwhelmed with the generosity that you have shown us. I know Jenny is smiling down on me as I write this. What a special thing you offer to families when the need is so great and seems so out of reach.”

### MISSION

Wildflower is dedicated to serving children and families who have experienced the death of a parent. We provide the gifts of camp, enriching experiences, and consistent, long-term support to help families strengthen their resilience and create positive opportunities for the future.

You Can Make a Difference.  
**DONATE NOW**

at [wildflowerforkids.org/ways-to-give/](https://wildflowerforkids.org/ways-to-give/)



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# Wildflower-at-a-Glance

SINCE  
2005

230

Number of camps that have welcomed Wildflower campers

\$2.4 MILLION

Tuition relief awarded by Wildflower and our camp and related partners

900

Number of summer camp experiences given to our children

SUMMER  
2021

100

Percent of families-in-need who received emergency support for groceries, utilities, and other household needs

100

Number of campers supported by Wildflower — A Wildflower milestone!

80

Number of camps that welcomed Wildflower kids

## Sponsor-a-Camper is a Meaningful Giving Opportunity

Sponsor-a-Camper donors connect with their sponsored family, receiving letters and cards from the camper every summer. One mom said, "It feels good to know a sponsor cares about my family." Note your interest on our reply card to learn more.

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### DONOR SPOTLIGHT

## Rob and Jody Collins Skinner

Rob and Jody are living their values as Wildflower philanthropists. Jody has been an empathetic liaison to our families for 7 years. Rob, a partner at Ropes & Gray, is an extraordinary entertainer and has dazzled us as a Wildflower event host. Together they have been Sponsor-a-Camper donors, major donors to the Fund for 100 Summers, and frequent event sponsors. Their commitment to our organization is clear.



When asked "Why Wildflower," Jody replied, "I have personally seen the growth in my own children from attending summer camp. Being able to help Wildflower children go to camp and experience all that camp has to offer is a true blessing." Thank you, Jody and Rob. You have made an enormous difference to our organization and in the lives of our families.



## Camp Partners Welcome our Kids

Wildflower's camp partners are great at creating joy for kids. They offer generous tuition reductions and customized support. They are also responsible for countless smiles, thousands of new friendships, hundreds of s'mores-eating contests and so much more. To each of our camp partners, "Thank you. We are so grateful for all you do for our families."

## Rodman Rides and Adventures



Rodman Ride Day on September 25th began with blue skies and sunshine. Our Foxboro and Dover riders looked great riding 25 miles in their Wildflower shirts. So many more "choose your own adventure" participants raised funds for Wildflower by knitting, walking, dancing...even

hula hooping! We wrapped up this important fundraiser by exceeding our lofty \$100,000 goal. Thank you to donors, riders, adventurers, and volunteers! Because Rodman underwrites all expenses, every dollar we raised goes directly to support our families.

### THANK YOU SPONSORS

THE BARON FAMILY



C.A. BRANDT



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Denise Widman & Allan Lauer



Rodman is a convening nonprofit organization that raises funds for youth-focused social-service organizations, including Wildflower. Rodman underwrites all costs for the Ride, enabling Wildflower to use 100% of every Ride donation for our kids.