

# Wild Plum Center



## Annual Report

2022-2023

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

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# A message from the Executive Director:



The 2022-2023 school year was a year of growth and learning to embrace the change. We have continued to focus on equity in education, creating opportunities for our parents and families to be involved in their child's education and implement their own self-sufficiency.

Wild Plum has worked a great deal to make improvements across multiple areas of programming and development. We started the process of a Culture Renovation, an effort led by our Leadership Team. To ensure this process is done with patience and integrity, this will be a continuous process for all of our staff, as culture is not stagnant and requires the recognition of constant change.

We made the exciting purchase of a new building, which allowed us to move our office staff to a facility that is more central to our four locations. We have also been working at both a state and local level to improve access and affordability of Early Childhood Education in our Longmont community, including workforce development.

A Community Needs Assessment was conducted in the previous school year to identify areas of growth in our programming. This year, we were able to respond to those results by expanding our service hours and days of operation to meet the needs of our families. In a continuing effort to best serve our population, we started using a new database that allows us to look more closely at the child and family outcomes, trends, and needs across various demographics. In addition to the internal assessment of our program and those we serve, Wild Plum Center completed a federal review in which no areas of concern were identified.

We participated in and implemented Universal PreK for our Preschool Enrollment this year. This was a learning curve for all involved, and I am proud to say Wild Plum Center handled the new process with confidence while keeping our mission, vision and values at top of mind. This landed with success in the enrollment process.

This school year has brought on new challenges to face, powerful impacts on the community we serve, and improvements in both program space and program quality. We are proud of our successes as we continue to grow in this world of early childhood education.

*Amy Ogilvie*  
**AMY OGILVIE**

# Services

Quality early childhood education is one of the most effective ways to influence the path of a child and their family. We partner with families so that parents are empowered to participate in their child's education and wellness. All services are offered in both English and Spanish. In addition to classroom programs, our Family Specialists conduct in-home visits where they can get to know a child's individual needs and address strengths and weaknesses within the family. This kind of attention to detail and a caring approach is what drives our success.

## Infant/Toddler Programs 0-3

Developmental services are provided to children ages 0-3 year, as well as prenatal and post-partum pregnant women and children with disabilities. Parents/guardians may select from either a home-based or center-based service model. Home-based services involve Family Mentors working with parents one-on-one in a home setting. This option is supplemented by group-delivered parent education and parent/child socialization activities. Center-based services provide a curriculum-based setting for children while parents work or go to school.

## Preschool Programs 3-5

A comprehensive preschool program is available to low-income 3-5 year olds including children with disabilities. Preschool service elements address all aspects of need and allow for meaningful and impactful educational experiences.

## Curriculum

- Research-based Creative Curriculum, Frog Street, and Growing Great Kids are used in all 15 Wild Plum classrooms and the home visiting program.
- Each of these curricula focus on all areas of children's growth:
  - Physical
  - Cognitive
  - Social/emotional
  - Language and Literacy
  - Approaches to Learning
- By utilizing each of the three curricula, every teacher or Family Mentor is able to incorporate and address the specific interests, characteristics, and needs of the children and families in their class.





# Health and Nutrition

It is important that our students receive the nourishment they need in order to grow, learn and be successful which is why we are glad to provide 2/3 of their nutritional needs every day that they are in the classroom at no cost to the family.

- Using the USDA MyPlate in addition to working with the Child and Adult Care Food Program, cooks prepare meals each day for all of the classrooms.
- 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
  - Home safety education
  - Nutrition information for the entire family, such as helping families access supplemental food items
  - Prenatal and postpartum mental health screenings
- We also provide referrals to health providers and other community resources as appropriate and help families navigate complicated medical situations to ensure they get proper treatment. Additionally, all Wild Plum parents can participate in First Aid and CPR classes at no cost to them.



# Transitions

Wild Plum's transition process centers on the needs and abilities of each child to ensure that are able to successfully move up to the next level of education, whether that be a toddler going from home-based service delivery to a WPC early childhood education learning center, or a preschooler transitioning into Kindergarten.

## **Home-Based to ECE Center/Site**

Infants/Toddlers to Preschool Children going from a home-based model into a center-based program receive support from a designated Family Mentor who works directly with both child and parent(s) to ensure a successful transition. This Family Mentor maintains close and consistent contact through this 6-month process.

## **Preschoolers to Kindergarten**

For preschool students, discussions with parents about the expectations and requirements children will experience in Kindergarten occur throughout the school year. Specifically, parents are supported from the registration process through enrollment. Transition meetings with the school district are scheduled and families visit the new school. For children with Individual Education Plans (IEP) moving on to Kindergarten, meetings occur at the end of the school year and include special education service providers, WPC staff, parents and public school staff.

# Parent Engagement

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:

- WPC's Policy Council
- Health Advisory Committee
- Parent/Child Activities including educational activities and workshops, live performances, visits to museums and children's fun centers, recreation centers, and other community events.
- Parenting Classes & Workshops
- CPR & First Aid Classes
- In-Home Educational Opportunities
- Conscious Discipline Parent Nights
- Volunteer Opportunities



# Preschool Outcomes

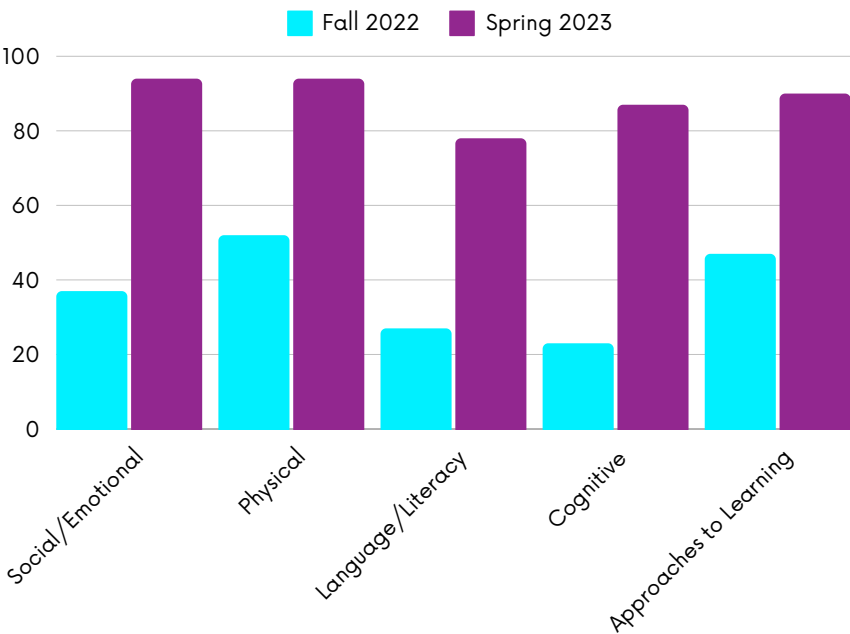
Wild Plum Center uses the Teaching Strategies Gold assessment system for all children. In the fall, winter, and spring the teachers use checkpoints to compare each child's skills and behaviors to research-based indicators of learning and development. These comparisons indicate, for each domain, whether 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 2022 and where they were at the final Spring checkpoint in 2023.

Children showed improvement in all categories from the Fall to Spring checkpoints. On average, the number of children meeting and exceeding expectations was 89% in the five measured areas: social/emotional, physical, language and literacy, cognitive, and approaches to learning.

The significant growth, averaging 51% across all domains proves the effectiveness of Wild Plum Center's positive impact on children's development and kindergarten readiness.

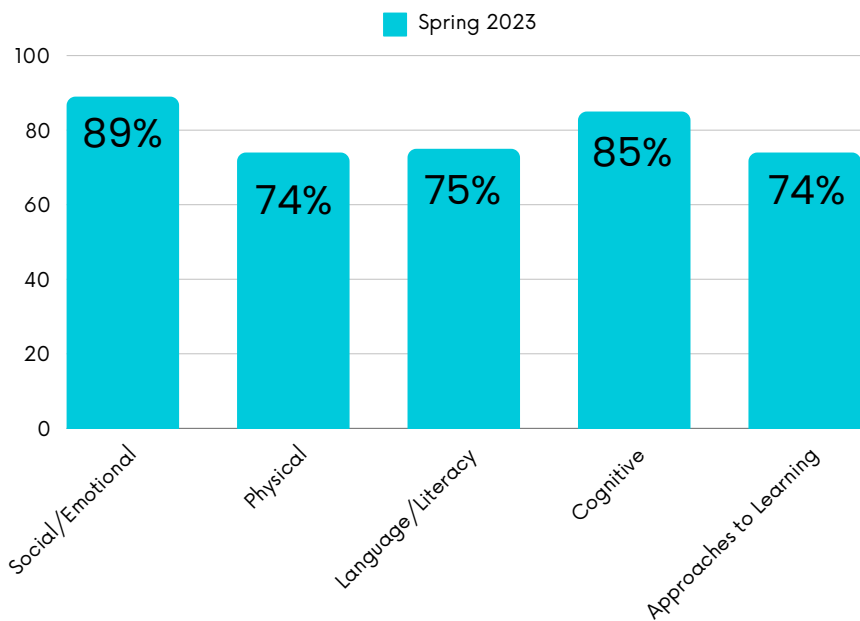
**Percentage of Students Meeting and Exceeding Expectations at  
Fall 2022 and Spring 2023 Checkpoint**  
*All Children Ages 3-5 years*



# Infant/Toddler Outcomes

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 and literacy, and cognitive with a subset of data related to approaches to learning.

**Percentage of Students Meeting and Exceeding  
Expectations at Fall 2022 and Spring 2023 Checkpoints**  
All Children Ages 0-3 years



The chart above shows the percentage of Wild Plum children ages 0-3 meeting and exceeding expectations of the targeted skills at the final Spring checkpoint in 2023. At the last available checkpoint, the Wild Plum Early Head Start children are shown to be on track developmentally and showed an average of 12% improvement.

# Family Outcomes

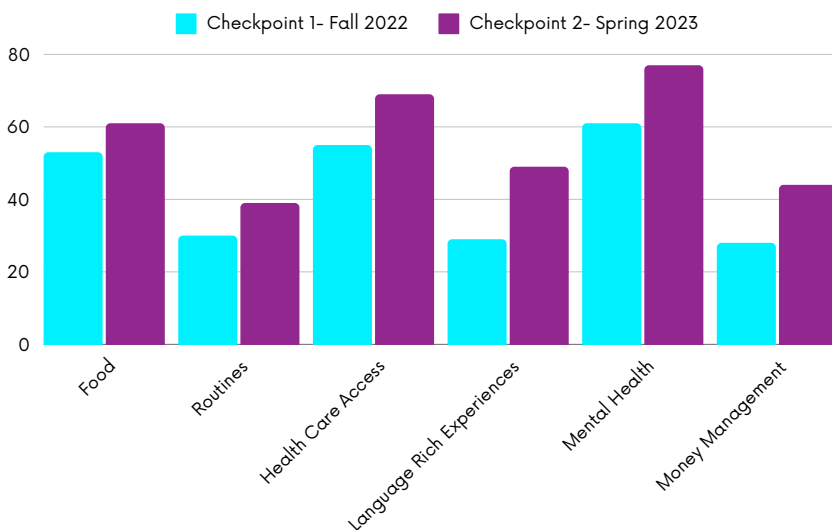
In addition to monitoring children's progress, Wild Plum Center assesses self-sufficiency, connections to peers and community, and parent/child relationships. The 21 areas of measure include:

- Reading Daily
- Positive Discipline
- Child Care
- Having Routines
- Employment
- Housing
- Life Skills
- Volunteering
- Language Rich Experiences
- Health Care Access
- Child Safety
- Food
- Transportation
- Money Management
- Criminal Justice System
- Substance Use
- Support System
- Physical Health
- Relationship Safety
- Mental Health
- Adult Education

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 displays outcomes from the analysis, showing increases in several areas of self-sufficiency for program families.

**Family Outcomes**  
**2022-2023 School Year**



# Persons Served

## Infant/Toddler

Enrollment year: September 2022 - August 2023

TOTAL CUMULATIVE ENROLLMENT: 115 PERSONS SERVED FROM 87 FAMILIES		NUMBER OF CHILDREN	
Under one year old:	39	EHS funded enrollment:	68
1 year old:	18	Center-based, 5 days a week:	32
2 years old:	35	Home-based:	32
3 years old:	11	Pregnant Women:	4
Pregnant Women:	12		

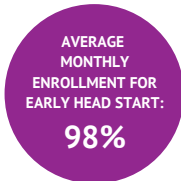
## Preschool

Enrollment year: September 2022 - August 2023

TOTAL CUMULATIVE ENROLLMENT: 158 CHILDREN FROM 146 FAMILIES		NUMBER OF CHILDREN	
2 years old:	12	Head Start funded enrollment:	141
3 years old:	66		
4 years old:	80		

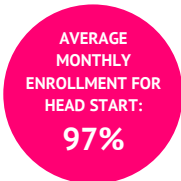
### PERCENTAGE OF ELIGIBLE CHILDREN SERVED:

	Infant/Toddler	Preschool
Below Income	32%	34%
Receiving Public Assistance	11%	18%
Homeless	46%	29%
Over-Income	4%	9%
Foster Care	0%	1%
Between 100% and 130%	7%	9%



### PERCENTAGE OF ENROLLED CHILDREN RECEIVING MEDICAL AND DENTAL EXAMS:

	Infant/Toddler	Preschool
Medical Exams	86%	97%
Dental Exams	90%	83%





# 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 and Organizations

Kiwanis Club of Longmont  
Knit & Purl Group  
Longmont Museum  
Precious Child  
Rotary Club of Longmont Twin Peaks

## Businesses

AMD  
Bridge Center for Play Therapy  
Burg Simpson  
Independent Financial  
King Soopers  
Salud Family Health

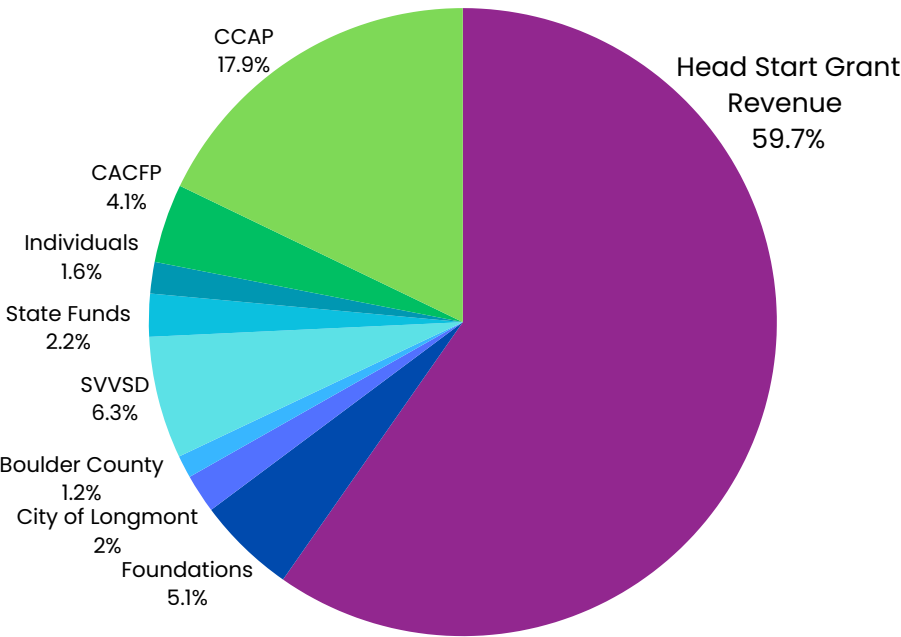
## Funders and Foundations

Anschutz Family Fund  
Community Foundation of Boulder County  
Boulder County  
Centura Health Equity & Advancement Fund  
Christine & David Ross Charitable Fund  
Cielo Foundation  
City of Longmont  
Crawford Family Fund  
Dodge Family Fund  
Kingsberry Friends & Family Fund  
Longmont Community Foundation  
Mile High United Way  
Nading Family Fund  
Nelsen Family Fund  
Norris Family Foundation  
Ray Lanyon Fund  
Schnabel Family Fund  
Silicon Valley Community Foundation  
State of Colorado  
Temple Honey Buell Foundation  
Thomas P & Betty Lou Brock Fund  
William & Nancy Berry Family Charitable Fund



# 2022-2023 Funding

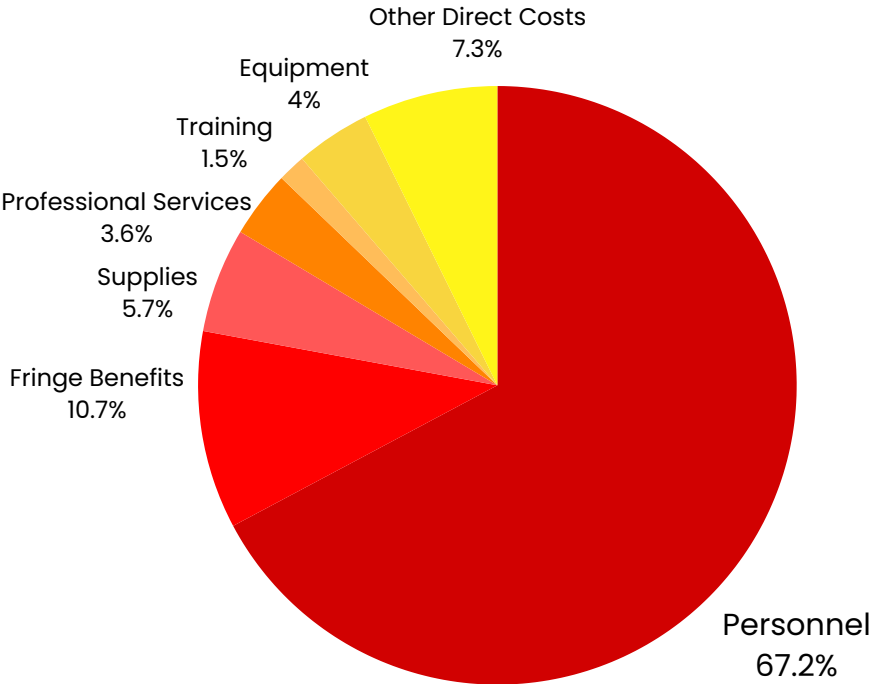
Funding	
Head Start Grant Revenue	\$2,690,123
Foundations	\$229,583
City of Longmont	\$90,000
Boulder County	\$52,430
St. Vrain Valley School District	\$283,500
State Funds	\$99,102
Individuals	\$73,073
CACFP	\$183,377
CCAP	\$804,527
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$4,505,714</b>



**RESULTS OF MOST  
RECENT AUDIT:  
In 2022-2023  
ZERO concerns were identified.**

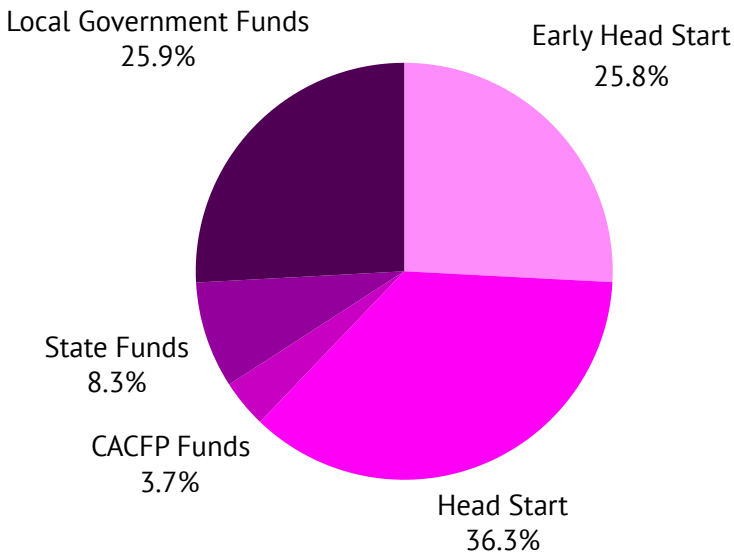
# 2022-2023 Expenses

Expenses	
Personnel	\$3,029,630
Fringe Benefits	\$481,710
Supplies	\$254,926
Professional Services	\$162,845
Other Direct Costs	\$328,175
Training & Technical Assistance	\$67,656
Equipment	\$182,102
<b>TOTAL Expense:</b>	<b>\$4,507,044</b>



# 2023-2024 Proposed Budget

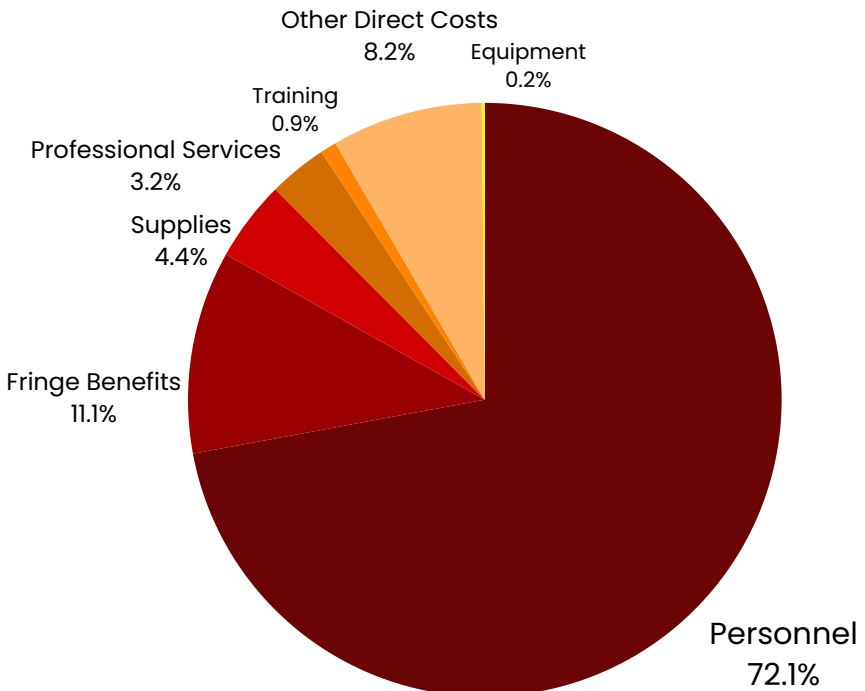
Public Funding	
Early Head Start	\$1,208,174
Head Start	\$1,698,812
CACFP Funds	\$173,697
State Funds	\$387,000
Local Government Funds	\$1,209,704



Private Funding	
Foundations	\$135,370
<b>TOTAL Funding:</b>	<b>\$4,812,758</b>

# 2023-2024 Proposed Budget

Expenses	
Personnel	\$3,469,446.22
Fringe Benefits	\$532,511.68
Supplies	\$210,950
Professional Services	\$153,165.36
Other Direct Costs	\$395,988.55
Training & Technical Assistance	\$42,696
Equipment	\$8,000
<b>TOTAL Expense:</b>	<b>\$4,812,758</b>



# Board of Directors

The Board of Directors of Wild Plum Center is an active, engaged group of people that meets with key staff annually for an in-depth strategic planning session and monthly to set policies and maintain the overall direction of Wild Plum Center. The board defines the mission, establishes priorities, crafts strategies, and ensures that plans and programs are implemented.

**PRESIDENT:** Kenda Vaughan, Therapist, Private Practice

**VICE PRESIDENT:** Don Horton, Retired Boulder County Public Health

**TREASURER:** Michelle Burns, Financial Analyst

**SECRETARY:** Judy Davis, Therapist, Private Practice

**MEMBERS:** Stephen Hoel, Principal, SVVSD

Holly Krammer, Lawyer, Burg Simpson

Olga Bermudez, M.A., L.P.C.

Amy Homann, Parent Representative

Angelique Velasco, Librarian, Parent Educator

Dennis Berry, Retired Administrator

Jessica Diaz, Parent Representative





# Show Your Support

## INVEST IN EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

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. If you want to contribute to equity through education, visit [www.wildplumcenter.org/donate](http://www.wildplumcenter.org/donate)



## BECOME A COMMUNITY ADVOCATE

There are countless ways to support the hundreds of families we are honored to serve. Whether you are looking for a home for your gently used toys, clothes and books or you are looking for a group volunteer project, we would love to work together!

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

[info@wildplumcenter.org](mailto:info@wildplumcenter.org)

Call: 303-776-8523

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

[www.wildplumcenter.org](http://www.wildplumcenter.org)