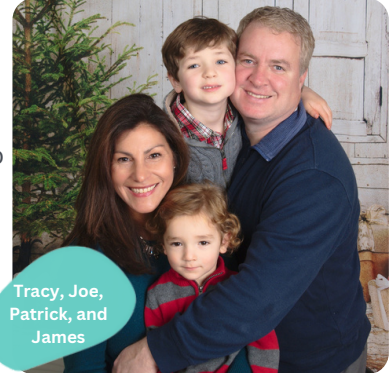


It's More Than Camp...It's **Hope**

Tracy and her boys, Patrick and James, came to Wildflower three years ago after Joe, their husband and dad, died of pancreatic cancer in November 2016. The boys were just two and five. The first years after Joe passed were a struggle. Tracy was overwhelmed with working full time, managing the household, day-to-day responsibilities, activities, and playing the role of two parents at once. She felt isolated and alone. Then, Tracy was introduced to Wildflower.



Tracy, Joe, Patrick, and James

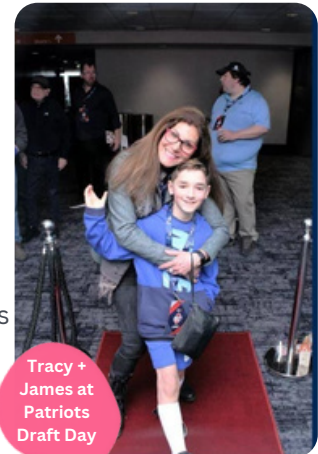
Tracy says Wildflower was there for her and the boys in more ways than just sending them to camp. Their family liaison, Carol Repose even helped tutor Patrick during the challenges of remote learning. Wildflower built trust with Tracy and her family so when it came time to select a summer camp, Tracy knew the staff would prioritize the best interests of her family. In the summer of 2021, Wildflower worked with Tracy to find what turned out to be the perfect overnight camp for Patrick at Camp Cobbossee in Maine. Within minutes of dropping Patrick off, James began opening up and sharing like never before. This was the first time she had one-on-one time with James, and it allowed him to "completely blossom".



Patrick leaving for camp

Fast forward to the end of camp, and it was time to pick up Patrick. "When I got there, he ran and jumped in the car and said 'Mommy, I know the meaning of life now!' He came back lighter and with such a different outlook on life." The camp values of brotherhood, sportsmanship and community resonated with their family values. After two summers, Patrick considers Cobbossee his home away from home.

During the summer of 2022, James joined his brother at Cobbossee. Tracy says it was life changing. She went into the experience nervous about making the most of her time alone. But when the boys left, she shared, "I exhaled for the first time in six years." She was able to relax and not worry about all the things she felt she needed to do.



Tracy + James at Patriots Draft Day

Since returning from camp, the family is connecting better than ever. Tracy knows she can look forward to a break each summer to experience a sense of calm, a chance to breathe again, and complete projects around the house. Tracy and her boys have created a space for fun, even during the busy school year.

Carol shared with Wildflower: "When I first met Patrick and James, they were very quiet, reserved and seemed so sad. Since then, every time we've gotten together, I have seen a gradual return to happiness. Losing their dad affected everything they did - school, sports, and their relationships. Camp has brought such happiness and a return to just being normal kids, which in turn has been a true gift for mom."

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 Give Hope.
DONATE TODAY
at wildflowerforkids.org/ways-to-give/

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A Year of **Hope** in Action

2022 Events

For 10 years, Wildflower has been a proud **Rodman for Kids** affiliated agency. This year, the annual Rodman Ride for Kids was one for the books! Our 35 participants (our most ever) surpassed our \$100,000 goal! We're so grateful to Rodman for Kids for underwriting all expenses so every dollar our team raises goes directly to support our families.



We were once again able to GATHER in person for our annual fundraising event. It was gratifying to see so many friends and supporters come together after a couple years apart. Thank you to our incredible host committee, sponsors, and donors for helping us raise \$80,000!

Sponsor-a-Camper

Are you Interested in being matched with one of our campers? We will share your camper's story and send a yearly update. One Sponsor-a-camper donor said, "It's always been a dream of mine to help kids experience camp, and this match makes a lifelong dream come true for me."

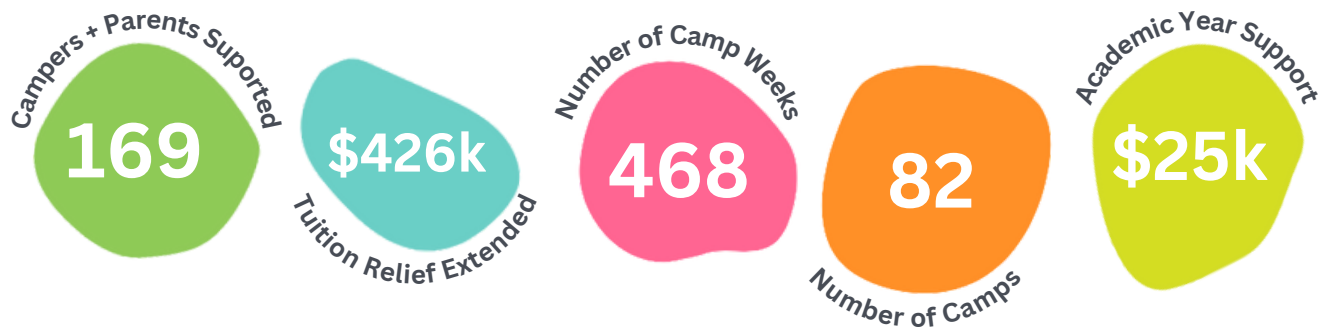


Contact us at info@wildflowerforkids.org for more information.



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Wildflower by the Numbers



Board Spotlight



We are excited to welcome two alumni parents to the Wildflower Board of Directors! Shondell Davis (left), Roz Switalski (right) and their children have been involved with Wildflower for over 20 years combined. Now that their kids are in college and beyond, both women feel they are in a place to support our incredible families the same way they were supported for years.

Shondell said of her nomination, "I wanted to be on the Board because Wildflower has continually made me feel part of a family. I've seen the great impact that Wildflower has on a child experiencing grief." Roz shares, "Wildflower was there for our family at a time when we didn't know what we needed. As a parent, they gave me hope that we would figure out a new normal for my kids and me."



Thank you, Shondell and Roz, for your commitment to the Wildflower mission and helping other families navigate this difficult journey.

THANK YOU TO OUR PARTNERS

