



Wild Plum News

Nourishing Minds, Growing Futures



Thank you for being a part of the Wild Plum Center community!

Welcome to our new community newsletter.

Please read on to learn more about our more than 50-year history in the Longmont community taking care of low-income families and their children, what our program is doing now, and how you can help *today* to move Wild Plum into the future...

Dear Wild Plum Supporter,

For more than 50 years, the Wild Plum Center (WPC) has provided high-quality early childhood education and other family support services to in-need, low-income families in the St. Vrain Valley area of Boulder County. WPC provides comprehensive programs, including:

- Early Head Start developmental services for 0 to 3 year olds, 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.
- Two comprehensive preschool programs 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.

WPC also offers numerous opportunities to foster the health and well-being of program children and families, including no-cost:

- Breakfast, lunch, and snack for center-based children
- Mental health services
- Family support and case management
- Parent education and socialization activities
- 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 currently serve 263 children from families that are at or below the federal poverty level and more than 80% of the families we serve are from the Latino community. WPC is the only early childhood education program in the area that offers individualized and comprehensive services to both the child and the family.

Support from our surrounding community—*your* support—of our children, families, and programs is greatly needed and appreciated. From funding and volunteering to donations of books and supplies for the classrooms, every bit helps us to reach our goal of “Nourishing Minds and Growing Futures” for Wild Plum children and families.

NEWS: Wild Plum in Action



Wild Plum Expands with New Building

WildPlum is excited to announce the addition of a new site! WPC recently purchased the building at 851 Meeker St., which shares the parking lot with Wild Plum's Meeker Neighborhood Center site.

Construction to get the building ready for children is happening now and the hope is to open the new classrooms this fall. The new building will offer more spaces for infants and children under 3 years old, and will allow the program to provide full-day care to 4-year-old children.

NEWS: Primrose Book Drive Nets 653 Books for Wild Plum



Each year for the past five years, Primrose School of Longmont has organized a book drive and collected books for the Wild Plum Center Literacy Program. This project begins long before the month of February collection drive is announced to the 200 Primrose families. In fact, planning begins the moment classes begin in the fall.

Primrose has been diligent to announce the drive in their parent newsletter on flyers posted around the school and on its website and Facebook page. The book drive is a team effort that includes the staff, children, and families!

This year, two busloads of Primrose kindergarten children and staff visited Wild Plum bringing over 650 donated books with them. The book *Chicken Little* was read one-on-one with our students and left for each classroom. The preschoolers loved having the "older" kindergartners sing songs with them, play new games, and show off their reading skills. Every Wild Plum child will receive a book to add to their home library and every classroom is profiting from the expansion in their classroom reading centers with the additional books! The Longmont Times Call featured the Primrose Book Drive for Wild Plum in its March 5 edition.

NEWS: Robot Car Teaches Computer Coding



WPC classrooms were visited by QuestBotics, a local company that creates toys that teach children how to do computer coding. The newest design that is still being developed is a robot car. One class was lucky enough to get to test the robot cars, so that the QuestBotics team could see how 4-year-olds play with them.

The robot cars operate by using blocks with different arrows and measurements on them that are plugged into a board.

The order in which the blocks are plugged in determines which way the robot car will go and how far. Once the children plug in all the blocks they want to use, they push a button and the car will follow their directions.

The children had a great time making the robot cars drive across a map! They worked in pairs, deciding where they wanted to make the car go and then picking the blocks that would take it there. This activity helped develop the children's language skills, as they learned about the directions "left" and "right" to choose the correct blocks with arrows. They also used problem-solving skills to figure out where to place the blocks in the board to get the robot car to go where they wanted it to. There were squeals of joy every time each pair of children was able to make their robot car move!

We hope to be able to work with QuestBotics again as they continue to develop this type of learning toy. The children really enjoyed trying out something new and it was fun to see them experiment! [For more about QuestBotics, click here.](#)

NEWS: Third- Annual Active Families Event

For the past three years, Wild Plum has brought together program families with the greater Longmont community to help foster relationships and a sense of inclusion in the community through an event dubbed "Active Families Make Happy Families".

The Active Families event educates program families about health, wellness, and the importance of exercise while at the same time raising awareness in the community about the Wild Plum program.

The third-annual Active Families hosted numerous booths and a variety of fun family activities. A big thanks to our sponsors and community partners:

Dizzy's Family Fun Center
Chain Reaction
Zumba by Lili
Niwoot Youth Sports
Chick-fil-a
Menchie's
Noosa
Salud Dental Clinic
Longmont Public Library



Overall success and execution was made possible by over 75 parents, staff, and community volunteers who participated in the four-month-long planning process as well as coordinating and assisting at the event. Support from the local community and generosity of our partners made this year's Active Families event one to remember. A big thank you and our sincere appreciation to each person that volunteered!

If you would like to participate as a volunteer or provide a booth or activity for next year's Active Families, we would love to hear from you. Contact leahh@wildplumcenter.org for details.

How You Can Help!

Fill Health Bags—Thermometers and Dosing Spoons Needed!

Wild Plum Center is currently partnering with UCLA Health Care Institute to initiate a Health Literacy Program that improves the health of children and families by teaching adults how to assess and care for their sick children, manage acute illness appropriately at home, prevent accidents and injuries, and to know when to call a doctor or go to the emergency room.

WPC is providing home health bags—supplied with necessary home health items and a resource book—to more than 250 families in our program. We are reaching out to the local community for donations of new digital oral thermometers and liquid medicine dosing spoons. If you have a product that would be appropriate for our health bags, please contact marties@wildplumcenter.org.



Wild Plum Center Renovation Needs—With the recent purchase of the 851 Meeker St. site comes many volunteer and financial needs. The project needs items



such as paint, flooring, doors, appliances, classroom equipment, and much more!

Also, if you or your workplace would like to join efforts and volunteer to help, please contact leahh@wildplumcenter.org for more information.



Give a Book, Give the Gift of Literacy—

WPC is seeking books for children ages 0 to 5 in both English and Spanish, new and used. Help us provide early literacy to our program children in our classrooms, as well as in their homes. Each year Wild Plum staff deliver at-home library starter kits to every child in the program. Book donations are greatly appreciated! Drop off books Mon-Fri from 9-3 at 822 1st Ave. Suite B in Longmont.

Program Expansion— Of course, we are especially grateful for financial gifts to help with the renovation and daily operations of the new center. [Click here to donate now!](#)

Employment



Wild Plum is always looking for quality professionals interested in joining the Wild Plum Center family.

Here is a list of the current job openings:

[Cook](#)

[Infant Toddler Teacher](#)

[Teacher Assistant](#)

Click here for: [Wild Plum Application](#)

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