

ANNUAL REPORT **2015–2016**


**WILD
PLUM
CENTER**

FOR YOUNG
CHILDREN &
FAMILIES



**Nourishing Minds.
GROWING FUTURES.**

INFANT CARE • TODDLER CARE • PRESCHOOL

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Message from the Executive Director

Important gains for Wild Plum Center children, families, and staff define the 2015–2016 school year. Our time was dedicated to improving child and family outcomes, researching methods for service enhancements for families, and raising the level of staff involvement toward moving the program's goals and objectives further.

For the past several years, increasing parent engagement in their child's education has been a key goal. Specifically in 2015–2016, the work focused on increasing the number of families:

- Reading to their children daily
- Engaging in language-rich conversations with their children
- Practicing positive discipline
- Implementing daily routines to provide structure and consistency in the home

It has been satisfying to witness the impact of our 2015–2016 efforts, which include significant increases in the language and literacy skills of Wild Plum children and the number of families engaging in the targeted life practices.

Also this year, Wild Plum began the process of fulfilling its five-year program goals, which launched with staff joining committees designed to explore a variety of topics. Topics include parent self-sufficiency, implementation of educational best practices, parental health literacy, and duration extension of services to children. Through committee work, Wild Plum achieved:

- Certification as a breast-feeding-friendly organization for both staff and parents
- The use of American Sign Language in all of our classrooms for non-verbal and non-English speaking students
- Selection as a Health Care Institute site by UCLA's Anderson School of Management in conjunction with Johnson & Johnson (with implementation beginning in 2016–2017)
- The addition of full-day classrooms to the preschool program

Looking forward, through partnership, planning, and a commitment to continuous improvement, we believe we can move more Wild Plum families closer to self-sufficiency and solidify our reputation as Longmont's leader in the field of early childhood education.



Amy Ozime

Services

Early Head Start—0 to 3 years

Early Head Start developmental services are provided to 0- to 3-year-old children from low-income families, including prenatal and post-partum support for pregnant women. Parents/guardians may select from either a home-based or center-based service model, each provided at 100% scholarship. All services are offered in both English and Spanish.

- Home-based services involve family educators working with parents one-on-one in a home setting for 1.5 hours each week. This option is supplemented by group-delivered parent education and parent/child socialization activities with family educators.
- Center-based services provide a curriculum-based setting for children while parents work or go to school. Service elements are intended to address any and all aspects of need within a child's life, allowing for significant developmental experiences.

Preschool Programs—3 to 5 years

Two comprehensive preschool programs are available to qualifying 3 to 5 year olds: Head Start and Head Start-modeled (non-Head Start funded) preschool. Preschool service elements mirror those of Early Head Start, addressing all aspects of need and allowing for meaningful and impactful educational experiences.

**STRONG,
HEALTHY
FAMILIES**

lead to successful,
self-sufficient
families and
children.





Creative Curriculum

Research-based Creative Curriculum is used in all 13 Wild Plum classrooms, including three Early Head Start classrooms. Creative Curriculum focuses on all areas of children's growth:

- Physical
- Cognitive
- Social/emotional
- Language and literacy
- Approaches to learning

Creative Curriculum allows each teacher to incorporate and address the specific interests, characteristics, and needs of the children and families in their 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, the best, and most important teachers of their children. Similarly, we believe the family unit, in whatever form it may take, is the foundation for a child's early development and learning. Wild Plum Center places parental engagement, the parent/child relationship, as well as the mental health of both caregivers and children as the highest priorities because 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 program children and families, including:

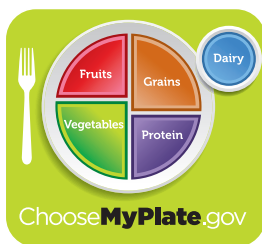
- Mental health services
- Family support and case management
- Parent education and socialization activities

Transportation

Wild Plum Center provides transportation to and from school for families that need help with transportation.



Nutrition and Health



In order for children to be ready to learn, they need proper nutrition. Wild Plum Center provides as much as two-thirds of a child's nutritional requirements each day they are in school. Using

USDA guidelines for healthy nutrition ("My Plate"),

breakfast, lunch, and a snack are provided depending on full- or part-day schedules. To reinforce healthy eating at home, nutrition classes are offered at no cost to program families.

Wild Plum Center works with parents and caregivers to access healthcare screenings and services for their children. Our health services include:

- Hearing and vision screenings
- Well-child support, including care and vaccines
- Prenatal, postpartum, and breastfeeding support and education
- Nutrition information for the entire family, such 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 to ensure they get proper treatment.

Also, Wild Plum parents can participate in First Aid and CPR classes at no cost to them.

Wild Plum
Center provides
as much as

2/3

of a child's
**NUTRITIONAL
REQUIREMENTS**
each day they are
in school.

School Readiness Plan

Wild Plum Center has a School Readiness Plan following this basis:

- Children and families that are school ready when entering kindergarten will have a higher level of future success in school and life
- A child's achievement in five domains determines school readiness
- Comprehensive, organizational goals and objectives are required in each of the five domains
- Analysis of school readiness data collected by the program informs staff's need for professional development
- Analysis of school readiness data helps us individualize plans for children and families that 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 throughout the year, which enables teachers to send individualized activities home for the child to work on with a parent's support.

A child's achievement in **FIVE DOMAINS** determines school readiness.



Outcomes

Head Start Outcomes

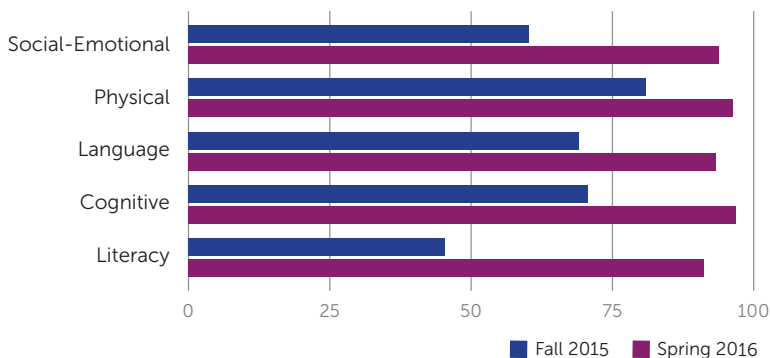
Wild Plum Center uses the Teaching Strategies Gold assessment system for all children. In the fall, winter, and spring teachers compare each child's skills and behaviors to research-based indicators of learning and development. These comparisons indicate for each domain, whether a child's skills and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



The graph shows the percentage of children meeting or exceeding expectation in areas of targeted skills when they started at Wild Plum Center in the fall of 2015 and where they were in the spring of 2016. Children in all categories showed improvement across the school year and there was significant growth in children exceeding expectation overall. Numbers of children exceeding expectations were greater than 30% in several domains by spring; social/emotional achieved 33%, physical 33%, and cognitive was 35%. The significant growth in all areas proves the effectiveness of Wild Plum Center's positive impact on children's development and kindergarten readiness.

The approaches to learning areas fall in the cognitive domain and during the 2015–2016 school year children showed a significant increase in growth.

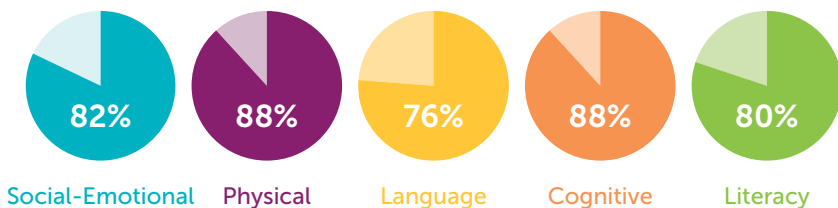
Percentage of Children Meeting & Exceeding Expectations *English/Spanish Speaking* Ages 3 to 5 Years



Early Head Start Outcomes

Young children engage in learning in individually unique ways, which is why Wild Plum individualizes care and nurturing, intentionally teaching to a child's strengths and preferences. Through this approach, Early Head Start teachers and home visitors expose children to an array of learning opportunities designed to improve growth in each of the five developmental domains.

Percentage of Children Meeting & Exceeding Expectations at Final Program-Year Checkpoint *English/Spanish Speaking* Ages 0 to 3 Years



Wild Plum uses data to inform instruction allowing us to understand how our efforts are working and the developmental areas in which Wild Plum children may need more support. Data is gathered in the areas of social-emotional, physical, language, cognitive, and literacy with a subset of data related to approaches to learning being gathered in the cognitive development area. The pie charts above show the percentages of Wild Plum children meeting and exceeding expectations compared to children of the same age nationwide. At the final spring 2016 checkpoint, the Wild Plum Early Head Start children are shown to be on track developmentally.



Family Outcomes

In addition to monitoring children's progress, Wild Plum Center assesses families' progress toward increased self-sufficiency, connections to peers and community, and parent/child relationships.

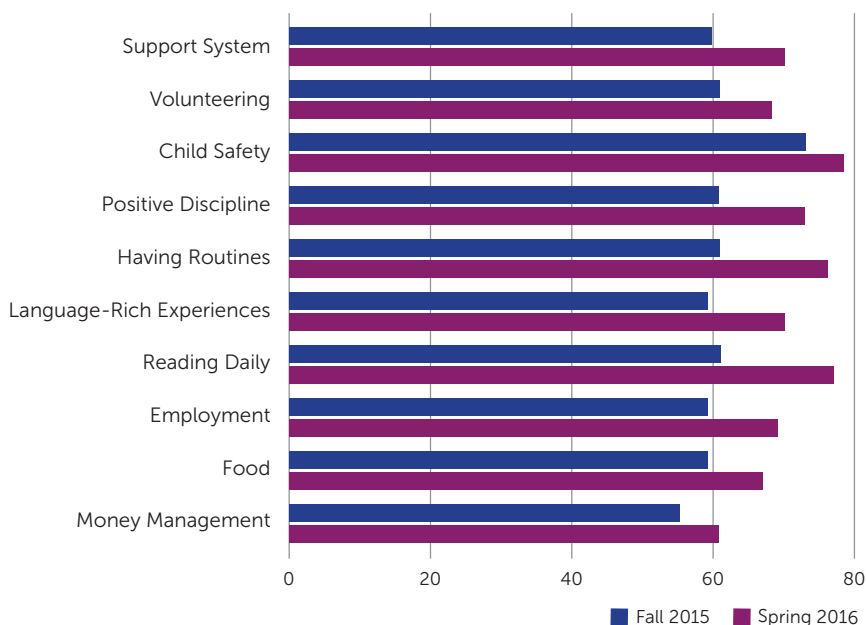
Areas of measure include: food and nutrition, housing, employment, adult education, parenting education, mental health, domestic violence, child abuse, need for emergency services



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. The graph below shows outcomes from the analysis, which shows increases in several areas of self-sufficiency for program families during the 2015–2016 school year.

Self-Sufficiency Outcomes

Wild Plum's family outcome data shows significant increases in 10 areas of self-sufficiency for the 2015–2016 School Year



Transitions

All transitions are opportunities for children's growth, as they lay the foundation on which to develop the skills that are necessary for weathering change throughout life. Transitions from Early Head Start to Head Start and Head Start to kindergarten are crucial times for decision-making about children's services. The transition process ensures service continuity, reduces family disruptions, prepares children for their program placements, and meets legal requirements (IDEA and ADA).

Transition plan for Early Head Start

For children transitioning from the home-based and center-based programs, there are several conversations that take place between Wild Plum Center staff and parents that begin six months in advance of the actual transition. First, the family is educated on the community preschool options available to them, including Head Start. If the family selects and qualifies for Head Start, staff begins to prepare the child for school by utilizing a "transition kit" (photos of the classroom, playground, teachers, etc.) to help familiarize him/her to the preschool classroom. Early Head Start and preschool staff, together with parents, meet in the classroom for an orientation and exchange of necessary paperwork.

Our Transition Plan is 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 and 5 year olds going to kindergarten

Throughout the school year, we have on-going discussions about kindergarten with children and their parents. We encourage parents to continue to advocate for their children's education and Wild Plum Center staff talk with families about the registration process, supporting them through enrollment, filling out scholarship requests, and with translation. Transition meetings with the school district are scheduled as needed and families are encouraged to visit the new school, classroom, and playground.

We encourage
parents to continue to
ADVOCATE
for their children's
education



Demographics

Early Head Start

Enrollment year: September 1, 2015–August 31, 2016

**Total cumulative enrollment:
120 children from 94 families**

Under one year old:	35
1 year old:	33
2 years old:	30
3 years old:	15
Pregnant women:	7

Number of children:

Early Head Start funded enrollment:	76
Center-based, 5 days a week:	24
Home-based:	44
Pregnant women:	8

AVERAGE
MONTHLY
ENROLLMENT
for both
Early Head Start
and Head Start:
100%





Head Start

Enrollment year September 1, 2015–August 31, 2016

Total cumulative enrollment: 200 children from 189 families

3 years old:	4
4 years old:	82
5 years old:	114

Number of children:

Head Start funded enrollment:	155
Funded enrollment from non-federal sources:	32

Federal Reports

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

Foundations	\$19,222.50
City of Longmont	\$54,999.99
Boulder County	\$56,732.00
St. Vrain Valley School District	\$118,800.00
Individuals	\$19,183.93
Churches	\$192,008.29
USDA	\$112,921.24

Percentage of eligible children served:

	Early Head Start	Head Start
Below Income	78%	84%
Receiving Public Assistance	3%	2%
Homeless	10%	8%
Over-Income	9%	4%
Foster Care	—	2%

Percentage of enrolled children receiving medical and dental exams:

	Early Head Start	Head Start
Medical exams at enrollment	80%	98%
Medical exams at end of enrollment	94%	100%
Dental exams	73%	95%

OFFICE OF HEAD START EVALUATION

Wild Plum Center was reviewed by the Office of Head Start in spring of 2015 on its compliance with over 2,000 performance standards and regulations. There were zero non-compliance issues.

RESULTS OF
MOST RECENT
AUDIT:
In 2015–2016,
zero
concerns were
identified.



Parent Involvement



Wild Plum Center makes every effort to support parents through their own journeys in parenthood and paths to self-sufficiency and lifelong learning. We create many opportunities for all parents and caregivers of children who are enrolled in our programs to become more engaged with their children and involved with their education. These include:

- Participation in Parent Policy Council. This is one of Wild Plum Center's two governing bodies
- Participation on the Health Advisory Committee. This is a group of medical and healthcare professionals and parents who work to ensure that all Wild Plum Center children receive the health care they need
- Monthly parent/child activities. These "socializations" 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
- Parenting for Excellence classes. This program teaches skills and strategies to raise children who are happy, well-behaved, have good relationships, and are successful in school and in life
- Infant/child and adult CPR and First Aid classes
- Kindergarten transition support
- In-home learning opportunities
- Male Involvement Group. These are monthly gatherings for children and their fathers (or other significant male family members)

**PARENT
SUPPORT**
.....
**SELF-
SUFFICIENCY**
.....
**LIFELONG
LEARNING**

Community Partnerships

Wild Plum Center has a long history of effective collaborative relationships with a variety of local non-profits, Boulder County/Colorado organizations, and foundations.

Non-profits & Organizations

Boulder Day Nursery
Boulder County divisions—
Community Services
Housing and Human Services
Justice Center
Public Health
Boulder County Head Start
Breast Feeding Coalition
BrightEYES
City of Longmont
City of Longmont Housing
and Human Services Board
COFI (Community Organizing
and Family Issues)
Colorado State University
Community Food Share
Community Justice Services
Denver Museum of Nature
and Science
Denver Zoo
Early Childhood Council of
Boulder County (ECCBC)
First Lutheran Church of
Longmont
First United Methodist Church
of Longmont
Foothills United Way
GOCO Inspire Initiative Coalition
HEAL (Healthy Eating and Active
Living) Coalition
Health Services Advisory
Committee
Home Visit Collaboration
Inn Between
Kiwanis Club of Longmont
Knit and Pearl Senior Knitters
Latino Chamber of Commerce

Live Well Longmont
Longmont Chamber of Commerce
Longmont Public Library
Longmont Senior Center
Meeker Neighborhood Center
OUR Center
Raising of America Partnership
Safe Shelter of St. Vrain Valley
SCORE
Social Venture Partners
St. Vrain Valley Early
Education Council
St. Vrain Valley School District
TLC Learning Center
Twin Peaks Rotary
YMCA

Funders & Foundations

Boulder Community Foundation
Change Happens Foundation
Community First Foundation
Foothills United Way
Gates Family Foundation
Kingsbery Friends and Family Fund
Longmont Chamber of Commerce
Longmont Community Foundation
Lynn and Helen Clark Fund
Molina Foundation
Norris Family Foundation
Temple Hoyne Buell Foundation
Qualistar
Quick Foundation



Financials

Statements of Financial Position

	Years Ended August 31,	
	2016	2015
ASSETS		
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash	\$ 233,934	\$ 231,712
Grants receivable	41,914	50,182
Prepaid insurance and refunds	13,678	6,721
Lease deposit	2,800	2,800
Total current assets	292,326	291,415
PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT		
Building	850,590	850,590
Furniture and equipment	417,125	445,553
Computer equipment	149,084	155,482
	1,416,799	1,451,625
Less accumulated depreciation	(782,516)	(752,581)
Net property and equipment	634,283	699,044
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 926,609	\$ 990,459
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Accounts payable	\$ 27,444	\$ 32,005
Payroll liabilities	18,196	69,485
Accrued vacation	67,652	58,761
Current portion of long-term debt	-	8,068
Total current liabilities	113,292	168,319
LONG-TERM LIABILITIES		
Mortgage payable less current portion	-	34,654
Total long-term liabilities	-	34,654
TOTAL LIABILITIES	113,292	202,973
COMMITMENTS AND CONTINGENCIES		
NET ASSETS		
Unrestricted net assets	594,817	657,486
Temporarily restricted net assets	218,500	130,000
Total net assets	813,317	787,486
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	\$ 926,609	\$ 990,459

Statements of Activities

	Years Ended August 31,	
	2016	2015
UNRESTRICTED REVENUE AND SUPPORT		
Head Start grant proceeds received	\$ 1,225,814	\$ 1,225,814
Early Head Start grant proceeds received	961,555	961,555
Building contributions	88,500	-
Use of contributed facilities	322,404	318,870
Non-Head Start income	211,528	172,648
USDA reimbursements	129,161	126,547
Colorado preschool income	125,280	121,300
Contributed professional services and materials	140,806	108,833
In-kind capital asset	-	3,600
Total revenue and support	\$ 3,205,048	\$ 3,039,167
EXPENSES AND LOSSES		
Head Start part year/part day program	\$ 1,333,461	\$ 1,286,732
Early Head start full year services program	972,968	969,702
Non-Head Start program	243,576	201,641
Head Start general and administrative expenses	152,675	135,195
Early Head Start general and administrative expenses	143,260	129,054
USDA School Lunch program	140,765	117,580
Head Start training and technical program	29,054	23,389
Early Head Start training and technical program	24,076	26,818
Non-Head Start general and administrative expenses	74,621	52,293
Total expenses	3,114,456	2,942,404
Depreciation expense	62,397	75,017
Loss on disposal of equipment	2,364	-
Total expenses and losses	3,179,217	3,017,421
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	\$ 25,831	\$ 21,746

2015–2016 Budget Information

SCHEDULE OF FEDERAL BUDGET VS. ACTUAL REVENUES AND EXPENSES

Year Ended August 31, 2016

	<u>Approved Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Variance Favorable (Unfavorable)</u>
REVENUE			
OHHS funds—			
Amount awarded	\$ 2,187,369	\$ 2,187,369	\$ -
Grantee's non-federal share—			
In-kind contributions		624,301	
Reimbursement—			
USDA (School Lunch Program)		129,161	
Total revenues	<u>\$ 2,187,369</u>	<u>\$ 2,940,831</u>	
EXPENSES			
OHHS share—			
Head Start Part Year/Part Day			
Early Head Start /Full Year Services			
Direct costs:			
Personnel	\$ 1,759,033	\$ 1,780,573	\$ (21,540)
Fringe benefits	120,276	102,491	17,785
Supplies	41,100	49,812	(8,712)
Contractual	37,035	39,292	(2,257)
Other direct costs	176,445	162,071	14,374
	2,133,889	2,134,239	(350)
Training and technical assistance			
Other direct costs	42,096	53,130	(11,034)
	<u>42,096</u>	<u>53,130</u>	<u>(11,034)</u>
Total OHHS share	<u>\$ 2,175,985</u>	<u>\$ 2,187,369</u>	<u>\$ (11,384)</u>
Grantee's non-federal share—			
Head Start Part Year/Part Day			
In-kind contributions—			
Facilities, professional services, supplies		\$ 463,210	
Volunteer services		161,091	
Total in-kind contributions		<u>624,301</u>	
Total grantee's non-federal share		<u>624,301</u>	
Reimbursable expense—			
USDA reimbursement for meals		140,765	
Total reimbursable expense		<u>140,765</u>	
Total expenses		2,952,435	
Excess of expenses over revenue		<u>\$ (11,604)</u>	

2016–2017 PROPOSED BUDGET

REVENUES

Grant revenue	2,446,195.99
Colorado Preschool Program	125,280.00
In-kind Income	582,042.00
USDA Income	131,337.83
Total Income	<u>\$3,284,855.82</u>

EXPENSES

Personnel	1,857,969.92
Fridge benefits	374,955.98
Supplies	148,973.00
Contractual	83,110.17
Other direct costs	773,569.24
Training and Technical Assistance	46,277.51
Total Expense	<u>3,284,855.82</u>



Board of Directors 2015–2016

President	Bobbie Watson, Executive Director, Early Childhood Council of Boulder County
Vice President	Holly Kammerer, Attorney, Burg Simpson
Treasurer	Karissa Becklund, Vice President, Guaranty Bank
Secretary	Kenda Vaughan, Therapist, Private Practice
Member	Don Horton, Retired, Boulder County Public Health
Member	Janis Hughes, Principal, Burlington Elementary
Member	Eileen Smith, Community Advocate
Member	Stephen Hoel, Principal, Blue Mountain Elementary
Member	Rodrigo Salas, Bilingual Educator
Member	Ericka Leon, Community Advocate
Member	Wildfire Garman, Parent; President, Wild Plum Center Policy Council

Thank You

Thanks to the following groups, businesses, and top individual donors who financially supported our program in 2015–2016

A Spice of Life	Trust	Menchies Mainstreet
Altavita Memory Care	Home Depot	Marketplace
Atria Senior Living Center	Hyatt Place	Otter Products
Bagz by the Bag Lady	In Reach	Primrose School
Book Nook	Lexmark International	Safeway
Bridge Center for Play Therapy	Lifetouch	Salud Family Health Center
Chick-fil-a	Longmont Yarn Shoppe	Starbuck's
Dizzy's Family Fun Center	Lucky's Market	Subway
Domino's Pizza	Longmont	Time to Sign
EcoCycle	Mariposa Center	Wild Tree Naturals
Guaranty Bank and		Xilinx

Top-10 Individual Donors

Robert Goings	Carlene Kloster	Gene Thoele
Don Horton	Nicole Mandile	Daniel Vena
Barb Keppler	Roque R. Ramirez	Michele Zuniga
	Betsy Redfern	

Additionally, many thanks to the hundreds of other individuals who donated cash, goods, and services. **You are so important!**

Make a Difference to a Child

Make a donation

In 2015, Wild Plum began a capital fundraising campaign to purchase and renovate a building in the Longmont community with the goal of adding classrooms and expanding the program to accept more children. To date, Wild Plum has purchased a building adjacent to the Meeker Center site and renovations have begun. Funds are still needed for start-up operations, classroom supplies, and program costs.

Please consider contributing to the Wild Plum Center with a monetary donation. Without these gifts of financial support we would not be able to provide essential services to Longmont's low-income families and their children.



Become a
DONOR
or
**COMMUNITY
VOLUNTEER!**

Become a community volunteer

Community volunteers are an important part of the Wild Plum Center! Volunteers help with classroom activities; assist with educational, health, and administrative projects; become "classroom readers"; organize Wild Plum Center community events; and more!

We appreciate all volunteer hours!

To find out more about becoming a donor or volunteer, contact us today!

Keri Ruotsala, Community Partnership Director
kerir@wildplumcenter.org

Leah Herrera, Community Volunteer Coordinator
leahh@wildplumcenter.org

Call: 303-776-8523 | **Fax:** 303-485-9682

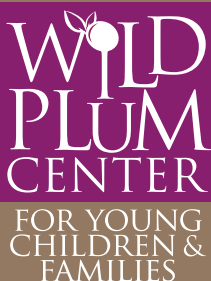
Mailing address: 82 21st Avenue, Longmont, CO 80501

www.wildplumcenter.org



Wild Plum Center

is Longmont's leader in early childhood education and developmental services, empowering families and readying children ages zero to 5 years for the future.



303-776-8523

www.wildplumcenter.org