

Stories of Gratitude

How Your Giving Changes Lives

WINTER 2025



WILDERNESS
AWARENESS
SCHOOL

Fully Alive

by Raven Nolan

Lily has been attending weekly programs at Wilderness Awareness School for several years and is currently a student at Foxes. It has been such a gift to watch them grow and explore alongside so many other wild ones. Every year, new layers of their beautiful wild ways emerge. **This year, I have witnessed a blossoming of self-confidence.**



At Foxes each Wednesday, Lily gets to feel authentic and free thanks to the scholarship you have provided.

Lily is consistently met with challenges every day in life. The high demands and overwhelming atmosphere of a large elementary school often leave them feeling depleted at the end of the day. Lily eagerly counts down the days until Thursday, their day to become wild again at Wilderness

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Fully Alive..... page 1-2

Notes From the Eagle's Nest.....page 2

2023/2024 Annual Report..... page 3

Sparks of Learning..... page 4

Awareness School. I never see Lily beaming and bright like I do on Thursdays.

Seeing my child come home fully alive, with a sparkle in their eye, is the greatest gift any parent could ask for. I am so grateful for the scholarship we've received, which has given my child the opportunity to be authentic and free amidst a welcoming community of vibrant human beings.

"I am so grateful for the scholarship we've received, which has given my child the opportunity to be authentic and free."

I treasure watching Lily's connection with the skilled mentors at WAS unfold each year. Every single one of them lights a little spark inside my child in their own unique way. The gifts these mentors give are not always visible, but they are felt in the grounded, confident, and heartfelt way that Lily is now able to be in the world.

CONTINUE TO PG 2

Notes From the Eagle's Nest

by Warren Moon, Executive Director

As I reflect on this past year, I am profoundly grateful for you, our generous and compassionate community. Your support has enabled nearly 3,000 students to experience the transformative power of nature—a truly incredible gift. Your selfless giving inspires and humbles me. Thank you!

I'm thrilled to share the Annual Report edition of our Stories of Gratitude newsletter, where you can see the difference your support makes.

In *Fully Alive*, you'll discover how your generosity is helping Lily foster self-confidence and belonging.

In *Sparks of Learning*, learn how Joe regained the magic and joy of connecting kids with nature.

Our Annual Report highlights the incredible achievements your support made possible in 2023-2024, including a remarkable 11% increase in scholarships for students in need!

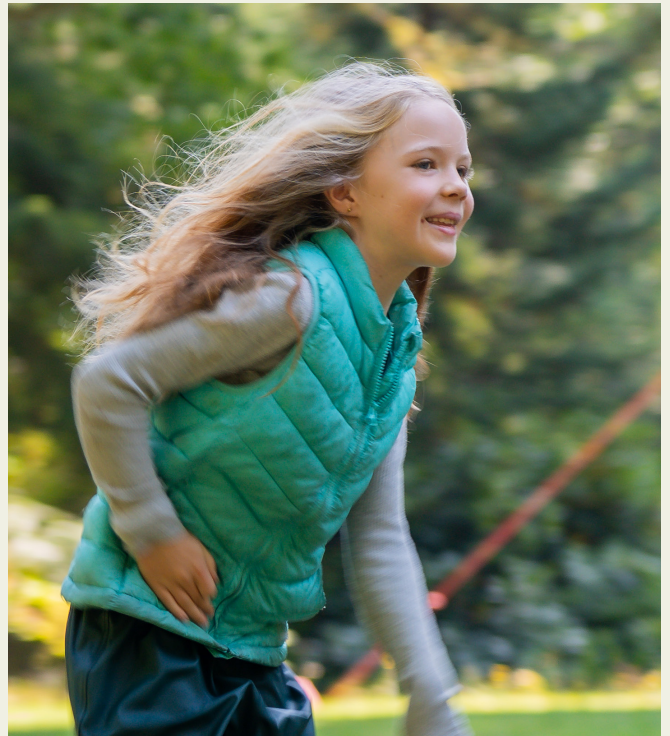
Thank you for your unwavering care and generosity. You're helping shape a healthier, happier future for our students and the planet, fostering the next generation of compassionate mentors, resilient individuals, and environmental stewards.

With gratitude,

Warren Moon



As a parent, I know in my heart that no matter where Lily goes and what Lily does, they will always feel a connection and belonging to nature. **This beautiful belonging is cultivated by each and every person weaving their intentions into the programs at Wilderness Awareness School.**



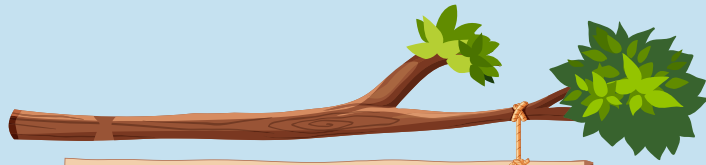
Your generosity allows Lily to eagerly count the days each week until another wild adventure at Foxes.

“To have a bright and happy Lily amidst an overwhelming world is more than we could ever ask for.”

I am so grateful for the opportunity to send my child to this program. To have a bright and happy Lily amidst an overwhelming world is more than we could ever ask for. Thank you. To all the donors who have made this possible, I thank you with all my heart.

WILDERNESS AWARENESS SCHOOL ANNUAL REPORT

September 2023 - August 2024



Accomplishments

\$50,849

toward diversity, equity, and inclusion training, initiatives, and scholarships.

\$167,897

for the renovation of new administrative and program offices on our land.

2,158 youth enjoyed fun adventures in nature throughout the year, including **1,793** in summer day camps.

11% increase from last year!

Your support provided **\$106,303** in scholarships, giving **107** students the ability to attend our programs.

434 adults participated in a variety of programs, from our 9-month Immersion, to intensives, to weekend/weeklong programs.

26% increase from last year!

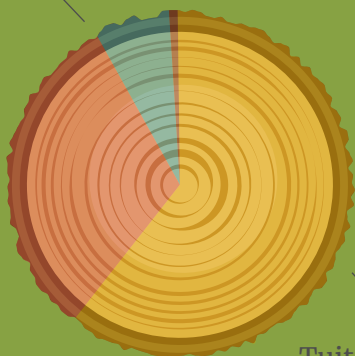
277 volunteers gave **15,902** hours of invaluable time and energy, playing essential roles in our programs.

Financial Report

Other Revenue - 6% Retail Sales - 1%

REVENUE

Contributions - 29%



Tuition - 64%

Tuition	\$2,531,047
Contributions	\$1,158,397
Other Revenue	\$218,814
Retail Sales	\$20,731

TOTAL **\$3,928,989**

Fundraising - 1%

Scholarships - 3%

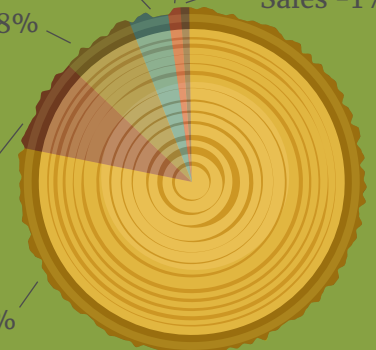
Retail Sales - 1%

Management - 8%

EXPENSES

Marketing - 9%

Programs - 78%



Programs	\$2,893,754
Marketing	\$340,694
Management & General	\$303,530
Scholarships	\$106,303
Fundraising	\$41,946
Retail Sales	\$20,938

TOTAL **\$3,707,165**

Sparks of Learning

by Joe Singer

I decided to do The Immersion on a whim. I was going on my 9th year of working as a summer camp counselor near my home in Illinois, and **I had lost the magic that made the work of connecting with kids in nature so important.** A friend of mine visited Wilderness Awareness School and came home with stories of adults finding their magic again. I immediately decided to sign up.

I had no idea how much I was going to receive from the community at Wilderness Awareness

School, and the impact the mentorship was going to have on me. It was a welcomed surprise, and this was the area in which I gained the most professionally. I built a whole new arsenal of tools for whatever I was going to do next.

During the program, I was so inspired by the excitement of the instructors. Imagine being so profoundly happy to go to work each day! I decided to return the following year as an apprentice in the Adult Nature Instructor Training program to be able to peer behind the scenes to learn how these instructors could stay so engaged. The energy and excitement was contagious!

“It has been amazing to bring joyful sparks of learning into my work with children again.”

After The Immersion, I began working at Wilderness Awareness School’s summer camps, and it felt like the real test. Could I bring new vibrancy into my work with children? Before doing The Immersion, my firsthand experience with childhood joy was a distant memory. **However, after graduation, I found that I was able to connect with campers in such a relatable way.** I had so recently experienced joyful sparks of learning myself, and it has been amazing to bring that joy into my work with children again. Going down the rabbit hole of learning with young people after just going through it myself has made mentorship feel natural, relatable, and fun!



The Immersion reignited Joe’s spark, allowing him to connect with children in a more fun and relatable way.

Yes! I want to help people have life-changing experiences in nature.



- \$35
- \$50
- \$100
- \$250
- \$_____ - the possibilities are endless!



Name: _____

Email: _____

Address: _____

Donate securely online at wildernessawareness.org/donate