

ANNUAL REPORT 2016–2017

WILD
PLUM
CENTER

FOR YOUNG
CHILDREN &
FAMILIES

**Nourishing Minds.
GROWING FUTURES.**



INFANT CARE • TODDLER CARE • PRESCHOOL

Contents

Message from the Executive Director	3
Services.	4
School Readiness Plan	7
Outcomes.	8
Transitions	11
Demographics	12
Federal Reports	14
Parent Involvement	16
Community Partnerships	17
Financials	18
Budget Information.	20
Board of Directors.	22
Thank You to Our Supporters	22
Make a Difference to a Child	23



Message from the Executive Director

Important gains for Wild Plum Center children, families, and staff define the 2016-2017 school year. Our time was dedicated to improving child and family outcomes, planning 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 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 routines to provide structure and consistency in the home

It has been satisfying to witness the impact of our 2016-2017 efforts, which include significant increases in the number of families engaging in the targeted practices with high quality levels. Child outcomes improved as a result with over 90% of the children in the program reaching age appropriate developmental and academic milestones by the end of the year.

Also this year, Wild Plum entered full implementation of its five-year program goals. Staff committees developed in 2015-2016 began the implementation of parent self-sufficiency methods, best practices in the education field, parental health literacy, and the improvement of classroom space in order to increase the duration of services to children. Through committee work, Wild Plum achieved:

- The purchase, fundraising and beginning renovations to a new center located at 851 Meeker St.
- Implementation of UCLA Health Care Institute parent training on the topic of "What to do When your Child is Sick". Resulting in a 28% decrease in the number of families who would take their child to the Emergency Room as a first choice when their child is sick (from 29% to 1%).
- The introduction of a literacy fair for parents so that parents are more able to engage in their child's education.
- Increase in science and math in classrooms through the use of robots.

Looking forward, Wild Plum's plan is to provide the highest quality services to children and families in the community. 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 Osime

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 and children with disabilities. 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 Mentors 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 Mentors.
- 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 low-income 3 to 5 year olds including children with disabilities: 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 study anywhere from a week to a 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:

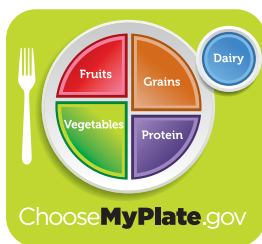
- Mental health services
- Family support and case management
- Parent education and socialization activities

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

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

APPROACHES
TO LEARNING

PHYSICAL

COGNITIVE

LANGUAGE
&
LITERATURE

SOCIAL
&
EMOTIONAL

Wild Plum Center works closely with each child and his/her family members throughout the year. Teachers send individualized activities home for the child to work on with a parent's support. Family Service staff partner with families to support their goals, work toward self-sufficiency, and family wellness.



Head Start Outcomes

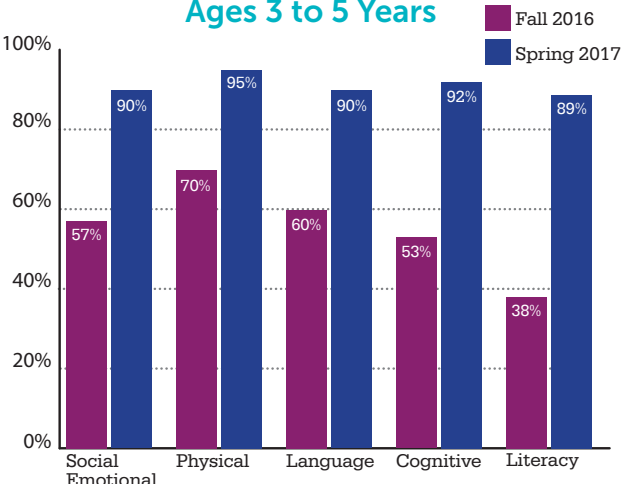
Wild Plum Center uses the Teaching Strategies Gold assessment system for all children. In the fall, winter, and spring the teachers compare each child’s skills and behaviors to research-based indicators of learning and development. Early Head Start and Family Mentors complete a fourth assessment in the summer for the 0 to 3 year olds. These comparisons indicate for each domain, whether a child’s skills and behaviors are below, at, or above expectations for their age.



The graph below 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 2016 and where they were in the spring of 2017. 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 25%, literacy 51%, and cognitive was 39%. 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 2016-2017 school year children showed a significant increase in growth.

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

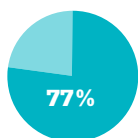


Early Head Start Outcomes

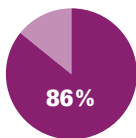
Young children engage in learning in individually unique ways, which is why Wild Plum individualizes care and nurturing, intentionally teaching to a child's strengths and preferences. Through this approach, Early Head Start teachers and home visitors expose children to an array of learning opportunities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

Percentage of Children Meeting & Exceeding Expectations at Final Program-Year Checkpoint

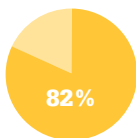
English/Spanish Speaking
Ages 0 to 3 Years



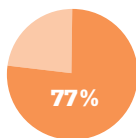
**Social
Emotional**



Physical



Language



Cognitive



Literacy

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 2017 checkpoint, the Wild Plum Early Head Start children are shown to be on track developmentally.



Family Outcomes

Wild Plum believes that strong family engagement leads to strong child outcomes. In addition to monitoring children’s progress, Wild Plum Center assesses self-sufficiency, connections to peers and community, and parent/child relationships.

Areas of measure include:

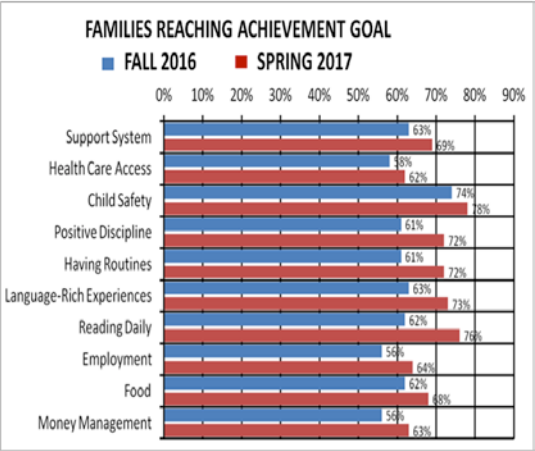
- Food and nutrition
- Housing
- Employment
- Adult education
- Parenting education
- Mental health
- Domestic violence
- Child abuse
- Need for emergency services



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 2016–2017 school year.

Parent, Family, Child Engagement Outcomes

Wild Plum’s data shows significant increases toward achievement in 10 areas of family outcomes for the 2016-17 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" that includes materials and supplies 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. The transition process is individualized for each child and family.

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.

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



Demographics

Early Head Start

Enrollment year: September 1, 2016 – August 31, 2017

**Total cumulative enrollment:
126 children from 99 families**

Under one year old:	30
1 year old:	33
2 years old:	31
3 years old:	20
Pregnant women:	12

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:
99%





Head Start

Enrollment year September 1, 2016–August 31, 2017

Total cumulative enrollment:
171 children from 162 families

2 years old:	9
3 years old:	62
4 years old:	100

Number of children:

Head Start funded enrollment:	155
Funded enrollment from non-federal sources:	0

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

Foundations	\$235,809.89
City of Longmont	\$140,982.03
Boulder County	\$313,036.00
St. Vrain Valley School District	\$125,280.00
Individuals	\$14,845.88
Churches	\$205,433.39
USDA	\$114,399.00
CCAP	\$19,057.31
Guaranty Bank and Trust	\$37,671.60
Head Start Grant Revenue	\$2,328,160.00

Percentage of eligible children served:

	Early Head Start	Head Start
Below Income	87%	88%
Receiving Public Assistance	1%	0
Homeless	5%	9%
Over-Income	7%	2%
Foster Care	—	1%

Percentage of enrolled children receiving medical and dental exams:

	Early Head Start	Head Start
Medical exams at enrollment	75%	29%
Medical exams at end of enrollment	90%	96%
Dental exams	65%	94%

Average monthly enrollment for both Early Head Start and Head Start: 99%.

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 2017
zero
concerns were
identified.



Parent Involvement



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

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.
- Parent/Child activities. These events 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 Classes are offered both in-house and in the community. These programs teach 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).

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
Caring for Colorado Foundation
Community First Foundation
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



Financials

Statements of Financial Position

	Years Ended August 31,	
	2017	2016
ASSETS		
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash	\$ 349,305	\$ 233,934
Grants receivable	75,871	41,914
Prepaid insurance and refunds	7,960	13,678
Lease deposit	2,800	2,800
Total current assets	435,936	292,326
PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT		
Building	850,590	850,590
Furniture and equipment	422,850	417,125
Construction in progress	283,007	-
Computer equipment	144,013	149,084
	1,700,460	1,416,799
Less accumulated depreciation	(828,247)	(782,516)
Net property and equipment	872,186	634,283
TOTAL ASSETS	\$1,308,122	\$926,609
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Accounts payable	\$36,478	\$27,444
Deferred revenue	40,150	-
Payroll liabilities	32,764	18,196
Accrued vacation	68,748	67,652
Current portion of long-term debt	-	-
Total current liabilities	178,140	113,292
TOTAL LIABILITIES	178,140	113,292
COMMITMENTS AND CONTINGENCIES		
NET ASSETS		
Without donor restrictions	636,880	594,817
With donor restrictions (Note 9)		
Worthy Cause Awards	380,000	130,000
Building renovations	113,102	88,500
Total net assets with donor restrictions	493,102	218,500
Total net assets	1,129,982	813,317
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	\$1,308,122	\$926,609

Statements of Activities

	Years Ended August 31,	
	2017	2016
UNRESTRICTED REVENUE AND SUPPORT		
Head Start grant proceeds received	\$ 1,349,719	\$ 1,225,814
Early Head Start grant proceeds received	978,446	961,555
Contributions	70,000	-
Use of contributed facilities	333,215	322,404
Non-Head Start income	183,793	211,528
USDA reimbursements	114,399	129,161
Colorado preschool income	125,280	125,280
Net assets released from restrictions	15,633	-
Total revenue and support	\$ 3,343,055	\$ 3,116,548
EXPENSES AND LOSSES		
Head Start part year/part day program	\$ 1,451,885	\$ 1,333,461
Early Head start full year services program	963,934	972,968
Non-Head Start program	247,522	243,576
Head Start general and administrative expenses	177,025	152,675
Early Head Start general and administrative expenses	162,313	143,260
USDA School Lunch program	127,695	140,765
Head Start training and technical program	26,820	29,054
Early Head Start training and technical program	24,517	24,076
Non-Head Start general and administrative expenses	59,240	74,621
Total expenses	\$ 3,240,951	\$ 3,114,456
Depreciation expense	59,501	62,397
Loss on disposition of fixed assets	540	2,364
Total expenses and losses	\$3,300,992	\$3,179,217
Total changes in net assets without donor restrictions	42,063	(62,669)
Changes In Net Assets With Donor Restrictions		
Building contributions (Note 9)	290,235	88,500
Net assets released from restrictions	(15,633)	-
Total changes in net assets with donor restrictions	274,602	88,500
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	\$ 316,665	\$ 25,831

2016–2017 Budget Information

SCHEDULE OF FEDERAL BUDGET VS. ACTUAL REVENUES AND EXPENSES

Year Ended August 31, 2017

	Approved Budget	Actual	Variance Favorable (Unfavorable)
REVENUE			
OHHS funds—			
Amount awarded	\$ 2,328,160	\$ 2,328,160	\$ -
Grantee's non-federal share—			
In-kind contributions		644,875	
Reimbursement—			
USDA (School Lunch Program)		114,399	
Total revenues	\$ 2,328,160	\$ 3,087,434	
EXPENSES			
OHHS share—			
Head Start Part Year/Part Day			
Early Head Start /Full Year Services			
Direct costs:			
Personnel	\$ 1,714,347	\$ 1,848,613	\$ (134,266)
Fringe benefits	364,205	97,845	266,360
Supplies	53,025	68,825	(15,800)
Contractual	-	60,567	(60,567)
Other direct costs	150,887	200,973	(50,086)
	2,282,464	2,276,823	5,641
Training and technical assistance			
Other direct costs	45,696	51,337	(5,641)
	45,696	51,337	(5,641)
Total OHHS share	\$ 2,328,160	\$ 2,328,160	
Grantee's non-federal share—			
Head Start Part Year/Part Day			
In-kind contributions—			
Facilities, professional services, supplies		\$ 505,790	
Volunteer services		139,085	
Total in-kind contributions		644,875	
Total grantee's non-federal share		644,875	
Reimbursable expense—			
USDA reimbursement for meals		127,695	
Total reimbursable expense		127,695	
Total expenses		3,100,730	
Excess of expenses over revenue		\$ (13,296)	

2017–2018 PROPOSED BUDGET

REVENUES

Grant revenue	2,773,648.53
Colorado Preschool Program	151,380.00
In-kind Income	592,349.00
USDA Income	136,866.32
Total Income	\$3,654,243.85

EXPENSES

Personnel	2,121,821.28
Fridge benefits	422,136.07
Supplies	141,225.89
Contractual	110,781.06
Other direct costs	813,483.55
Training and Technical Assistance	44,796.00
Total Expense	3,654,243.85



Board of Directors 2016–2017

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	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 2016–2017

Ace Hardware	Food Stuff Etc.	Menchies Mainstreet
Altavita Memory Care	Guaranty Bank and	Marketplace
Atria Senior Living	Trust	Primrose School
Center	Home Depot	Safeway
Bagz by the Bag Lady	Hyatt Place	Salud Family Health
Book Nook	In Reach	Center
Bridge Center for Play	Lexmark International	Starbuck's
Therapy	Lifetouch	Subway
Budget Home Center	Lucky's Market	Veronica Dewey
Chick-fil-a	Longmont	Design
Dizzy's Family Fun	Mariposa Center	Wild Tree Naturals
Center		Xilinx
Domino's Pizza		
EcoCycle		

Top-10 Individual Donors

Don Horton	Nieves Juarez	Barb Keppler
Linda McLaughlin	Daniel Carrales	Gene Thoele
Dennis Berry	Jeff Korringa	Veronica Dewey
		Renee Valdez

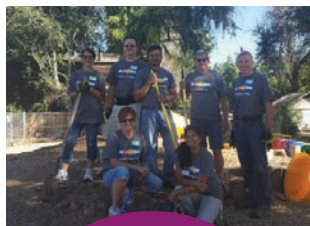
Additionally, many thanks to the hundreds of other individuals who donated cash, goods, and services. **You are so important!**

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 Davis, Community Partnership Director
kerir@wildplumcenter.org

Call: 303-776-8523 | **Fax:** 303-485-0468

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.



**WILD
PLUM
CENTER**
FOR YOUNG
CHILDREN &
FAMILIES

303-776-8523

www.wildplumcenter.org