

Like having a friend walk you through life...

After Sade's husband passed away in 2018, she was in search of a community that could understand her loss and help support her and her two children through an impossible time. During a peer group organized by **The Children's Room**, a partner organization offering support to grieving families, she heard about Wildflower and was encouraged to reach out.

The idea of "giving children a normal summer" despite painful circumstances resonated with Sade. The Wildflower Family Liaison, Diane, built a strong relationship with Sade and her children, 10-year-old Jola and 7-year-old Kitan. She learned about their interests and curiosities, and took the time to understand what each child needed to thrive.



Jola, Sade, and Kitan

For Sade, one of the most beautiful things about Wildflower is that the team's determination to find the best option for every child, paired with their deep knowledge of the camp landscape, gives her the confidence that her children are in good hands.



Kitan at Camp Starfish

With Wildflower's support, Sade's daughter, Jola, started going to West End House Girls Camp, a sleepaway camp in Maine. It's an adventure she looks forward to each year, and she has returned each summer since 2019. Jola has made lasting friendships at camp, spent time in nature, gained new perspectives and skills, and grown confident. With Diane's help, Jola has also attended summer programs at the Cambridge School of Culinary Arts, fostering her love of cooking and expanding the breadth of her summer experiences.

Wildflower also worked with Sade to find camp options for her son, Kitan, who had been diagnosed with ADHD and Autism. Sade never thought Kitan would be able to experience overnight camp, but Camp Starfish in New Hampshire, meets his needs.

Sade talks with Kitan's camp staff to set goals ahead of time, and he comes back from camp feeling successful and good about himself, allowing Sade to see a different side of her son. The first time Kitan went to Camp Starfish, Sade waited by the phone, sure she would need to go pick him up. Slowly but surely over the years, she has realized that she doesn't need to worry - he is safe, understood, cared for, and having fun.



Jola at West End House Girls Camp

During the weeks both of her children are away at camp, Sade is able to take time for herself, not having to worry about the daily responsibilities of parenting, and can focus on resting and recharging, time that lets her come back to herself.

For her children, Wildflower has provided environments where they can just be kids. For Sade, the respite gives her space to process her grief, a network of support, help navigating life as a single parent, and opportunities to remember what it feels like to be herself again. Being part of the Wildflower community is "like having a friend walk you through life."

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.
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at wildflowerforkids.org/ways-to-give/

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Sponsor-a-Camper

Are you interested in providing a child with a truly meaningful experience?

With an annual gift of \$2,500, you will be carefully matched to a Wildflower camper who is in need of our services.



These sponsorships make a tremendous difference in the lives of the campers and their families. You will receive updates sharing the direct impact of your generosity.

Campers and families are endlessly grateful for these opportunities. One Mom remarked: "My daughter loved having her independence and participating in many activities she otherwise would not have experienced." Mom noticed she returned home more confident and independent, life skills that are helping create a strong foundation for her as she grows.

Contact us at info@wildflowerforkids.org for more information on sponsoring a camper.

Rodman Ride

For the past 13 years, Wildflower has loved being affiliated with Rodman for Kids. **The Rodman Ride for Kids** is an annual fundraiser that awards 100% of money raised by Wildflower's participants to our organization.

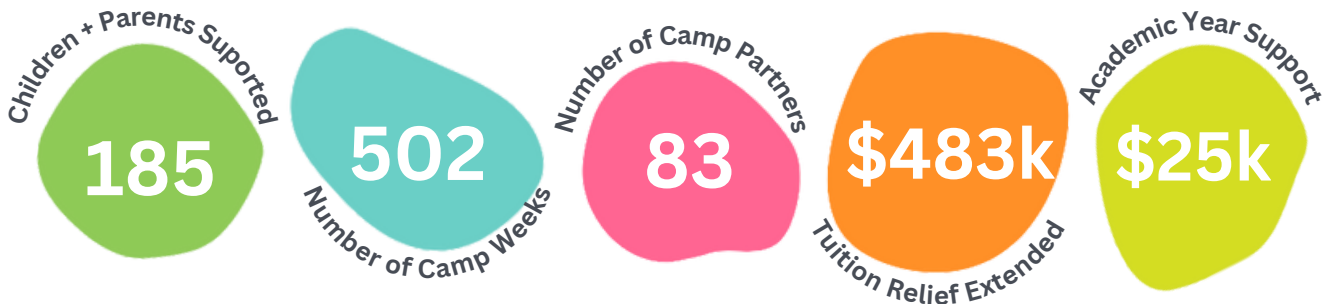


At this September's Rodman Ride for Kids, Wildflower secured \$96K through donations and sponsorships. Riders worked together, had fun, and joined a community of thousands invested in our children.

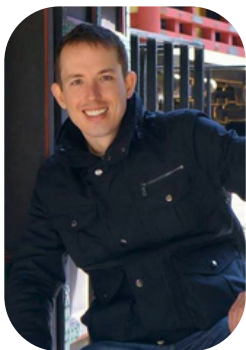


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Wildflower by the Numbers: 2023 Summary



Meet Our Newest Board Member



We'd like to welcome Gary House as the newest addition to the Wildflower Board of Directors! Gary brings a passion for the mission, and is eagerly serving on the Development Committee. He has already secured a \$5K Rodman Ride sponsorship from his employer, JP Morgan Chase. We're excited to have Gary as part of our team, and look forward to furthering Wildflower's mission together.

"By working with our partners at BoardLead, we were fortunate to bring on a Board member like Gary who has corporate experience and dedicated training in non-profit board governance."

-Cyndi Jones, Wildflower Founder and Board Chair

Thank You

To our donors and supporters, we thank you for making our work possible.

With special thanks to our **Sustaining Sponsor**



Camp Spotlight



We're thrilled to feature **Becket-Chimney Corners YMCA**. BCCYMCA has partnered with Wildflower since 2008, offering tuition reductions to many campers over the years. In their words, "Our work with Wildflower is one of our longest standing partnerships and one we are very grateful for. Our programs are all about creating supportive and nurturing communities for children. We've felt privileged to work with Wildflower and be there for children and families who have experienced loss."