

ANNUAL REPORT 2013



Here's why we do what we do!

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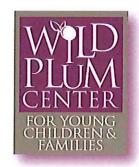




Mission Statement: Wild Plum Center prepares children for a lifetime of learning and selfsufficiency by providing a comprehensive, individualized approach to early learning and family wellness.

MESSAGE

From the Executive Director



2012-2013 proved to be a challenging, yet fruitful year for Wild Plum Center. Due to the federal sequester cuts, our budget was cut by 5.27 percent. After much consideration, careful planning and creative thinking, the management team was able to work with our new budget in a way that made the smallest possible impact on the children in our program. We had to close down one classroom site and lay off several staff members. However, the number of children that lost services was kept to a minimum: 15. We are currently working on ways to get those children and families back into our program.

The school year 2012-2103 saw an expansion of Early Head Start center-based classrooms, which was very exciting. We are very happy to be able to serve more babies and toddlers on-site, thus enabling parents to work during the day and increase their self-sufficiency. Additionally, Wild Plum Center developed a new parent and family engagement strategy. This involves building positive strength-based relationships with WPC parents. Parents are encouraged to come into the classrooms and actively engage with their children, oftentimes sharing cultural celebrations and their life skills with both teachers and children. We believe that when parents share responsibility for their child's learning, they develop a true investment in their child's development.

We have established a goal for each Wild Plum Center family to have a home library. To this end, we have established several new community partnerships. The Boulder County Justice System is providing us with beautiful handcrafted bookshelves for each family. Several groups from the community, including a private elementary school, a senior living facility and several Girl Scouts troops have carried out book drives. Each WPC child will receive several books to bring home to start filling up their bookshelves.

I continue to be so proud of our staff, many of whom have been with Wild Plum Center for decades. We have a dedicated board of directors and an active group of volunteers. It is my belief that Wild Plum Center, despite the financial challenges of the last year, will continue to flourish and help nourish young minds.

Amy Ogilvie

Amy Ogilvie Executive Director

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SERVICES

Early Head Start

Wild Plum Center provides Early Head Start developmental services to low-income zero- to three-year-olds, including prenatal and post-partum support for pregnant women. Parents may select from either a home-based or center-based service model. Home-based services involve family educators working with parents one-on-one in the home setting for one and a half hours each week.

Center-based services provide a curriculum-based setting for children while parents pursue employment or educational activities. This program option is supplemented by group-delivered parent education and parent/child socialization activities with family educators. Service elements are intended to address any and all aspects of need within a child's life, allowing for significant developmental experiences. All services are offered in both English and Spanish and are provided at no cost to parents and guardians.

Preschool Programs

Wild Plum Center currently provides two comprehensive preschool programs -- Head Start and non-Head Start funded, Head Start modeled preschool. Wild Plum Center provides preschool services to low-income three to four year-olds. Service elements are intended to address any and all aspects of need within a child's life, allowing for meaningful and impactful educational experiences.

Creative Curriculum

WPC uses the research-based Creative Curriculum in all 14 of its classrooms, including three Early Head Start classrooms. Creative Curriculum focuses on all areas of children's growth: physical, cognitive, social/emotional, and language development. Creative Curriculum allows each teacher to incorporate and address the specific interests, characteristics and needs of the children and families in their individual classrooms. Teachers integrate a theme for the week or month and immerse students in that topic through classroom materials, books and activities—all sparked by student interest.







Family Engagement

Wild Plum Center regards parents as the first, best and most important teachers of their children. Similarly, WPC believes the family unit, in whatever form it takes, is the foundation for a child's early development and learning. Wild Plum Center places parental involvement, the parent/ child relationship, as well as the mental health of both caregivers and children as the highest priorities. Strong, healthy families lead to successful, self-sufficient families and children. Wild Plum Center offers numerous opportunities to foster the health and well-being of WPC children and families, including mental health services, family support and case management and parent education and socialization activities.

Transportation

Wild Plum Center provides transportation to and from school for any family that needs help or assistance in this area. Currently we provide bus service to 90 families. Routes are less than one hour long. We can also assist WPC families by bringing children to after-school child care centers to help parents who have jobs outside of the home. Transportation can also be provided when parents need assistance getting to medical appointments.



Nutrition and Health

Wild Plum Center staff know that children need proper nutrition throughout the day so that their brains and bodies can function well, and they will be ready to learn. WPC provides 2/3 of a child's nutritional requirements each day they are in school. Using the USDA guidelines for healthy nutrition ("My Plate"), WPC offers breakfast and lunch to the morning classes and lunch and a snack in the afternoon.

Wild Plum Center works with parents and caregivers to access healthcare screenings and services for their children. It is our goal to ensure that all children establish medical and dental homes during their time as a Wild Plum Center family. Our health services include hearing and vision screenings, well-baby support services, including helping parents to access care and vaccines, prenatal, postpartum and breastfeeding support and education, nutrition information for the entire family, as well as helping families access supplemental food items.

We also provide referrals to health providers and other community resources as appropriate and help families understand and navigate complicated medical situations in order for them to get proper treatment. Also, Wild Plum Center offers First Aid and CPR classes at no cost to all WPC parents.

SCHOOL READINESS PLAN

SCHOOL READINESS PLAN

Wild Plum Center has a School Readiness Plan that includes the following foundation:

- Children and families that are school ready when entering kindergarten will have a higher level of academic success in the future.
- School readiness is determined based on a child's achievement level in five domains: cognition and general knowledge; language and literacy; physical well-being and motor development; social/emotional development and approaches to learning.
- Comprehensive, organizational goals and objectives are required in each of the five domains.
- Analysis of school readiness data collected by the program serves as a basis for the professional development of staff in the program.
- Analysis of school readiness data helps us individualize plans for children and families which promote parents as life-long educators.
- Parent engagement is a critical element of school readiness success.

Wild Plum Center works closely with each child and his/her family members continually to get children ready for school. Early Head Start children all receive backpacks filled with "going to preschool" books, activities to do at home and some school supplies. For three year olds entering the four year old classroom, we show the children pictures of teachers, give them a tour and spend time in their new classroom. For 4-year old children entering kindergarten, at the first home visit, we discuss enrollment procedures. Throughout the year, we support the child and the family with this process.

Classroom environments are set up to stimulate learning in each of the five developmental domains: cognitive development, language and literacy, physical development, social/emotional development and approaches to learning. We send the children home with activities to do during the summer, such as writing one's name, patterning and math activities and some books. Wild Plum Center staff members are always available to answer questions and give support to families during all parts of this process.

TRANSITION PLANS

Wild Plum Center approaches all transitions as an opportunity for growth, as it lays the foundation on which to develop the skills that are necessary for weathering change throughout life. Transitions are crucial times for decision-making about children's services. The transition process should ensure service continuity, reduce family disruptions, prepare children for their program placements and meet legal requirements (IDEA and ADA).

TRANSITION PLAN FOR EARLY HEAD START

Wild Plum Center also actively works with children who will be transitioning out of our Early Head Start programs. For children transitioning from the home-based and center-based programs, there are several conversations that take place between WPC staff and parents beginning six months in advance of the actual transition. It's determined if the family will requalify for Head Start programming. Staff begin to prepare the children for school by utilizing a "transition kit" (photos of the classroom, playground, teachers, etc.) to help familiarize the child to the preschool classroom. EHS and preschool staff, together with parents, meet in the classroom for an orientation and exchange of necessary paperwork.

Our Transition Plan was designed to help children who are transitioning from one setting to the next. In order to make these transitions as seamless as possible, Wild Plum Center staff maintains close and consistent contact with the child and family through every step of the process.

TRANSITION PLAN FOR 4 YEAR OLDS GOING INTO KINDERGARTEN:

Throughout the school year, we have on-going discussions about kindergarten with children and their parents. We encourage parents to continue to be advocate for their children in the area of education. WPC staff members talk with families about the registration process and give parents support with enrollment, filling out scholarship requests and with translation. Transition meetings with the school district are scheduled as needed. WPC staff supports the families in every step of this transition process. We encourage the family to visit the new school, classroom

and playground.





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DEMOGRAPHICS

EARLY HEAD START

Enrollment year September 1, 2012-August 31, 2013

Early Head Start funded enrollment: 76

Center-based, 5 days a week: 16

Home-based: 52 Pregnant women: 8

Total cumulative enrollment: 132 children from 100 families

Number of children: Under one year old: 43

1 year old: 28 2 years old: 32 3 years old: 14

Pregnant women: 15

Ethnicity: Hispanic or Latino origin: 101 Non-Hispanic or Latino origin: 31

Primary language of family at home:

Spanish: 86

English: 46

More important info:

- · Children living at or below 100% of the federal poverty line: 118
- · Receipt of public assistance such as TANF or SSI at time of enrollment: 1
- · Children that experienced homelessness during this enrollment year: 7
- · Children with continuous, accessible health care: 116
- · Children with continuous, accessible dental care provided by a dentist: 108







HEAD START

Enrollment year September 4, 2012- May 23, 2013

Head Start funded enrollment: 166

Funded enrollment from non-federal sources: 32

Total cumulative enrollment: 210 children

from 204 families Number of children:

3 years old: 73 4 years old: 137

Ethnicity:

Hispanic or Latino origin: 183

Non-Hispanic or Non-Latino origin: 27

Primary language of family at home:

Spanish: 133

English: 76

East Asian: 1

More important info:

- · Children living at or below 100% of the federal poverty line: 189
- · Receipt of public assistance such as TANF or SSI at time of enrollment: 6
- · Children that experienced homelessness during this enrollment year: 13
- · Children that have an ongoing source of continuous, accessible health care: 209
- · Children have continuous, accessible dental care at the end of this enrollment year: 206





ADDITIONAL FEDERAL REPORTS

Total amount of public and private funds received and amount from each source:

 Foundations:
 \$ 26,205.00

 City of Longmont, CO:
 118,827.00

 Boulder County:
 112,727.00

 St. Vrain Valley School District:
 76,320.00

 Individuals:
 92,139.00

 Churches:
 145,617.00

Percentage of eligible children served:

Early Head Start: 89% below income, 1% receiving public assistance,

5% homeless, 5% over-income

Head Start 90% below income, 3% receiving public assistance,

6% homeless, 1% over-income.

Percentage of enrolled children receiving medical and dental exams:

Early Head Start Head Start

Medical exams: 99% Medical exams: 87% Dental exams: 98% Dental exams: 81%

Average monthly enrollment for both Early Head Start and Head Start: 100%.

OFFICE OF HEAD START EVALUATION

Wild Plum Center was reviewed by the Office of Head Start in 2011 on its compliance with over 2,000 performance standards and regulations. There were zero non-compliance issues.

In the summary schedule of audit findings for the year ended on August 31, 2012, there was one concern. It was determined that a child had mistakenly been counted as present at school and therefore the Center had claimed meals for that child. Federal funds were requested for the student who was absent. We have greatly improved our monitoring system for data entry to reduce the likelihood of this error occurring again.

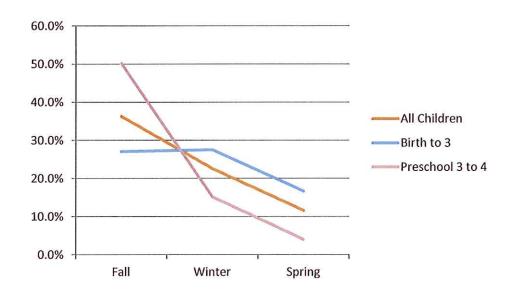
Results of most recent audit: In 2013, zero errors were identified.

PROGRAM OUTCOMES

Wild Plum Center uses the Teaching Strategies GOLD™ observational assessment system for all children. In the fall, winter, and spring, teachers compare each child's skills and behaviors to research-based indicators of learning and development. These comparisons indicate for each objective, whether children's skills and behaviors are below, at, or above expectations for their age/class.

On average across developmental domains, data from the Teaching Strategies GOLD™ system show that approximately 36% of all children entered the Wild Plum Center in fall 2012 below expectations for their age/class. By spring 2013, the percentage of children below expectations for their age/class dropped to 12%.

Children Not Meeting Expectations for Age/Class, 2012-2013

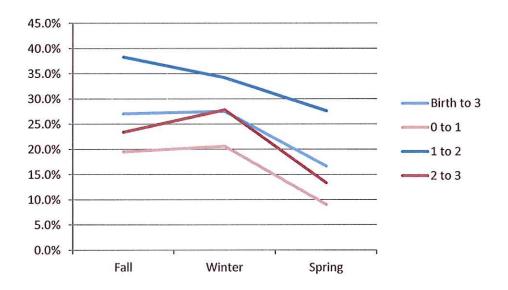


As indicated by this graph, it is clear the children made remarkable improvements during the school year 2012-2013.

Variations by Age

As shown, the pattern differs for infants and toddlers up to age 3 and for preschool children. Compared with preschool children, a smaller percentage of infants and toddlers entered Early Head Start below expectations, on average, across developmental domains. This percentage changed little between fall and winter, but the rate of improvement from winter to spring was similar to that of preschool children, and the percentage below expectations for their age in the spring was slightly higher than that for preschool children.

The numbers of infants and toddlers are relatively small, and the numbers in specific age ranges are even smaller. Nevertheless, examination of the data by age reveals that children age 1-2 were more likely than infants and older toddlers to enter and leave Early Head Start below expectations for their age. To improve upon this, we consistently support teachers and family educators to set up activities that will promote developmental growth in these domains. To increase continuity between WPC programming and a child's home-life, we take special care to teach parents ways to support their child's learning and growth.



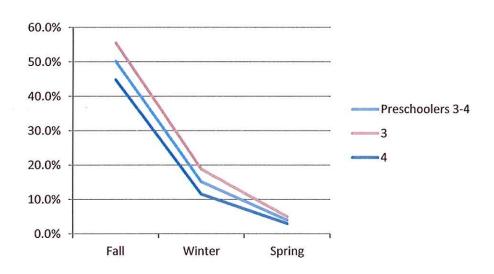


Variations by Age, continued





% Preschoolers Not Meeting Expectations for Age/Class, 2012-2013



Developmental areas:

Among infants and toddlers, patterns of change during the Head Start year varied across developmental areas. In some areas, the percentage below expectations for their age rose slightly between fall and winter, then fell between winter and spring (social-emotional, gross motor, literacy, and cognitive). In other areas, the percentage below expectations fell steadily between fall and spring (language, fine motor). In mathematics, the percentage below expectations fell between fall and winter, but rose between winter and spring. By the end of the school year, 80% of children had improved in their social/emotional, cognitive, fine motor and gross motor skills. It is clear that children who attend Wild Plum Center programs on a consistent basis progress at a significant level.

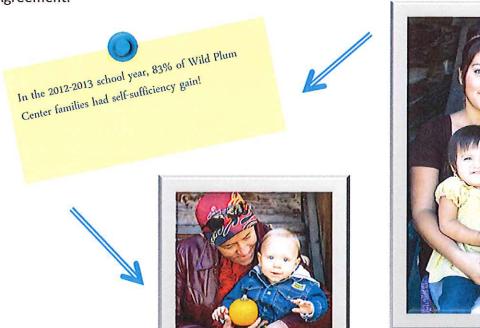
FAMILY OUTCOMES

In addition to monitoring children's progress, Wild Plum Center assesses families' progress toward increased self-sufficiency.

Areas of measure include:

- Food and nutrition
- Housing
- Employment
- Adult education
- Parenting education (i.e.: Love and Logic[®] classes)
- Mental health
- Domestic violence
- Child abuse
- Need for emergency services

Every Wild Plum Center family participates in a Self-Sufficiency Analysis, as well as a review of progress made toward goals as outlined in an individualized Family Partnership Agreement.



PARENT INVOLVEMENT

Wild Plum Center makes every effort to support parents on their journeys in parenthood and on their own paths to self-sufficiency and lifelong learning. We offer many opportunities to all parents and caregivers of children who are enrolled in our programs. These include:

- Participation in Parent Policy Council. This is one of WPC's two governing bodies.
- Participation on the Health Advisory Committee. This is a group of medical and health care professionals and parents who work to ensure that all WPC children receive the health care they need.
- Monthly Parent/Child activities. These "socializations" are held twice a month and include parent educational activities and workshops, gatherings in the local parks, dance performances, visits to museums and children's fun centers, recreation centers and other community events.
- Love and Logic[®] classes. This program specializes in empowering parents to help their children make healthy choices, in order to create a calm, living home environment in which all family members can thrive.
- Infant/Child and Adult CPR and First Aid classes.
- Nutrition classes. Called "Cooking Matters" this course teaches parents about USDA guidelines for healthy nutrition ("My Plate"), how to shop efficiently and ways to cook balanced, healthy meals. Cooking Matters classes are held annually and are free of charge to all WPC parents and caregivers.
- Male Involvement Group. These are monthly gatherings for children and their fathers, or other significant male family members. Our Male Involvement Group is important for bonding and connection. Attendance varies between 10 and 75, depending upon the activity offered.
- Kindergarten transition support
- In-home learning opportunities

"I love being part of the Parent Policy Council. We meet once a month and review programs, budgets and staffing issues. I always can talk about anything that is bothering me and it makes me feel like I am doing something important"-Taryn, WPC mother of two



COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

Since 1965, Wild Plum Center has engaged in effective collaborative relationships with a variety of organizations in Boulder County. These include:

- Atria Senior Living Center
- Boulder County
- Boulder County Justice Center
- Bright EYES
- City of Longmont
- City of Longmont Housing and Human Services Board
- City of Longmont Poverty Reduction Initiative
- Community Food Share
- Early Childhood Council of Boulder County (ECCBC)
- First Lutheran Church of Longmont
- First United Methodist Church of Longmont
- Girl Scouts of Colorado





- Guaranty Bank and Trust
- Inn-Between
- Longmont Chamber of Commerce
- Lucky's Market-Longmont
- Meeker Center
- Primrose School of Longmont
- Safe Shelter of St. Vrain Valley
- SNAP-Ed (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Education)
- St. Vrain Valley School District
- St. Vrain Valley Early Education Council
- The OUR Center
- The Tiny Tim Center







BOARD OF DIRECTORS

2012-2013

Officers:

President

Holly Kammerer, Attorney

Vice President

Bobbie Watson, Director, Early Childhood Council of

Boulder County

Treasurer

Wendy Schafer, Finance and Accounting Project Manager

Secretary

Megan Epps, Chiropractor

Members:

Liz Cuffel

Officer, Guaranty Bank

Hannah Hennig

Licensed Teacher, Music and Brain Development Professional

Don Horton

Public Health Manager, retired

Janis Hughes

Principal, Professional Educator

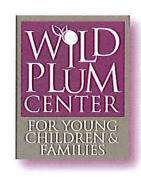
Parent Policy Council members: Tim Rodriquez and Stephanie Page

Board Consultant:

Alan Estroff

Mountain States Employment Council, Human

Resources



2012-2013 FINANCIALS

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION		August 31	
		August 51	
		2013	2012
ASSETS			
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash	\$	82,9099	80,699
Grants receivable		94,433	29,527
Accounts receivable		361	1,344
Prepaid insurance and refunds		59	1,070
Lease deposit		2,800	2,800
Total current assets	\$	180,562	115,440
PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT			
Building		839,365	840,181
Furniture and equipment		474,133	476,904
Computer equipment		151,475	134,802
		1,467,973	1,451,887
Less accumulated depreciation		(660,717)	(581,916)
Net property and equipment		807,256	869,971
TOTAL ASSETS	\$	987,818	985,411
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS			
EMPERIES AND NET ASSETS			
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Accounts payable	\$	6,665	14,113
Payroll liabilities		66,118	7,885
Current portion of long-term debt		5,612	16,015
Total current liabilities		78,395	38,013
LONG-TERM LIABILITIES		3.€3	
Mortgage payable less current portion	\$	102,127	162,263
Boulder County Deed of Trust		80,000	80,000
Total long-term liabilities		182,127	242,263
TOTAL LIABILITIES		260,522	280,276
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	\$	987,818	985,411
	- 1 T	5 F. T. (1907) 19 F. (2 F. T.	

FINANCIALS

STATEMENTS OF ACTIVITIES

		Years Ended August 31 2013	2012
UNRESTRICTED REVENUE AND SUPPORT			
Head Start grant proceeds received	\$	1,217,216	1,201,811
Early Head Start grant proceeds recei	ived	942,623	1,038,933
Use of contributed facilities		250,926	233,177
Non-Head Start income		212,041	193,946
USDA reimbursements		112,972	107,915
Colorado preschool income		76,320	75,790
Contributed professional services and	d materials	37,140	67,368
In-kind capital asset		20,716	4,240
Total revenue and support	\$	2,869,954	2,923,180
EXPENSES AND LOSSES			
Head Start part year/part day prograi	m Ś	1,224,232	1,196,560
Early Head Start full year services pro		935,823	942,354
Non-Head Start program	Bruin	185,735	176,942
Head Start general and admin expens	es	109,778	121,182
USDA School Lunch program	109,434	109,783	
HS training and technical program		19,071	27,668
EHS training and technical program		26,330	34,915
Non-Head Start general and admin expenses		33,640	42,692
Total expenses	\$	2,750,564	2,759,991
Loss of disposition of fixed assets		5,172	2,835
Depreciation expense		92,057	100,063
Total expenses and losses		2,847,793	2,862,889
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	\$	22,161	60,291
2013-2014 PROPOSED BUDGET			
Grant revenue	\$	2,163,091.00	
Colorado Preschool Program		76,320.00	
In-kind income	512,060.00		
USDA income		99,000.00	
Total	\$	2,850,471.00	

2012-2013 BUDGET INFORMATION

SCHEDULE OF FEDERAL BUDGET VS. ACTUAL REVENUES AND EXPENSES

	Approved Budget	<u>Actual</u>	Variance Favorable (Unfavorable)
REVENUES			
OHHS funds-			
Amount rewarded	\$ 2,159,839	2,159,839	
Grantee's non-federal share			
In-kind contributions		388,184	
Worth Cause donation		50,000	
Reimbursement			
USDA	я 1	112,972	
Total Revenues	\$ 2,159,839	2,710,995	
EXPENSES			
OHHS share			
Direct costs:			
Personnel	1,701,859	1,709,346	(7,487)
Fringe benefits	134,499	115,026	19,473
Supplies	47,006	38,201	8,805
Contractual	35,900	43,564	(7,664)
Other direct costs	<u>197,010</u>	2,111,363	<u>(14,353)</u>
	2,116,274	2,117,500	(1,226)
Training and tech assistance	43,565	42,339	1,226
	43,565	42,339	<u>1,226</u>
Total OHHS share	2,159,839	2,159,839	

2013-2014 PROPOSED BUDGET

REVENUES

 Grant revenue
 \$ 2,163,091.00

 Colorado Preschool Program
 76,320.00

 In-kind income
 512,060.00

 USDA income
 99,000.00

 Total income:
 \$ 2,850,471.00

EXPENSES

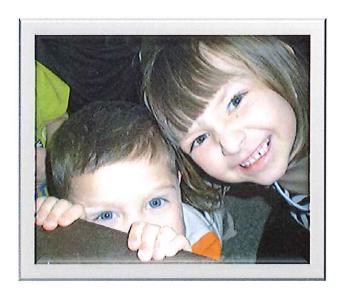
 Personnel
 \$ 1,567,363.00

 Fringe benefits
 121,629.00

 Supplies
 32,514

 Contractual
 37,700.00

 Other direct costs:
 1,091,265





THANK YOU

Thanks to the following groups and individuals who financially supported our program in 2012-2013, particularly those who stepped up to help us after the sequestration cuts.

Ann Bradford

Ann Parsons

Anonymous

Anonymous

Anonymous

Carroll Jacobson

Chris and Cheryl Toeppen

Daniel Vena

Darrell D. Hood

Dennis Berry

Diana DeBrohun

Don Horton

Donna Stang

Eleanor Vick

Elizabeth Cuffel

Eloise Weiland

Harold Schindler

James Hunt

Jane Maier

Jeffrey Korringa

Jim and Ellen Sloan

Jon and Anne Klarich

Julie Lindwall

Kathleen Norris

Kenda Vaughn

Kristi Pellouchoud

Lee and Beverly Springer

Leroy Frankel

Libby Barstow

Linda McLaughlin

Lori Stott

Margaret Peterson

Martie Stangoni

Mary Ward

Members of First United Methodist Church

Members of Westview Presbyterian Church

Nancy Berry

Rev. Ronald and Martha Kowalski

Robert Martin Barr Jr.

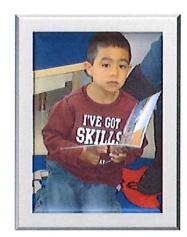
Sandra Bresnick

Sharon Malloy

V Lu Wilson

Victoria Shotwell

Wilson L. Bryant Jr.







"My child has grown so much at Wild Plum Center. She's become more independent, social and confident with her self. Through the program my family has come to understood the value of an early education, and we are thankful for the opportunity that my daughter has to learn new things everyday. She loves coming to school. Thank you!"

CONTACT INFORMATION

Wild Plum Center classroom sites (all located in Longmont, Colorado 80501):

Casa de la Esperanza 1520 Emery Street

First United Methodist Church 350 11th Avenue

Meeker Neighborhood Center 838 Meeker Street

*Powell Building
82 21st Avenue
* also administrative office

Call us: 303-776-8523 Fax: 303-485-9682

Email: info@wildplumcenter.org
Web: www.wildplumcenter.org













