



Wonderbloom

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ANNUAL REPORT

Sept 2022 - Aug 2023



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ABOUT US

Wonderbloom is a 501(c)(3) non-profit early childhood education program for children in Utah.

Vision: Learning in nature nourishes the child's mind, body, and soul.

Mission: Increasing child access, educator implementation, research enrichment, and advocacy engagement for nature based early childhood education.



Circle Time in the Movement Meadow

Message from our Executive Director



We completed our first full year at our Murray location, and it has been a dream! Our partnership with Cottonwood Presbyterian Church has embraced us in a supportive community that values nature and the education of young children, allowing us to provide non-denominational programs. We are grateful to have a team of board members, administrators, educators, and interns who pour their heart and soul into this work.

At the beginning of the 2022 school year, it became apparent that we had a significant number of children born during COVID, many of whom had never been in a group care environment.

This created challenges for children, families, and staff as we worked to support these young learners in gaining important social-emotional skills they may not have had the opportunity to practice. Through the consistency and care of our amazing teachers, these young children were able to make great strides in their development.

Our efforts to create an equitable environment for children of diverse backgrounds made significant progress during the 2022-2023 year. We were able to provide tuition scholarships to 10% of the children enrolled at Wonderbloom Nature Playschool, hire a Spanish-speaking staff member, and translate and distribute flyers in six languages. We also formed several new partnerships this year.

The Bennion Student Service Center at the University of Utah participated in a Saturday service project to deep clean, wash windows, seal wood, shovel gravel, and in many ways clean up our outdoor classroom. In addition, we partnered with the SOUL garden and Woodstock Elementary School to host a free fall community event called the Harvest Festival. Last spring, the Hollow Tree Honey Foundation sponsored a Pollinator Day, providing supplies for bee boxes, seed bombs, and a new pollinator garden in the Outdoor Classroom. We look forward to continuing this important work in the coming year.





Winter play at Cottonwood Cottage

MISSION HIGHLIGHTS

Child Access

- Built “Cottonwood Cottage” nature-inspired climbing playground in Outdoor Classroom
- Harvest Festival provided free nature-based activities to approximately 500 community members
- Tuition scholarships for 10% of students
- Installed a pollinator garden in the outdoor classroom

Educator Implementation

- 2 staff earned CDA (Child Development Associate) degrees, sponsored by Wonderbloom
- Nature Explore training completed by WB staff
- Lianna (Director) created child observation training for WB staff

Research Enrichment

- Sarah (ED) completed serving on the graduate committee for Doctoral student at ASU.

Advocacy Engagement

- Sarah (ED) created contacts and participated in several early childhood advocacy groups in Utah: Voices for Utah Children, Waterford Upstart, Promise Partnership (w/United Way), Child Care Advocates, Early Childhood Alliance, and Every Kid Outdoors Governor’s stakeholder group.
- Lianna (Director) attended Child Care Day on the Hill on Jan 27, an advocacy day at the Utah State Capitol building. Wonderbloom students and families colored pages and wrote letters to give to legislators.
- Tabled at Wasatch Outdoor Film Festival and Patagonia for Non-Profit Day. Radio interview with “Along the Wasatch.”

SNAPSHOT

ACADEMIC YEAR & SUMMER '22-23

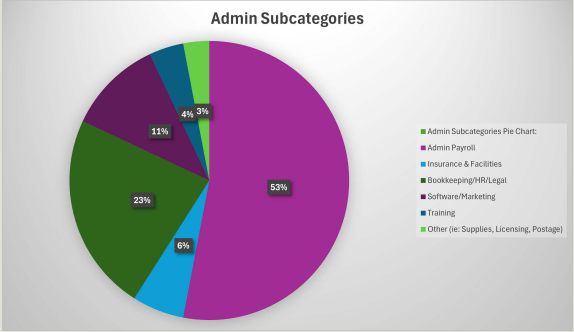
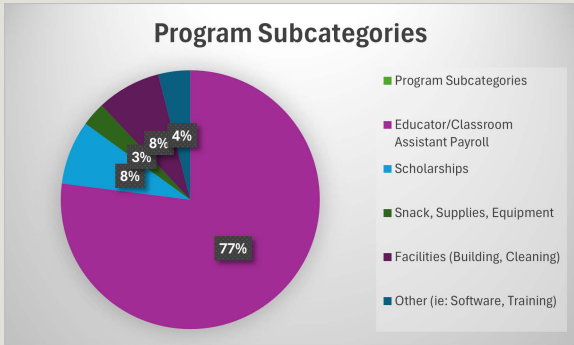
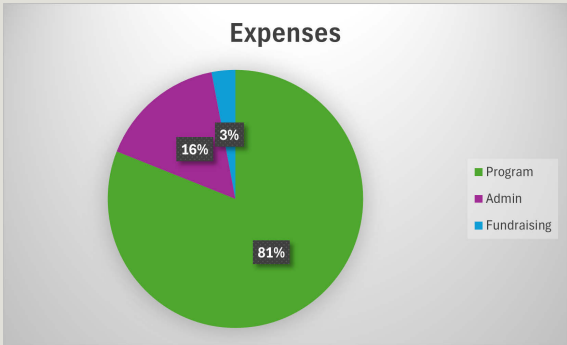
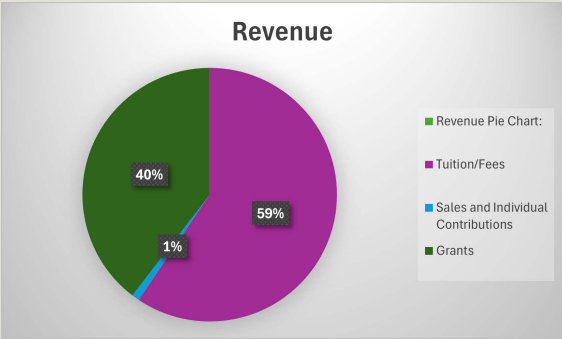
91 students served
 27% BIPOC students
 27% BIPOC staff
 13% Family Income below \$50k
 18% Family Income below \$75k
 18% students with special needs
 800+ Parent Volunteer Hours logged
 100+ Community Volunteer Hours logged



Pretend Play in the Theater

FINANCIAL REPORT

Nonprofit best practices recommend maintaining a **spending ratio of 65:20:15 for programs**, administration, and fundraising, with the majority of funds directed toward programs. We are proud to report that Wonderbloom exceeded this standard by allocating **81% of our spending to programs, 16% to administrative costs, and only 3% to fundraising activities**. The Childcare Stabilization Grant played a pivotal role in supporting our mission this year. It enabled us to enhance our indoor and outdoor facilities and invest in our dedicated staff through improved compensation and professional development opportunities. Financial stability is a cornerstone of long-term success. Experts recommend nonprofits maintain reserves equivalent to 3-6 months of operating expenses. In previous years, Wonderbloom faced challenges in meeting this goal. However, thanks to the Stabilization Grant, we made significant strides in building a secure financial foundation. We moved **\$220,000 of net revenue into a capital reserve account**, providing approximately **four months' worth of operating expenses to safeguard against future financial challenges** and support the implementation of upcoming program initiatives. Additionally, **\$33,000 in net revenue**, raised in previous years and earmarked for scholarships, remains in a savings account and will soon be placed in a dedicated investment account to expand our Equitable Access Initiative. These financial advancements demonstrate our commitment to fiscal responsibility, program excellence, and the sustainability of Wonderbloom's mission.



Total Revenue \$718,552 Total Expenses \$493,900	◇	Total Assets EOY \$407,982 Total Liabilities EOY \$80,123 Net Assets \$327,859
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THANK YOU!

Generous grants, sponsors, partnerships and donations made it possible to provide high quality early childhood education. We were able to raise teacher wages, provide teacher bonuses, build our outdoor classroom, provide scholarships to families in need, fund continuing ed for teachers, purchase learning materials, and so much more!

INDIVIDUAL DONORS

\$5-\$99

Eric Adlam
Cynthia Boyton
Heloisa Caputo
Heather Culbert
Lauren Gowen
Margaret Halbig
Kathy Jedrzejczyk
Jennifer Josephs
Ashley Nakatsuka
Bobbi Taylor
Kathy White

\$100-\$499

Kenneth Adlam
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Jamie Dwyer
Hoke Eunice
Purdy Megan
Zvon Rakamaric
Nancy Rollins



Fence weaving at the Movement Meadow

GRANTS, SPONSORS, PARTNERS

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Oaki
Dirt2Table (Rocky Mountain Power)
Soul Garden
Department of Workforce Services
American Family Insurance
Office of Child Care
Stonz
UofU Bennion Center



Lastly, a **GIANT** thank you to former Board Member Nate Friedman and the Baird family for the Crab Apple Tree.