

Friends of the Waltham Family School, Inc.

GRATITUDE REPORT

2021-2022

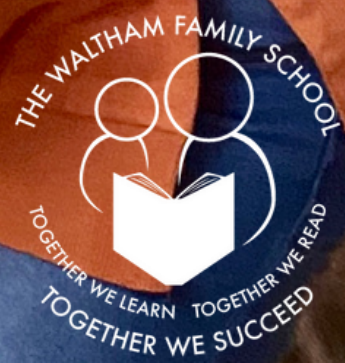


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OPENING DOORS FOR IMMIGRANT FAMILIES



Tracy McMahon
FWFS President
2021- Present

Dear Friend,

An open door is a sign of welcome. A way to invite people into your community. This year at the Waltham Family School, many doors were opened, both for the program and the Waltham community.

Opening Doors is a 10-week curriculum program that supports parents as leaders of their families and their child's first and most influential teacher. WFS parents were fortunate to partake in this program when Jackie Herrera, WFS Program Coordinator and Opening Doors facilitator, incorporated the program into the WFS curriculum.

In the spring, for the first time since 2019, the Waltham Family School was able to again open its doors for an in-person WFS Showcase, where parents presented what they had learned from Opening Doors and received their completion certificate from Dr. Brian Reagan, the Superintendent of Waltham Public Schools.

And, in an effort to open doors for more members of the Waltham community, Waltham Public Schools provided funding to train three new facilitators in this national program. These facilitators offer sessions to elementary school families in the district. Bringing this curriculum to WFS is just one example of Jackie's welcoming and collaborative leadership.

The WFS opened its doors at 510 Moody Street to many volunteers and community partners that had not been able to visit during previous years because of the pandemic. In the school year of 2021-22, 18 volunteers contributed nearly 500 hours providing support to WFS learners in both the adult and preschool classrooms.

Many community organizations were welcomed into the school this year. The Waltham Fields Community Farm, Healthy Waltham, and Chapel Hill-Chauncy Hall worked together to bring vegetables and turkeys for every family to take home for the Thanksgiving break.

Technology has a way of opening doors for people. And the Chromebook project, which was piloted in 2021, has continued to be an integral part of the program. In addition to using Chromebooks for online educational tools, the WFS parents created photo storybooks for their children and a class cookbook.



Eight preschoolers graduated from WFS in June 2022 and were welcomed into new classrooms across the district in August.

At home, parents are using Chromebooks to take classes online and apply for driver's permits and employment. WFS parents even used their Chromebooks to register their children for Kindergarten, one of the main WFS goals.

I fervently believe in lifelong learning opportunities and the mission of the WFS, to support immigrant families as their students move on to Kindergarten and beyond. This past year, thanks to the largest donation in the history of the Friends, we ensured that we can open more doors for WFS alumni. John Cloninger, the recipient of the Friend of the Year Award, donated to the newly established WFS Scholarship Fund, which financially supports both alumni parents and children of the program as they continue on their educational journey, whether in college or vocational training.



The first recipients of the WFS Scholarship Fund awards

In July, five Waltham High School graduates who began their educational journey in the Waltham Family School were awarded the first WFS Scholarship Fund awards. All five began college this fall.

As we look forward to this coming year, we want to continue to open doors. The Friends will be undergoing a year-long strategic planning effort to ensure the future growth of the WFS. The Friends will align its strategic plan with the Waltham Public Schools' new strategic planning. We aim to build on the WFS's 20-year history and continue to welcome families to Waltham, and open doors to education opportunities. Please mark your calendar for our 20th birthday celebration on Thursday, March 16, 2023!

In closing, thank you to the City of Waltham and the Waltham Public Schools for their ongoing support and partnership and for providing more than 75% of the operating funds. And to all the donors, sponsors, supporters, and volunteers - thank you. Thank you for believing in us, and thank you for helping us do our part to create opportunities for parents to develop their skills, advocate for their children's education, and become leaders in our community.

Sincerely,

Tracy McMahon
Board President
Friends of the Waltham Family School



HIGHLIGHTS FROM THIS YEAR

VIRTUAL EVENTS

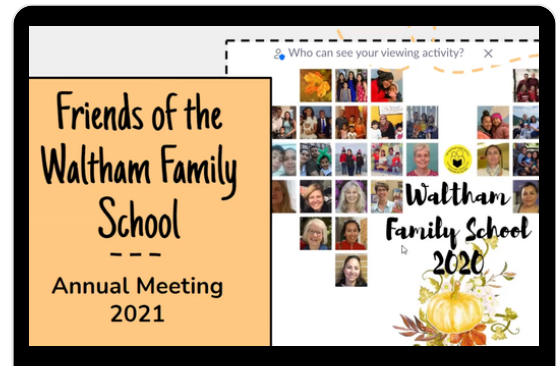
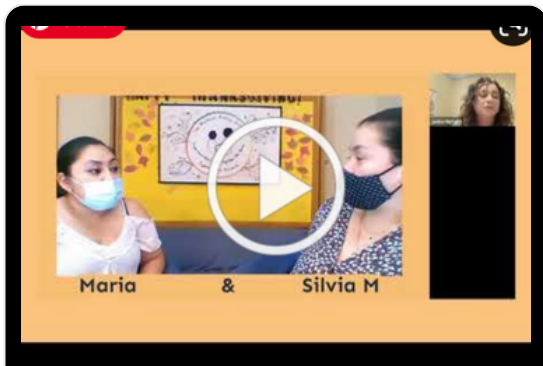
As the pandemic continued to impact us, the Friends hosted multiple successful virtual events throughout the year. The Friends held its second virtual Fiesta with Tracy McMahon and Jackie Herrera live-streaming with prerecorded segments.

The Friends are thankful for the many guests and supporters who have tuned in to connect. This year's virtual Fiesta! raised over \$35,000 - the most funds raised at a Fiesta!

Thank you to the many sponsors and guests who continued to support the Friends - even in a virtual format!



Tracy McMahon & Jackie Herrera live at the Virtual Fiesta 2022.



Other virtual events included the FWFS Annual Meeting and Coffee & Conversation, which WFS parents attended on their Chromebooks.

SAVE THE DATE

FIESTA!

FOR THE WALTHAM FAMILY SCHOOL
Thursday, March 16
Chapel Hill-Chauncy Hall School
bit.ly/wfsfiesta20

A decorative banner for the Fiesta event. It features a dark blue background with colorful flowers in shades of red, white, blue, and yellow. The text is centered and includes the event name, date, location, and a link to the event page.

CHROMEBOOK UPDATE

Chromebooks have become a core component in the WFS adult classrooms. This vital technological tool has introduced many new online resources and applications as a regular part of the curriculum, offering WFS parents new employment opportunity skills and access to online resources needed for family and community life.

WFS parents utilize their Chromebooks to register their children for Kindergarten, one of the main WFS goals.

Upon graduation, WFS parents gain ownership of the Chromebook to narrow the community's digital divide.

The Friends are committed to continuing funding this vital tool, and we are thankful for the supporters who believe in the importance of alleviating technology inequities.



WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU GIVE A MOM A CHROMEBOOK?

Supporters found out in this fun video in honor of Mother's Day:

<https://youtu.be/GF93MNxuCV0>

FWFS PARENT TECHNOLOGY PURCHASES 2021-2022

14

Chromebooks for new adult learners with headsets for uninterrupted learning



22

T-Mobile Hotspot subscriptions to offer Internet access in classrooms



WFS SCHOLARSHIP FUND

The WFS Scholarship Fund was established by the Friends of the Waltham Family School in 2021 as a tribute to the founder of the Waltham Family School, Britta McNemar. Over 25 generous donors contributed to creating the Fund in honor of Britta McNemar's retirement in June 2021. One of those donors, John Cloninger, donated \$100,000, the largest gift the Friends have ever received, to the newly established WFS Scholarship Fund.

The vision of the WFS Scholarship Fund is to support WFS parents and alumni families of the program as they continue on their educational journey, whether in college or vocational training.

The first scholarship award was given to five Waltham High School graduates who began in the Waltham Family School. The FWFS Board, WFS staff, award winners, and their families celebrated together in July with a \$500 scholarship to each graduate.

All five have college plans. They plan to attend Bentley University, Brandeis University, Clark Atlanta University, Salem State University, and Wentworth Institute.



STAY CONNECTED WITH WFS

Look out for our quarterly newsletter

The WFS Newsletter was launched in the winter of 2022. This quarterly newsletter is full of updates from the Waltham Family School, community events and connections, profiles of staff, board members, and event announcements. Make sure to check out the WFS website for the latest news.



FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Statement of Financial Position FY2021 - 2022

ASSETS		
Unreserved Bank Accounts		\$ 9,555
Investments- Unrestricted		\$ 279,637
Cash		\$ 376
Reserved for Parent Programs		\$ 48,445
Reserved for LCSW		\$ 65,250
Reserved Technology Grant		\$ 75
Parent Technology Fund		\$ 18,844
Metrowest Emergency Relief		\$ 688
WFS Scholarship Fund		\$ 117,283
	TOTAL ASSETS	<u>\$ 540,153</u>
LIABILITIES		
	TOTAL LIABILITIES	<u>\$ -</u>
	FY21-22 NET ASSETS	<u>\$ 540,153</u>

Statement of Activities FY2021 - 2022

INCOME		
General Donations		\$ 38,393
Major Donations - Unrestricted		\$ 13,000
Fiesta Income		\$ 43,571
Grants *		\$ 25,500
Interest & Dividends		\$ 3,390
Scholarship Fund Donations		\$ 108,115
	FY21-22 INCOME **	<u>\$ 231,969</u>
EXPENSES		
Development Expenses		\$ 62,812
Event Expenses		\$ 7,922
Administrative & General Expenses		\$ 6,915
Educational Programs		\$ 29,363
Waltham Public Schools Supplement		\$ 29,175
Parent Technology Fund		\$ 8,341
	FY21-22 EXPENSES **	<u>\$ 144,528</u>
	CHANGE IN ASSETS	<u>\$ 87,441</u>

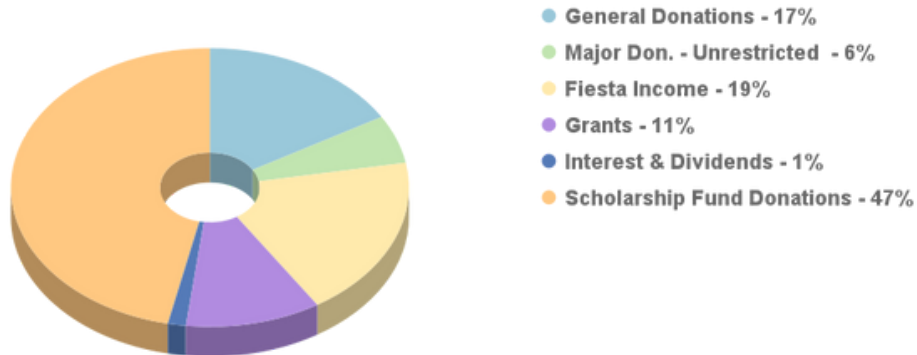
* Grants Received 2021-2022:

City of Waltham Community Development Block Grant
Foundation For MetroWest & Oechsle Family Foundation

** Audited FY21-22 Financial Statement

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

FWFS Income FY21-22
\$231,969



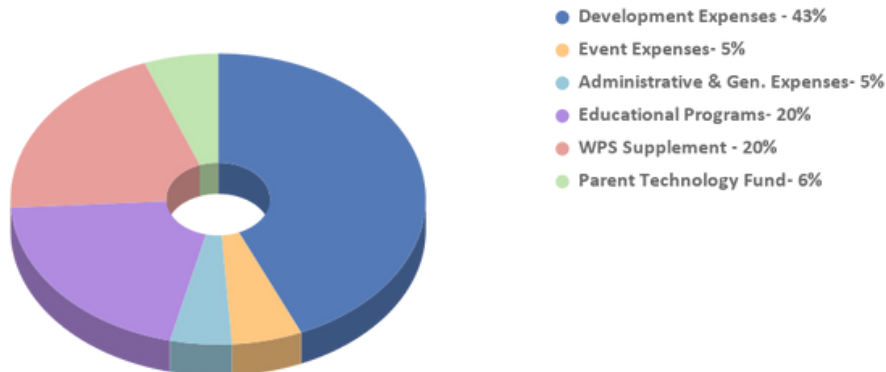
INCOME

Fundraising highlights this year:

- The Friends received the largest gift in the history of our nonprofit. This exceptional gift of \$100,000 from John Cloninger was added to the newly established WFS Scholarship Fund.
- The Fall appeal raised over \$20,000, a 40% increase over the previous year's appeal.
- The second virtual Fiesta raised over \$35,000, a slight increase over the first virtual event and the best Fiesta result!

And a setback: The WFS leadership transition impacted some major donors' giving patterns.

FWFS Expenses FY21-22
\$144,528



EXPENSES

Expenses increased as WFS staffing increased from the small pandemic staff of five employees to a staff of eight part-time employees plus the full-time Program Coordinator. One of those new staff members was an Early Childhood Mental Health Consultant, a much-needed position with funding from a three-year pilot program, thanks to an anonymous donor.

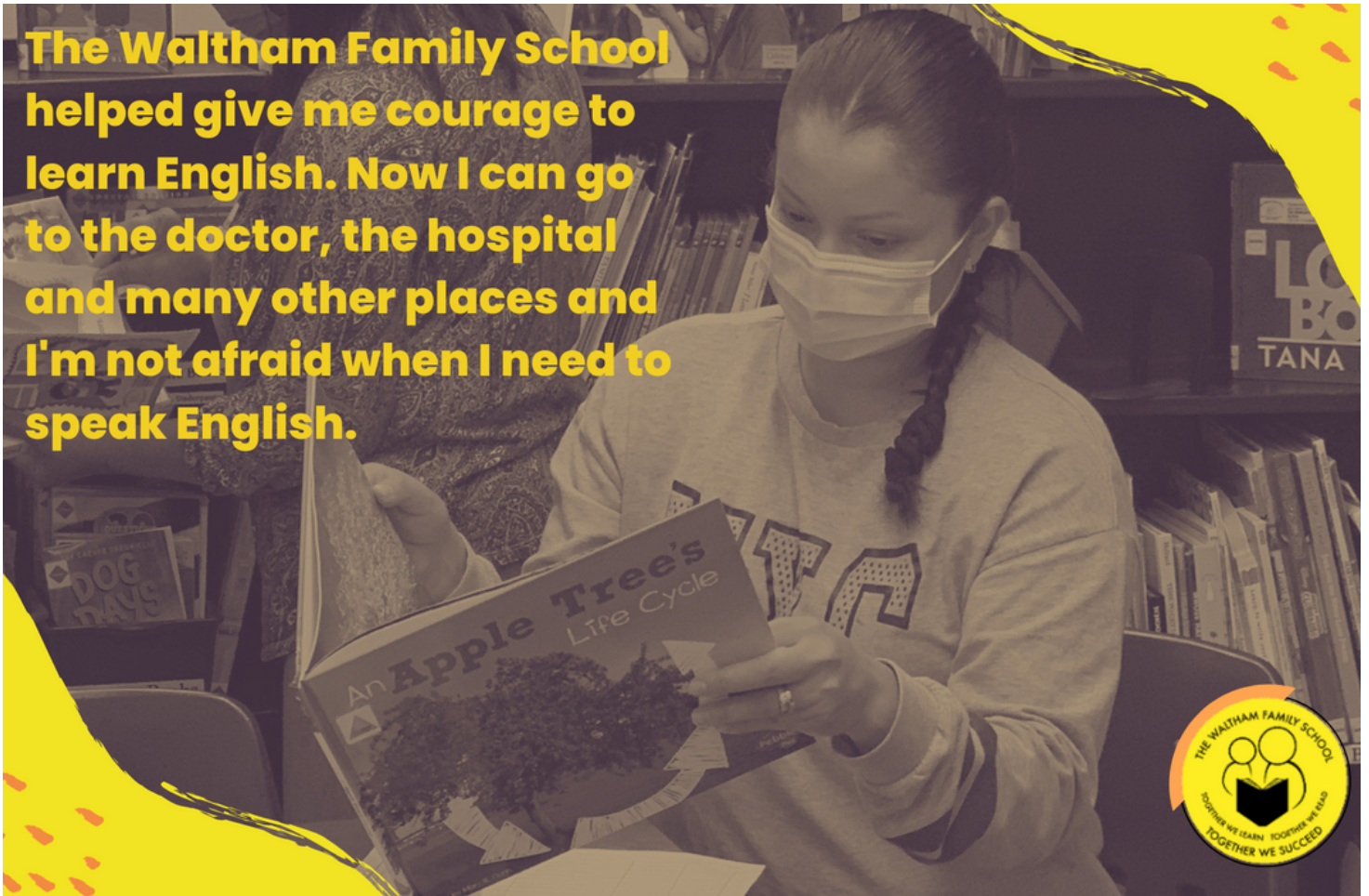
THANK YOU PARTNERS AND DONORS!

Among the many great relationships, the Friends continue to be thankful to the City of Waltham for providing space for the WFS and the Waltham School Committee for their strong support. We are humbled by the many partners and supporters who continue to show up, step up, and make a difference in the lives of Waltham children and families. The Friends are grateful for each and every one of the individual, corporate, and foundation supporters who make Waltham Family School's work possible.

As the Waltham Family School's motto says:
"Together We Learn. Together We Read, Together We Succeed!"

WFS ALUMNA QUOTE

The Waltham Family School helped give me courage to learn English. Now I can go to the doctor, the hospital and many other places and I'm not afraid when I need to speak English.



TOGETHER WE LEARN: GET TO KNOW US

The Waltham Family School is grateful for the many people who make the program successful. Thanks to the work of advisors, alumni, donors, sponsors, supporters, and volunteers, we can impact the lives of the WFS families. Here are a few of these amazing individuals:

Molyna Richards, FWFS Advisory Council Member



My hometown is originally Lexington, MA, and I reside in Fitchburg, MA. I am the Executive Director for the Waltham Chamber of Commerce.

What is your connection to WFS?

The Waltham Family School is a chamber member, and I'm on the advisory board for the Friends of the WFS.

Why do you support the WFS?

I support WFS because I believe so strongly in its mission. I am first generation and understand the challenges that come with being first generation and having parents that didn't speak English. Without programs like WFS, I would not be in the position I'm in.

What is your favorite moment from your connection with WFS?

I love seeing videos of smiling faces. I also feel really great to know that I was part of connecting chamber member Staples with the FWFS when the Friends were looking for Chromebooks.

What is your favorite part about the WFS program?

The book grab. I love that you give out free books. I know that some families don't have many resources, and books are a luxury that many of us take for granted so I love that you give away books.

FUN FACT

I'm bilingual, fluent in English and Khmer. I make confectionary party favors. I've been coaching my twins in tee ball for two years and will be moving up to coach baseball.

My husband and I were the first and, up until two years ago, the only people to get married on the Battlegreen in Lexington, MA.



Gwen Pojasek FWFS Board Member



Hometown: Waltham, MA

Why did you join the FWFS Board?

I have been a supporter of the WFS for many years. I was inspired to join the board by understanding the experiences of immigrant families in the Waltham Public School system. I am a firm believer in early education for all and in expanding access for all. I am honored to be a small part of helping to expand access within the Waltham community.

Why do you support the WFS?

The WFS is how school should be. The minute I met a family in the WFS, I was inspired to do more. I know that any support I can provide will make an impact in the success of our families.

What is/was your favorite part about your work on the board?

My favorite part so far has been working with the Transition Committee. It provided me with a deeper understanding of the WFS and its role within the Waltham Public School and the community. I am currently excited to be working on the Strategic Plan and being a part of building the roadmap of support for the WFS.

What have you learned from your experience?

I have learned that we have a lot of work to do to increase access for all families and that we can do this through a community effort. Progress will be made through support from many.

FUN FACT

I love to garden, do puzzles, and cook with my kids.



Leslie García Monzón

WFS Alumna



I am from the city of Guatemala, and my now 7-year-old son Eduardo came to Waltham Family School in September 2019. I graduated from WFS in June 2022. My son is a second grader at the Whittemore School.

Why did you come to WFS?

The first time I learned about WFS was through Early Intervention. Eduardo had some hearing issues, and the therapist strongly recommended preschool for him. He could benefit from being in a classroom setting. We were very attached, so a school like WFS offered an ideal situation for both of them.

What are you doing now?

These days I am very busy. I just got my degree in Dental Assistant, and now I am doing my three hundred-plus hours of practice at the Charles River Community Health Center in Brighton. I love my new career and the possibilities ahead. Also, I work as a cashier at Market Basket and a laundromat. I work seven days a week. I only have one afternoon free to take Eduardo to guitar lessons. We are happy.

What was the most important thing you learned from WFS?

The most important thing I learned at the WFS is that life has no barriers, that we can achieve anything we want because we can help each other. I felt supported by the great community of Waltham Family School. For the first time I felt I belonged to a bigger group. Before I was home alone with my son. Here I learned English, met other people, learned about the community where I live, and my son was making new friends and getting ready for Kindergarten.

FUN FACT

When I was a teenager, I loved playing soccer and basketball.



FWFS BOARD 2021-2022

Tracy McMahon, President
David King, Treasurer
Kate Tranquada, Clerk

Members-at-large

Mike Chen
Mary Beth Kirsch
Kristen Lucken
Tom Maehl
Gwen Pojasek

Amy Schaffer
Elaine Wong
Dr. Brian Reagan, Waltham Public Schools *
Jackie Herrera, Waltham Family School *
* Ex Officio

FWFS Contractors

Patricia Deveaux, Koundakjian & Company, P.C.
Anne Dugan, AMD EventWorks, LLC.

WFS STAFF 2021-2022

Jackie Herrera, Program Coordinator
Susana Saldaña Sanchez, Assistant Program Coordinator
Sandra Arcis, Program Support Assistant
Jeri Bayer, ESOL Consultant
Michele Houdek, ESOL Teacher
Julie Leger-Fullerton, ESOL Teacher
Meg Maehl, WFS Preschool Lead Teacher
Jessica Aguilar, WFS Preschool Assistant Teacher
Diana Argueta, WFS Preschool Assistant
Laura Gomez Machiavelo, Early Childhood Mental Health Consultant



ADVISORY COUNCIL

Liz AlJammal, School Committee
Larry Bailis, Brandeis University
Marina Paige Bartley, WPY, retired
Elizabeth Brach, Educational Consultant
Debra Brush, Family ACCESS of Newton
Gabriela Canepa, Breaking Barriers
Mike Chen, Cisco System
Ginger Connearney, WHS, ret., WFS Volunteer
Constance Counts, Community Advocate
Kaytie Dowcett, Waltham Partnership for Youth
Marianne Duffy, Waltham Public Schools
Rabbi David Finkelstein, Temple Beth Israel
John Frassica, School Committee
Jane Gately, School Committee
Keith Gilbert, Park Lodge Hotel Group
Dr. Liz Homan, Waltham Public Schools
Tammi Kibler, ServPro
Cynthia Lasker, Community Volunteer
Marya Levenson, Brandeis University
Kelly Linehan, Waltham Public Library
Jeannette MacInnes, Bentley University

Bob Marcou, Marcou Jewelers
Britta McNemar, Waltham Family School, retired
Mithra Merryman, Greater Boston Legal Services
Myriam Michel, Healthy Waltham
Bonnie Newman, Consultant, retired
Alla Ovechkis, Rockland Trust
Molyna Richards, Waltham Chamber
Daniela Romero, Boston College Law School
Nuria Sanchez, WFS Alumna
Brian Shea, Bentley University
Delia Soza, WFS Alumna
Mary Sprogell, Waltham Public Schools
Tom Stanley, MA State Representative & Waltham City Council
Dr. Nadene Stein, Waltham Public Schools
Rachel Theodorou, Brandeis University
Sandra Vasquez, Dual Language School
Pat Vasquezi, WPS, retired
Carlos Vidal, Waltham City Council
Jonathan White, Bentley University
Mayor Jeannette McCarthy, City of Waltham*
* Ex Officio

DONORS 2021-2022

Visionary (\$100,000+)

John Cloninger

Champions (\$5,000+)

Dr. Constance Counts

Mary Beth and Adam Kirsch

Kristen Lucken

Foundation for MetroWest

City of Waltham: Community Block Development Grant

Leaders (\$1,000-\$4,999)

Anonymous (3)

Ben's Construction Inc.

Children's Hospital at Waltham

E&M Landscape & Construction, Inc.

First Lutheran Church of Waltham

Juliana Leger-Fullerton & Alan Fullerton

Keith Gilbert, Park Lodge Hotel Group

Hobbs Brook Real Estate LLC

Bernice & David King

Bryna Leeder & Bill Margolin

Jack & Elinor Marcou Charitable Foundation,

The Marcou Family

Tracy & Kevin McMahon

Britta and Don McNemar

Sarah Segreve, Alicia Duca,

Jason Pawlowski, Dan Pierson,

David Rosado, James Wedell,

Byron Moulton, & Taylor Little

Kay Seligson & Nigel Kraus

Simply Business: Thompson Island Fun Run,

Celtics Playoffs Squares, Bake Sale,

Cornhole Fundraiser

Suwyn Family Foundation

Kate Tranquada

Waltham Rotary Club

Elaine Wong

Wyman Giving Fund

Zarape Mexican Food

Friends (\$500-\$999)

Anonymous (2)

Mr. & Mrs. Lawrence Buell

Bob Carter

Chapel Hill-Chauncy Hall School

Anne & Marty Dugan

Terry Eagan, Patio Records

East Cambridge Savings Bank

Gelineau & Associates, R.E.

Jackie Herrera

The Nelson Companies

Bonnie Newman

Hillcrest Properties

Paul and Susan Pintus

Rockland Trust

Amy & Kyle Schaffer

Stanton Insurance

Shirley Taylor

Julie Wack

Helen & Larry Yarbrough

Gail Zunz



Supporters (\$250-\$499)

Anonymous
Kathleen Atwood
Ballentine Partners, LLC
Jeri Bayer
Alwina Bennett
Connie & Tim Braceland
Brookline Bank
Carolina Lara & Mike Chen
Virginia Connearney
Jane De León Griffin
Marianne & Stephen Duffy
Mary Gambon
Denise Goguen
Ginaya Greene
Eve & Alan Lehmann
Marya Levenson

Thank you 

Lenore & Elliot Lobel
Susanna Peyton
RTN Credit Union
Susana Saldaña Sanchez
Carla Shattuck
Katherine Spalding
Mary Sprogell
Shikena & Geoff Stanton
Skip & Marilyn Sturman
Rachel Theodorou
Anna Velella
Waltham Chamber
The Waltham Woman's Club
Lee Warren
Debra Whitney & Karin Wilinski
Barbara & John Williams

Donors (\$100-\$249)

Connie Ahlstrom
Lois Alves
Marina Paige Bartley
Christie Bilotto
Jacqueline Boni
Connie & Tim Braceland
Marilyn & Tom Burke
Jaci Buscher
Gabriela Canepa
Courtney Coleman
Danielle Coles
Sarah & Lance Conrad
Mary Coughlan
Paul Crocetti
Katherine Cunha
Rebecca Cyr
Laura Delp
Len Dimaggio
Deborah Dobbins
Reva Dolobowsky
Kaytie Dowcett
Rachel Downs
Kimberly Elliott
Jessie Fire
Victoria Ford
Maria Fort
Ann & John Frassica

Elisse Ghitelman
Vanessa Gobiel
Laura Gomez Machiavelo
Sena & Harsha Gopal
Amber Graves
Greg Hamann
Marjorie Hartman
Robert Herrera
Lori Hrdlicka
Nancy Stockford & Mark Huston
Leslie Jacobson Kaye
Eileen Kell
Tammi Kibler
George Kopetski
Lynsey Kraemer
Susan & Dennis LaRosee
Cynthia Lasker
Joseph Leghorn
Kathy Lituri
Kathleen Luvisi
Meg & Tom Maehl
Eric Maillis
Gary & Janis Marchese
Carol & Brian McMahon
Maura McNiff
Lillian Mendez Nir
Dana Michelsen

Vinodini Murugesan
Timothy Nolan
Harriet Onello
Peter Pinch
Brian Reagan
Annette Reynolds
Jan & James Riggsby
Jane Rizzo
Daniel Robb
Nancy Salafia
Angel & Richard Schaffer
Carlota Schechter
Julie Schwartz
Cynthia Scobie
Susan Siroky
Sheila Smith
Crystal & Matt Soule
Representative Tom Stanley
Robert & Janet Tranquada
Elizabeth Uccello
Patricia Umbrell
Laura Van Zandt
Joan & Mark Weinsten
Bethany Welch
Jonathan White
Katie Willard
Diana Young

Sustainers (\$1-\$99)

Agape Spiritual Community
 Anonymous (4)
 Alexandra Babbist
 Arianne Bourgault
 Benjamin Brabbs
 Elizabeth Bruhmuller
 Liz Buscher
 Patricia Caisey
 Krista Campbell
 Matt Carriker
 Margaret Cioffi
 Brenda Colgan
 Anna Delves
 Velma Frank
 Jane Gately
 Melanie Gerhart
 Liza Gottsegen
 Lynne Graves
 Sara Hamerla
 Emma Herzog
 Susan Horwitz

Hildegunde Kaurisch
 Martha Ann Kelley
 Amy King
 Cheryl Kohlenberger
 Dan Kuzyk
 Amanda L'Italien
 Peter Lagorio
 Rochelle Leeder
 Nelinda Levy
 Lucille Lituri
 Robert Logan
 Barb Marriott & Jim Van Donsel
 Faith McAuliffe
 Rob McGinnity
 Marie McKenzie
 Doreen Mirley
 Karen Muisse
 Gail Murray
 Sharline Nabulime
 Denise Nugent
 Terry Perlmutter

Jennifer Rasmussen
 Nancy Rea
 Lynnette Rodrigues
 Jennifer Rose
 Jean Rosenberg
 Nina Rosenblatt
 Russell Schmuhl
 Kim Scott
 Jessica Segal
 Kevin Shea
 Elizabeth Singer
 MaryJo Paradis-Smith
 Amy Stitely
 Rebecca Strauss
 Sharalyn Trolio
 Lauren Van Buren
 Amelia Van Donsel
 Maria & Felipe Vaquerano
 Kate Watson
 Judith Zuckerman



School is very important to me. I have learned a lot this year. I want to learn to help my children with their homework and to have a better job. Now I feel more confident in myself. I am very grateful to Waltham Family School.

Silvia, WFS parent



My son really likes coming to preschool. I am also happy to be in this program together with my son. We are learning a lot.

Lilian, WFS parent



TOGETHER WE SUCCEED

Thank you for your commitment to the Waltham Family School as we prepare more children for kindergarten and empower families.

PARENT QUOTES

"This program has been a blessing to me and my family, when I first came here, I didn't speak any English. Now I feel more sure of myself, I understand more when people speak to me, and I can have conversations with other people who speak the language."

~ Glenda



"Waltham Family School is a very beautiful program. It is important for me to learn English. Waltham Family School has taught me to improve my life so much because learning English is very important in my day-to-day life at medical appointments, shopping in stores, and pharmacies."

~ Evelyn



"I like to come to Waltham Family School. I have been here for one year. I feel very happy. When I started the first class in English, I was very happy because I had started to realize my dream. Now, this program is helping me to learn so much. Before I couldn't speak English but now I want to speak English because I want to learn more."

~ Jackelin



STAY CONNECTED TO THE WALTHAM FAMILY SCHOOL

www.walthamfamilyschool.org

