

### Letter from the President



In days of economic crisis, believe it or not, there is sometimes a silver lining. We start living more simply and might appreciate even more what we do have and what we have to give.

At Wildflower we appreciate all that is given to us, because we know that what we give, in turn, is so important to the families we serve. Be sure to read the touching article "Pebble in the Pond", by our board member Dan Pollets about how Wildflower touches the lives of our scholarship recipients.

What WCF does would not be possible without the help of many. We are so pleased with the addition of our new Advisory Board, a group of individuals giving their expertise and time to our efforts. This year we have received enormous support from camp directors who have partnered with us to increase grant assistance to our campers. We are also excited to announce that Emerson College is helping WCF to produce a film that will complement our fund-raising efforts.

We hope that you will consider Wildflower with your end of year giving. Any size donation would be greatly appreciated. But remember that there are many ways to help....

- ◆ Call us if you would like to get involved in our efforts.
- ◆ Buy some Artcards (see article below).
- ◆ Send us your email address to support our efforts to save money and go green.
- ◆ Donate your time/skills to help with our exciting 5th year anniversary event next year!

Remember that in these economic times, our support of grieving children and families is needed even more so! We don't want to disappoint our kids.

With Warm Regards,  
Cyndi Jones

### Mission Statement

The *Wildflower Camp Foundation* grants scholarships for camp and enrichment programs to children who have suffered the loss of a parent. This support provides a restorative experience both for the children and surviving spouse as they recover from their loss.

## The Art of Giving: Wildflower Collaborates with Local Artist

Recently a member of our organization spoke to us about the idea of creating tribute cards as a means for people to contribute to WCF. Cyndi Jones, our founder, thought this would be a great way for our donors to remember special family members and friends. What a coincidence when shortly thereafter she heard from a colleague, the brother of local artist Judith Greenberg. Knowing that they both ran small non-profit organizations, he encouraged them to meet. Amazingly, by the end of their visit, the idea of the Art of Giving card project was launched.



What a perfect fit! Wildflower was founded with the imagery of the healing force of nature. In Cyndi's words:

*Human experiences are often echoed in nature. Ironically, after the devastation of forest fires, the first regrowth in the meadows created by the loss of trees is often a spectacular display of wildflowers. Children have tremendous resilience and often not only recover, but develop very promising lives after the loss of a loved one.*

This image is vividly reflected in Greenberg's rendering of nature in her vibrant mixed-media prints. Combining artistry and philanthropy through Artcards is a new way to foster meaningful gift giving.

What makes Artcards so unique? Artcards are:

- ◆ Individually printed with archival inks on archival paper, suitable for framing.
- ◆ Beautifully packaged for gift giving.
- ◆ Can also be used individually as tribute cards.
- ◆ Blank inside for use on any occasion.
- ◆ Tax deductible (see pricing below).
- ◆ A great way to support the Wildflower Camp Foundation.

Ordering information:

- ◆ Cost is \$32 for a four-card gift set, including four designs.
- ◆ Each gift set purchase includes a \$16 tax deductible donation.
- ◆ To order by mail, fill out the form enclosed in the newsletter and return with your check in the donation envelope. See enclosed form for correct postage and handling fee.
- ◆ Checks payable to Wildflower Camp Foundation

By Marlene Linkow



## Pebble in the Pond: The Brown Family

By Dan F. Pollets, Ph.D.

### Board of Directors

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Judy Levine  
Ann Melanson  
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*A heartfelt thank you to all the individuals who gave their time and shared their expertise which helped us to achieve our mission.*

The Wildflower Camp Foundation (WCF) is a small foundation dedicated to making a difference in the life of a child. The impact is small but significant to a family such as the Brown family who I had the privilege of working with this past summer.

The Brown family consists of dad (Paul) and his two children, Karen (14) and Mark (9)\*. The tragic story of this family is not uncommon in the families the foundation serves. Paul and his wife were divorced in 2006 and struggled through the pain and upset of divorce. The children's mom died suddenly from a brain aneurysm in 2007. Karen and Mark are now living with their dad, but the wounds from all this were plentiful.

I met the family last April and was immediately taken in by these kids, their struggling and committed father, and the sad story they told. The good news is that Wildflower was able to help. Through consultation with our Advisory Board member and camp advisor Judy Levine, brother and sister camps were selected since the separation from dad would be much easier if the children were physically close. Karen went to Camp Kippewa and Mark, to Camp Cobbossee, both overnight camps in Maine.

I joined the family recently to follow-up on how the camp experience went and to begin to plan for the future. Karen, a bright, emotionally present and mature teen could not thank me enough for the opportunity we provided. She had a blast at camp. She was introduced to many new activities and particularly enjoyed water sports. She made close friends who she remains in touch with and had great counselor relationships.



Courtesy of the American Camping Association

Mark, the younger sibling, initially had a rough time with the separation from home and was homesick. Gradually he settled in, and was able to use his athletic ability in the many sports opportunities that were available. In fact, he came home and immediately registered for football which is a mark of his new confidence as an athlete. He was voted "coolest camper" and felt proud of this achievement.

Paul felt both kids had a great experience while he had time to begin to recover from all the stress and worries of the past year. He said that it was more than the weeks at camp that made a difference, the entire process of working with the professional and caring board members at Wildflower made as much of an impact. It has opened the window once more to a sense of trust in the world which was temporarily closed on account of all the losses that were experienced by Paul and his children. In Dad's words, "the experience has renewed our faith that everything is not bad." So in a small way WCF has an impact much greater than what it might appear on first glance. The waves of the pebble travel much further than where it is tossed.

\*The names of this family have been changed to protect their privacy