



**TOGETHER
WE CAN DO
MORE.**

**GENEROSITY AT
WILDWOOD SCHOOL**

At Wildwood School, we not only nurture brave learners, we inspire **brave givers.**

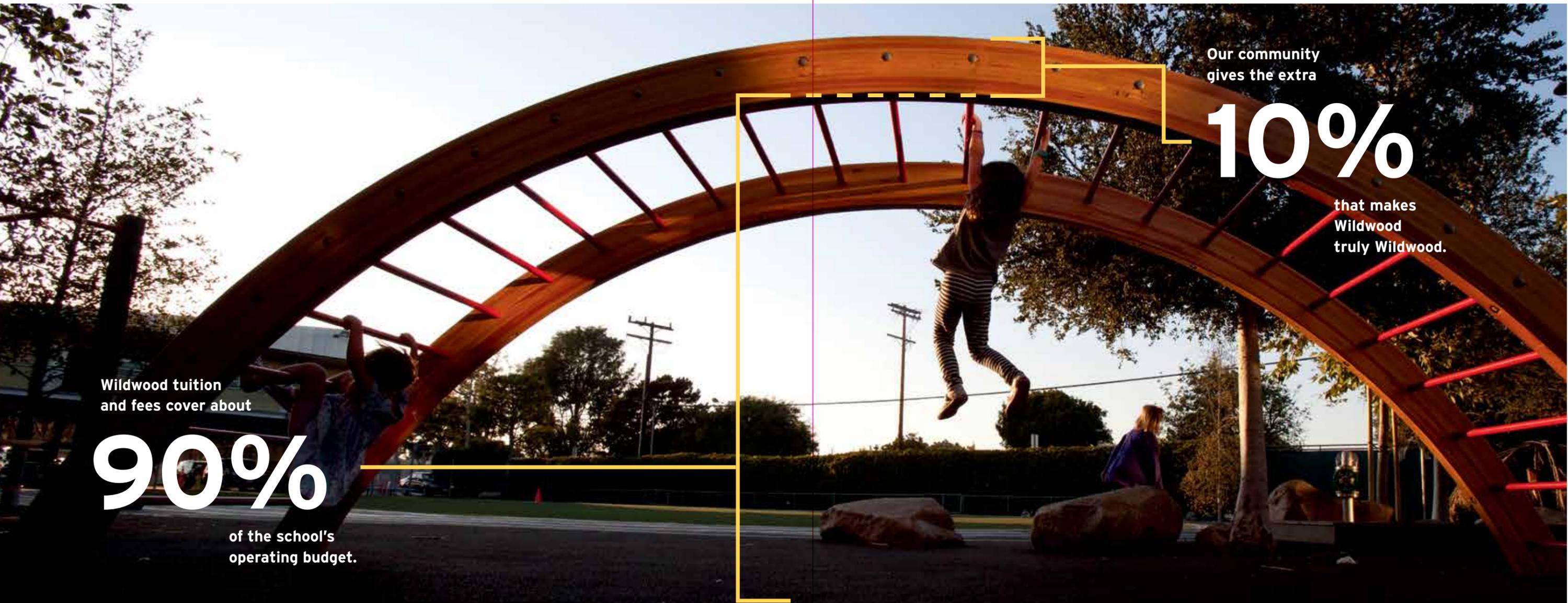
Giving at Wildwood involves our entire community, united in the knowledge that a Wildwood education changes the world for the better.

And you make this transformative journey possible. As part of Wildwood's giving community, you help provide the critical 10% of our budget not fulfilled by tuition.

Together, we are shaping the future of education. Your generosity is the fuel that enables us to experiment, seed new ideas, and share what we've learned with a broader community.

The stories in these pages illustrate the powerful impact of this generosity.

PLEASE JOIN US.



Wildwood tuition and fees cover about

90%

of the school's operating budget.

Our community gives the extra

10%

that makes Wildwood truly Wildwood.

"I see myself as a scientist. But if you ask me if I'm a writer, a historian, a musician —

I'd say yes — because at Wildwood, I've learned to love every subject."

Nanak Nihal Khalsa '16, Vassar College

We unleash

EXPLORERS

Wildwood emboldens students to seek out the "why" of how things work — to discover and investigate systems of all shapes and sizes.

INTERNSHIPS

EDUCATION MULTIPLIED. Supported by Annual Giving, internships are part of the core curriculum for Wildwood juniors and seniors, aimed at extending learning beyond the classroom and encouraging exploration.



ANNUAL GIVING: A TRUE CELEBRATION OF COMMUNITY

Annual Giving impacts every person and program at Wildwood. Parents, grandparents, faculty, staff, alumni families, and friends all contribute. The power of these gifts advances outstanding programs, such as student internships, and helps ensure a brilliant future.



Sophia Poulos '10 has worked as a field research engineer specializing in earthquake science — a future she envisioned during her Wildwood internship.

Sophia Poulos '10 has always been “a Lincoln Logs, Lego kind of girl,” she says, fascinated by what makes structures strong and why they fail.

So her internship following her junior year at Wildwood was “awesome.” Sophia spent the summer working with the Network for Earthquake Engineering Simulation (NEES) at UCLA, an eight-week opportunity that turned into a six-year relationship. NEES@UCLA, funded by the U.S. National Science Foundation, specializes in mobile testing of structural

performance. “It was an experience I wanted more of,” Sophia recalls, “which decided my path on engineering.”

In her final year with NEES, she came full circle, serving as intern coordinator. In 2016, Sophia earned her bachelor’s in engineering science from Smith College in Massachusetts, which led her to study for a master’s in structural engineering at the University of California, Davis.

Through it all, Wildwood’s strong foundation in collaboration, she says, “put me ahead of the game.”



Matt Levy '04 credits his Wildwood internship with helping him discover ways to effect positive change in communities near and far.

For Matt Levy '04, an internship at the Center for Law in the Public Interest opened one door and closed another.

The firm represented a largely minority neighborhood in a lawsuit against the city of Los Angeles regarding sewage overflows. At the time, Matt thought he might be interested in law, but found that “change didn’t happen quickly enough,” he says. “Still, it was a powerful experience.”

After graduation from George Washington University, he worked for the nonprofit Council for a Community of Democracies, then joined Stanford University’s

International Policy Studies master’s program. Now he’s a lead analyst at Monitor 360, a strategic consulting firm that connects private sector, foundation, and government clients with global audiences.

His internship, coupled with his community involvement in the homeless service program at St. Joseph Center, taught him the value of engagement. “We often find our siloed communities and stay there,” he says. “The challenge is to get out of your comfort zone.” And Wildwood, Matt observes, helps students do just that.

350+

available internship sites



9,000+

collective internship hours served annually by Wildwood students

“Because of Wildwood, I am a student who understands the world on a deeper level.”

Benjamin Miller '15, University of Southern California

We foster

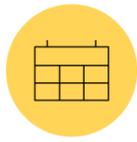
COMMUNITY

Learning tools such as these crayons in “People Colors” at Wildwood’s elementary campus embody the school’s core value of inclusion.



WILDWOOD OUTREACH CENTER

LOOKING OUTWARD. In 2000, the Board of Trustees created the Wildwood Outreach Center. Its ongoing work is funded, in part, through the school's Annual Giving program. At the core of the Wildwood Outreach Center is a commitment to institutional public service that extends far beyond our campus walls.



ANNUAL GIVING: SHARING BEST PRACTICES WITH THE WORLD

Through Annual Giving, we invest in the best in K-12 education. Our collective generosity allows the Wildwood Outreach Center to bring academic innovations to hundreds of communities across the globe.

Since its founding, the Wildwood Outreach Center has gone from being a regional hub for educational best practice to national and international recognition.

Its professional development workshops, institutes, consulting services, and school visits have impacted more than 1,200 teachers and administrators in at least 25 states and nearly a dozen countries.

Grant and Tiziana Mitchell chose Wildwood for their children, Giorgia '25 and Luca '24, for a number of reasons. Outreach is among them. "We want everyone, not just our kids, to have access to a great education," says Grant, a member of the Wildwood Board of Trustees. "I feel gratified Wildwood makes the effort to share what we do best."

Among the popular offerings by the Outreach Center are Advisory, Multicultural Leadership, Elementary Age Social Activism, and Gateways and Exhibitions. One of the newest initiatives is

a multiyear partnership between Wildwood and several Los Angeles public schools serving underrepresented communities.

In this reciprocal program, teachers across sites explore together how to teach through the lens of Systems Thinking, which recognizes the interconnectedness of ideas, behavior, and things. Chapman University is studying the program.

"We're excited about this effort on several levels," says Steve Barrett, director of outreach, "including that the initial research indicates Systems Thinking helps to level the academic playing field by transcending documented differences in student learning tied to socioeconomic status and learning differences."

In its founding year, the Wildwood Outreach Center received a grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. The Mitchells also have included outreach in their philanthropy. "We value Wildwood as our family's community," says Tiziana, "and as an example of what is possible in education."



100,000+
students around the world benefit from the Outreach Center

Wildwood's Outreach Center works with more than

500
SCHOOLS



"The Wildwood Outreach Center has helped us build meaningful, close, and respectful relationships with all learners, families, and other stakeholders." Angie Nastovska, Ph.D.,
Director of Humanities and Innovation,
iLead Charter School Network

Students like this 2nd grader learn Systems Thinking to help understand the links between things — an approach the Wildwood Outreach Center is sharing with other schools.

We cultivate

EXPERTS

“Wildwood graduates are uniquely equipped with emotional intelligence. We have the ability to navigate difficult situations, to think critically, and to work effectively with others.

So much of what I bring to my everyday work life I learned at Wildwood.”

Kimberly Lorman '09, George Washington University

This pendulum clock, assembled in the Innovation Lab, exemplifies how self-directed projects give students a pathway to forge and deepen academic passions.



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

FACULTY EXCELLENCE. Wildwood's professional development program, supported by Annual Giving, furthers our commitment to top faculty. Through workshops and conference attendance, teachers grow their educational practice and inspire students to cultivate their own expertise.



ANNUAL GIVING: SUPPORT FOR A COMMITTED FACULTY

100% of Wildwood's faculty and staff make gifts to Annual Giving each year. They do so because they believe in the Wildwood way, in our school's commitment to developing a community of lifelong learners, and to the best possible education for all.



Thanks to a professional development opportunity made possible by Annual Giving, faculty member Vanessa Mancinelli transformed the way she teaches Shakespeare.

William Shakespeare sat in on Vanessa Mancinelli's 11th grade literature classes as students read out loud, dissected, and staged Hamlet, all on their own.

They were inspired by performance-based techniques Vanessa learned during an intensive, weeklong workshop at the Folger Shakespeare Library in Washington, D.C., thanks to Wildwood's commitment to professional development.

In the traditional method of teaching Shakespeare, students discuss the play and a teacher explains the text in detail.

Folger flips that, encouraging students to perform *Hamlet* line by line and develop their interpretations. "This has revolutionized my practice," Vanessa says. "It's changed the way I would teach any play and how I teach poetry."

Vanessa, who has shared the Folger method with her colleagues, met other teachers at the workshop who didn't have the same support she experiences at Wildwood. "It felt great knowing my school was eager for me to bring new knowledge back."

Wildwood humanities teacher Alex Cussen walked the cobbled streets of Krakow, Poland, tracing the steps of Holocaust survivors as news headlines trumpeted the present-day refugee crisis.

His experience at Centropa, a Jewish historical institute, deepened Alex's commitment to infuse lessons of social justice and the role of literature into his 8th grade classes and advisory time. "I've been amazed at how many connections my students make across time and space to other times in history."

While in Poland, Alex developed lesson plans with teachers from around the globe, including on critical issues such as the role of citizens when governments fail to act. Also part of the workshop: a somber visit to Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration camp.

"The experience will haunt me forever," says Alex. He isn't alone. "Every time I share my observances," he says, "my students hang on every word."



An international summer institute program opened teacher Alex Cussen's eyes to new ways in which to imbue issues of social justice into the study of history and literature.

100%
of faculty and staff receive professional development



125+
workshops and conferences are attended annually

**"Wildwood creates a place
where we can contradict
the ordinary."**

Isabel Lasker '13, Barnard College

We champion

ORIGINALITY

*Leading-edge programs like the
Wildwood Institute for STEM
Research and Development
(WISRD) enable students to
make connections that spark
bold new ideas.*

THE INSTITUTE MODEL

TRANSFORMATIVE PROGRAMMING. Major gifts provide Wildwood with the necessary financial resources to launch game-changing ideas that can't be funded through tuition or Annual Giving. Wildwood's Institute Model is one such program.



MAJOR GIFTS: AN INVESTMENT IN BOLD ACTION

Major gifts enable donors to invest in areas of personal passion that have a transformative impact in our school community. Typically multiyear in scope, major gifts have funded expansion of the school's athletics program, creation of the elementary school design-thinking curriculum and Tec D.E.C lab space, and so much more.

Within the Wildwood Institute for STEM Research and Development (WISRD), students research everything from cosmic rays to 3D-printed prosthetics to marine ecosystems. Equally important, they learn to see themselves as innovators.

WISRD represents the first in Wildwood's student-directed academic institutes. The Institute Model — also planned are the Institute for Digital Design and Entrepreneurship and the Institute for Social Good and Community Leadership — “is part of what makes Wildwood spectacularly different,” says Lori Strauss, assistant head for Wildwood's K-12 program, “and enables us to attract outstanding faculty.”

WISRD is no simple makerspace. Students run the Institute's board and set their own learning outcomes as they hone 21st-century skills in partnership with the likes of Caltech, UCLA, NASA, and GameDesk. “We're building a new paradigm in education, where students' interests drive the work they do,” says Joe Wise, founding director.

Wildwood parents Mark Caplow and Sue LaViolette dreamed of such a vibrant, dedicated STEM environment for their son,

Max Caplow '16. They went to Wildwood administrators and discovered they shared a mutual vision. The Caplows — who became founding donors and one of four families that bonded together to make the WISRD program possible — represent the many educational thought-leaders who find a philanthropic platform at Wildwood.

“The school couldn't do this alone. As parents, we were able to help speed up its evolution,” says Mark. “It's gratifying to know our involvement will benefit students far into the future,” Sue adds.

Max, who has gone on to study mechanical engineering at the University of Michigan, says WISRD gave him “the kind of tangible outcomes that motivate my work.”

Now a grant from the Edward E. Ford Foundation is funding an assessment of the Institute Model by UCLA. Wildwood is the ideal setting for such experimentation, notes Joe. “We have the freedom to try things and a community that embraces exploration.”



In a program made possible by major gifts, Miana Smith '17 and fellow members of the Wildwood Institute for STEM Research and Development work together to explore, document, present, and publish their research findings.

“In ‘unschooling school’ and in charging students with becoming architects of their own learning, you have unleashed something in your community that is as exciting as it is powerful.” John C. Gulla, Executive Director, The Edward E. Ford Foundation (Grant awarded in support of Wildwood's Institute Model)



More than 25 annual WISRD lectures featuring notable scientists are

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

400+ STUDENTS

from dozens of schools attend InnovatED.LA, hosted by WISRD at Wildwood

"At Wildwood, I am among students who take a front seat to our education and we have no intention of ever giving it up."

Julian Corbett '15, Vassar College

We create

SELF-STARTERS

Starting in the youngest grades, Wildwood students take ownership of their learning, engaging in projects like the organic gardening program at the elementary campus.



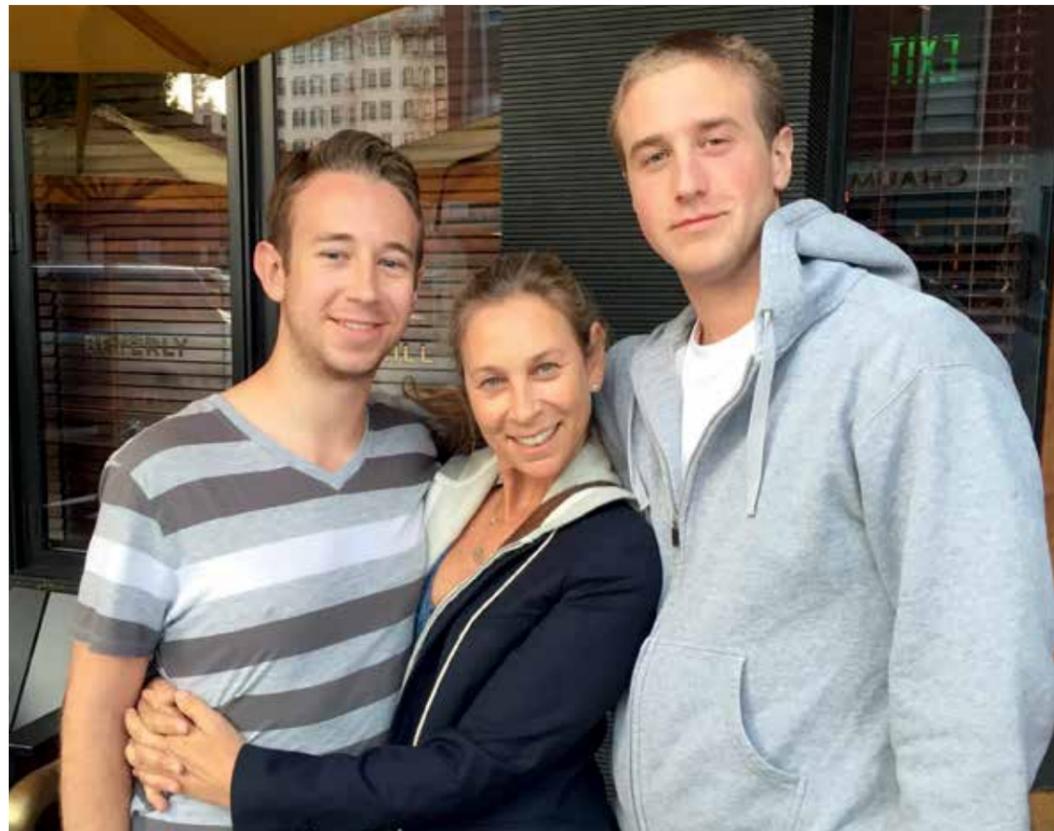
FLEXIBLE TUITION

THE HOPE FUND. Created in 2007, Wildwood's inaugural endowment supports flexible tuition, which advances Wildwood's commitment to a diverse school population.



ENDOWMENT: AN INVALUABLE GIFT OF CONTINUITY

Endowments exist in perpetuity and provide an annual income stream. Invested for growth and funded through ongoing contributions, they are self-sustaining sources of revenue. At Wildwood, endowment income allows us to open our doors to students who might otherwise be unable to attend.



Patty Vaughn, with sons Morgan Vaughn '14 and Parker Vaughn '15, knew from day one that Wildwood "is where we need to be. This is home."

Jimmy and Patty Vaughn still remember opening the letter from Wildwood School that said their son, Morgan '14, had been accepted to kindergarten. Their first reaction: delight. Their second: anxiety.

"We never thought we could afford to send our kids to an independent school," says Jimmy. Wildwood's program of flexible tuition, supported by the Hope Fund endowment, made it possible, first for Morgan, then his brother, Parker '15.

Parker learned to communicate with adults and peers at Wildwood. "I appreciated being able to work with

my teachers, not for them," he says. After graduation, he chose The New School in New York City to explore arts and humanities.

Morgan, who went on to Chapman University, majoring in education with a minor in business, values Wildwood's ability to make learning meaningful for each student. His goal is teaching, then school administration. "I want to provide the kind of education to others that I felt so fortunate to have."



Angela Ortiz and her son Austin Wilson '15 have both been inspired to pursue higher learning — "the ultimate gift Wildwood provided," she says.

When Austin Wilson '15 arrived at Wildwood in 8th grade, from a more traditional middle school, he jumped right in. "I loved it from the start," he says.

Sports, including baseball and soccer, became Austin's first community. A student ambassador, he joined the Students of Color Affinity Group and, as his senior project, co-organized Wildwood's annual Multicultural Symposium.

Wildwood's advisory program helped him hone his time-management skills, he says. "It was encouraging to know there was

someone on campus looking out for my best interests."

After graduation, Austin chose Occidental College, with a double major in critical theory of social justice and geology/environmental science. "I'm extremely grateful to be a Wildwood alum. I consistently take lessons from it."

The experience inspired his mother, Angela Ortiz, to study for her master's in education. "This is what school should be," she says of Wildwood. "I want everyone to have access to this type of learning."

Wildwood commits more than **\$3 MILLION** to flexible tuition every year



ONE IN SIX

Wildwood students participates in the flexible tuition program

"It is a literary education, a mathematical education, a scientific education, but most importantly, it is a humanistic education."

Nicholas Selden '12, Wesleyan University

We model

CHARACTER



Engendering respect for and understanding of the world at large, this 5th grade project shines a light on human rights issues.

VOLUNTEERISM

TIME AND TALENTS. Everyone — parents, grandparents, alumni and their families, trustees, faculty, staff, and friends — volunteers at Wildwood, modeling character and embracing our value of service to the common good.



VOLUNTEERISM: A WHOLE VILLAGE MOVES US FORWARD

Volunteering is an act of joyful generosity. It models a central Wildwood value: service to the common good, one of our seven Habits of Mind and Heart.

Heather Jacobs claims she started volunteering at Wildwood School for “completely selfish reasons.” When her sons, Gabriel '14 and Declan '16, joined in the 7th grade, Heather didn't know other families, many of whom had been at Wildwood for years.

“Volunteering was a way to make connections,” she says. “And it was fun.”

As her sons settled into middle school, Heather launched her Wildwood career by leading school tours — “my gateway” — which gave her a chance to better understand Wildwood. Watching teachers in action and seeing the school through the eyes of prospective families, she thought, “This is really cool!”

Her volunteering soon took other forms. She wrote thank-yous for Annual Giving gifts, hosted Advisory potlucks, and became an athletics team parent. Through it all, Heather developed lasting relationships with other parents. “It became a real joy,” she says, “to be at Wildwood and to help out.”

Bryan Kenny and Monica Sarang also jumped right in to volunteer when their sons, Myles '20 and Luke '21, entered Wildwood as kindergarteners.

Monica helped out with the elementary school yearbook at night and baked for events. Bryan served as an Annual Giving co-chair for two years and in other fundraising roles, inspired largely by their belief in the Wildwood faculty. “There are such special teachers here — they are the heart of the school,” he says.

Over time, Bryan and Monica have deepened their “family choice” of Wildwood, regularly spending time with a dozen other Wildwood families who have become friends.

Like all parents, the couple's schedules are jam-packed — he's a mortgage banker, she is a physician — but they make Wildwood a priority. “Everyone can give in some way,” Monica says. “It shows your child the value of being part of a community. You nurture that behavior by modeling it.”

“Volunteering mirrors what Wildwood is doing as a school — learning how to be part of a community.” Bryan Kenny, Wildwood parent



200+
people volunteer at
Wildwood annually

**ELEVEN
HUNDRED
HOURS**

in giving back each year



Volunteers at Wildwood include parents, alumni, grandparents, and other community members — all working together to create a school environment filled with discovery and joyful learning.

Together, we make the world a better place.

We stretch to become brave learners, thinkers, and doers. In this lifelong pursuit, we are emboldened by our core ethic: the Habits of Mind and Heart.

We are inspired by your generosity to take risks and step boldly. And in doing so, we set a course for the successes, big and small, that will transform ourselves, our children, and our society.

THE HABITS OF MIND AND HEART

The Habit of Convention

Meeting accepted standards in any academic area in order to be understood and to understand others

The Habit of Perspective

Addressing questions from multiple viewpoints and using a variety of ways to solve problems

The Habit of Evidence

Bringing together relevant information, judging the credibility of sources, finding out for one's self

The Habit of Connection

Looking for patterns and for ways in which things fit together in order to bring together diverse material and form solutions

The Habit of Collaboration

Making appropriate provisions for accepting and giving assistance

The Habit of Service to the Common Good

Demonstrating an awareness of the effects of one's actions on others and a desire to make the community a better place for all

The Habit of Ethical Behavior

Demonstrating how personal values influence behavior and a set of principles by which to guide one's life

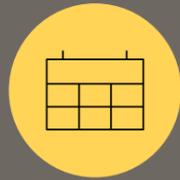
"Wildwood solidified my belief that the purpose of school is not to produce well-behaved members of society but to produce actively and critically engaged community members."

Katia Johnstone '08, University of California, Berkeley

Nourished by Wildwood's culture of generosity and motivated by the Habits of Mind and Heart, our graduates are uniquely equipped to effect positive change in the world.



Together, we can do more.



ANNUAL GIVING

All members of the Wildwood community join together and make yearly gifts to raise the critical 10% of our budget not covered by tuition.



MAJOR GIFTS

Major gifts fund bold new ideas and transformative programs that are outside the scope of the school's annual budget.



ENDOWMENT

Endowments exist in perpetuity and provide an annual income stream. Wildwood's inaugural endowment, the Hope Fund, generates revenue for the school's flexible tuition program.



VOLUNTEERISM

Each of us gives of our time and talents. This joyful generosity results in a stronger Wildwood.



CAPITAL CAMPAIGNS

Capital campaigns are special fundraising efforts that pay for institution-changing initiatives like new buildings, major campus enhancements, and large-scale program expansion.

To read more stories about the impact of your generosity in action, visit www.wildwood.org/whygive

See separate file for IBC folder pocket flap

**Wildwood School cultivates
reflective scholars, bold
innovators and compassionate
leaders equipped with the
skills, ethics and inspiration
to transform their world.**



Wildwood School

ELEMENTARY CAMPUS

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310.397.3134

MIDDLE/UPPER CAMPUS

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wildwood.org