



Wellsprings Friends School

"THE LITTLE SCHOOL WITH THE BIG HEART"

Spring, 2019

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Wellsprings Friends School is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. EIN 93-1123932



*May the 4th
Be With You!*

*WFS Celebrates
25 Years*

On May 4th almost 100 alumni, students, past and present parents, former and current trustees and friends of WFS gathered in celebration.



You could find Gen Schaack and Chanci Herer painting faces or snapping pictures with alumni and their children.



Teachers, Bob Schlichting and Brad Goss fired up the grill and served up burgers and hot dogs.

Attendees enjoyed music performed by current and former students including Kyle Acosta with an original song on ukelele and Jordin Wood singing "Halleljah."



Our speakers, founder Helen Park and original board member Charles Dalton along with former and current students and parents, staff and board members, delivered heartwarming and inspirational messages that spoke to Wellsprings longevity and our continuing mission to serve youth.



Alumni gathered to reconnect and reminisce. A memory wall and yearbooks located in the library drew many in for a look at the past.



After a round of singing Happy Anniversary to Wellsprings, we cut the beautiful cake made by current student Aiden, and her parents Sarah and Ken McKinney.

*It was a truly Wellsprings Day.
Looking forward to another 25 years!*

Christina (Byrd) Roman

Wellsprings graduate 2002



Christina (Byrd) Roman attended Wellsprings from 1998 to 2002. She lived in the area and heard about the school from friends, Jessica and Melissa Halvorson, who attended WFS from 1998 to 2000. By the time Christina started her freshman year she was no longer living with her parents. She and her younger sister were homeless, couch surfing to various friends' houses.

Christina was in a tough position that first year but with the help of WFS staff was able to gain emancipation from her parents. Teacher Kathy Rile accompanied her to lend support on her court date. With help from the Board of Trustees, she was able to get her own apartment and became the primary caretaker for her younger sister. Over the four years Christina attended Wellsprings the staff guided her toward an independent life. They taught her basic living skills, how to pay bills, cook for her sister, apply for scholarships to Lane Community College. More importantly they provided the family she didn't have at the time. It was a second home for her, where there was no judgement. The school remained a flexible but stable place during a volatile time in her life.

Christina is now a registered nurse. She started working at McKenzie Willamette at age nineteen as a secretary. She went to school and worked her way up to becoming a CNA then a charge nurse and now manages the medical floor at McKenzie-Willamette. She married her high school sweetheart, Carlos Roman, and they have been married 16 years.

The teachers at WFS were instrumental in that success and Christina remains in contact with all of them. Kathy Rile became her godmother, the maternal figure that she needed in her life. They are still close, recently going on vacation together to DC. Christy Audette was another mother figure. When Christy moved to Alaska, Christina spent two summers with her working and earning enough money to buy

herself a car. She still has regular contact with David Milner, Randy Sullivan, Serena Lefler, and Judith Voss and keeps up with Ethan Hughes and Eliman Gibba.

When asked what she attributes her success to, whether that is an inner drive she just naturally possesses or her years at Wellsprings during a formative time in her life, Christina says "a little of both." Although she knew at a young age that she wanted to be in the health care industry, the teachers at WFS gave her the support, love and friendship she needed to carry her through tough times and reach her goal.

Wellsprings still provides basic needs for some of our students. Sometimes those needs are physical, such as food or a pair of shoes. Often those needs are deeper: to be listened to, to be counseled, to be told "You can do it!" Many students consider Wellsprings their second home, where they can receive support to help them overcome the challenges thrown their way, providing the skills and confidence they need on their path to a fulfilling and successful life.

When you support Wellsprings you support success stories like Christina's. Twenty-eight percent of the school's operating budget comes from people like you who believe in our mission. Enclosed with your newsletter is a donation envelope. Please consider making a gift today.

Picture above from left to right: Christina with husband Carlos, Christina with younger sister Heather Byrd, Christina with Kathy Rile on vacation in DC.

OUR MISSION

Wellsprings Friends School provides alternative learning approaches, supportive community, and a culture of individual affirmation, in which teenagers are mentored and assisted towards meeting the challenges of adolescence and adulthood.

Wellsprings Students

Represent in the Nation's Capital



Students Gaven Carpenter, Alyssa Crawford, Jack Giddens and Miranda Gustafson, along with Board of Trustees Clerk, Lisette Ewing, and part-time teacher Ethen Perkins spent their spring break in Washington DC! The purpose was not only see the city culturally but to learn about government and how citizens can interact with government to make changes in policy. Four hundred and fifty young people covered at the National Press Conference to learn about issues regarding immigrants and how to speak with members of congress about the issue. After two days of absorbing information and forming a plan for petitioning their representatives, they were able to present to Representative Peter De Fazio's and Senator Ron Wyden's staff and talk directly with Senator Jeff Merkley.

In addition to learning about citizenship, the students were able to tour monuments and many DC museums, including the African American Museum, the Air and Space Museum and the Natural History Museum. They met and made friends with other students from around the country while staying at Hostel International. It was an experience that opened their eyes and minds and bonded them together in a unique learning experience.

In reflection on the trip Miranda Gustafson said "Our experience was very unique and we learned a lot. Especially being in a different area of the United States where things are more diverse. It was definitely eye opening."

Love Your School!

A Class in Service to WFS

Teacher Neva Gruver taught a uniquely Wellsprings course this spring term called "Love Your School!" Envisioned by the students themselves to serve and beautify the school.

Their major projects included building a garden box and trellis for the yard outside the mod. They also made and silk screened (by hand!) over 50 special edition Wellsprings tote bags to be given out to new and continuing monthly donors!

Monday and Wednesday afternoons you could find kids working outside with hammers and nails or inside with sewing machines and scissors.



Saying Goodbye to an Old Friend



The epic snowstorm at the end of February brought down a dear friend, the old oak that stood guard outside Wellsprings Friends School. The large tree is estimated to be 150 years old and stood approximately 80 feet tall. The tree which gave us shade on hot days and the beauty of the change of seasons was considerate even at its life's end, falling away from the school building and onto the front lawn. No one was injured and nothing was damaged. In any case it has left a blank space outside our entrance and in our hearts.

The Sustainers Circle

Through the months of March, April and May we conducted a monthly donor giving campaign where each new monthly donor who signed up to be part of our Sustainers Circle triggered a gift of \$50 from an anonymous donor. The campaign brought in 10 new monthly recurring donations bringing the number of members of our Sustainers Circle to 29! Monthly recurring donations especially help to support the school during summer months when we do not receive tuition income but expenses continue.

All our monthly donors, new and old, will be receiving their Wellsprings **special edition tote bags** soon! You can still get one! If you would like to become a monthly donor you can either go to our website www.wellspringsfriends.org and click on the red donate button to be guided to our secure online donation form. Or contact Kari Welch at kari@wellspringsfriends.com to get a form for direct withdrawal.

Congratulations to our Graduates

On June 15th thirteen students will be walking for graduation. Congratulations to Aiden McKinney, Brandon Hastings, Caleb Rands, Dalia Hamide, Gaven Carpenter, Ian Stouder, Jack Giddens, Jordin Wood, Kenzie Brennan, Miranda Gustafson, Noah Steinhoff and Sophie Brouse-Schmidt.

We wish them well on their journeys forward and hope they occasionally find the path back home for a



Graduates and staff enjoy a celebratory dinner at McMenamins North Bank.

Mark Your Calendar!

8th Annual TOAST 'N' ROAST
October 16, 2019
Lane Community College
Center for Meeting and Learning

Featuring
Dan Bryant, Minister of First Christian Church,
as our Roastee!