

“These experiences set the stage for the journey I’m on today...”

When Elijah was in fifth grade, his father passed away, leaving an irreparable hole in his life. In the years that followed, Elijah’s bereaved family struggled to find a sense of normalcy. During that difficult time, Wildflower stepped in and provided the support needed to navigate those challenging years.

“They helped my sister and me attend summer camps/programs where we could be ourselves again, build lasting connections, and make happy memories. Not to mention, for my mom, it was a chance to see us thrive and to take a much-needed break from the constant demands of being a single parent. These experiences set the stage for the journey I’m on today—one that has taken me from a reluctant camper to someone who has biked across continents, led life-changing trips for other young people.”



Elijah and his father

Elijah had never imagined that he would find himself biking across continents and sleeping in tents. Before Apogee, he preferred the comfort of his home, bed, and familiar routines to camping in the wilderness and grand adventures.



The thought of spending weeks on a bike, waking up before dawn in a new town every morning, and living out of a tent was far from appealing. However, this changed in 2016 when Elijah’s best friend convinced him to join a cycling trip in California. With his friend’s encouragement, Elijah signed up for his first trip with a company called Apogee Adventures, biking from Eugene, Oregon, to San Francisco.

“On this journey I discovered a side of myself I hadn’t known existed. The thrill of traveling by bike, the challenge of pushing myself beyond my comfort zone, and the joy of forming deep connections with a small, cohesive group became the things I lived for. I quickly fell in love with the simplicity of life on the road, where each day was a new adventure and every mile brought a sense of accomplishment.”

In 2022, Elijah decided to give back by becoming a trip leader for Apogee. **“Over the past three summers, I’ve had the privilege of leading six trips, including the same Europe Coast to Coast journey I did as a student in 2017. My goal has always been to provide my students with the same transformative experiences that shaped me.”**

In 2018 and 2024, Elijah raised money for Team Wildflower as a rider and a virtual participant. Wildflower is extremely proud of Elijah for all his great accomplishments since being accepted to Wildflower in 2013.

Elijah’s story demonstrates that a donation to Wildflower is a gift that keeps on giving; by supporting and empowering a Wildflower camper, you become the catalyst for change in not only their lives, but the many that they will go on to impact.

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.



Elijah with his co-leader & their Apogee Europe tour group



You Can Give Hope.
DONATE TODAY

at wildflowerforkids.org/ways-to-give/

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Cyndi Jones, MSW, *Founder and Chair*

Gledia Agolli | Edward Bell | Steve Birnbaum, MD | Robert Brooks, PhD | Ceci Cordeiro | Shondell Davis

Steve Fischer | Arthur Greenberg | Garey House | Abhishek Khatri | Debbie Whitehill, MSW | Denise Widman | Roz Wong

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 camper remarked: *"It is something I look forward to ever since I spent my first summer [at camp]. I've made friends there, and great memories as well. Going there allows me to feel free. No responsibilities, no stress. I am able to spend time relaxing and having fun with my friends. I can do what I want to do, and experiment with new activities."*

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

Rodman Ride

For the past 14 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.

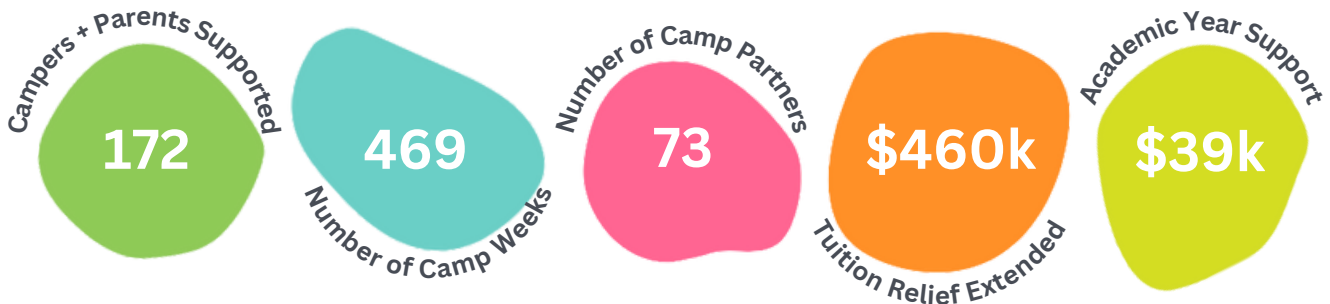


Donations are still coming in for the 2024 Rodman Ride for Kids! This year, Team Wildflower consisted of the many colors that make up our community - including our Founder, Staff, Board members, and an Alumni Camper! The same goes for our wonderful event volunteers, which included some current Wildflower families!



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

Wildflower by the Numbers: 2024 Summary



Meet Our Newest Board Members



We're excited to introduce Wildflower's two newest Board members, Gledia Agolli and Abhishek Khatri! Gledia, a Vice President and Banker at J.P. Morgan Private Bank, brings a boutique approach to wealth management, guiding individuals and families in making meaningful financial decisions. Abhishek, an Engagement Manager at PwC US, recently completed the Stanford LEAD Executive Leadership program, adding to his deep expertise in leadership and technology.



Executive Director Erin Lynch shares, *"Gledia and Abhishek's combined expertise and passion for making a difference will be invaluable as we continue our mission to support grieving families."*

Thank You

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

With special thanks to our Sustaining Sponsor



Camp Partner Spotlight

Special thanks to our friends at Camp Matoaka!



Under the leadership of owner Jason Silberman, Matoaka campers and their families have generously raised more than \$37,000 in donations to Wildflower since 2021. We are so grateful for your ongoing generosity!