

2016



2017



CELEBRATING 40 YEARS

ANNUAL
REPORT

Our Mission

The mission of Waco Montessori School is to educate children in a nurturing, stimulating environment that appreciates and celebrates each child, encourages respect for oneself and others, and develops life-long learning and problem-solving skills.



Early Childhood class field trip



Horner kids taking care of our school sign



Board of Trustees 2016-2017

- Rich Chatmas, President
- Katy Abel, Vice-President
- Michael Hillman, Treasurer
- Sheila Mundy, Secretary
- DJ Adams
- Adrienne Hare
- Mike Harper
- Mitchell Horner
- Jessica Meehan
- Justin Reed
- Chelsa Ressetar
- Sarah Roberts
- Rell Salome
- Allison Sellers
- Brinn Serbanic
- Tracey Sulak
- Clint Weaver
- Kimberly Hale, PTO President



Board of Trustees serving at Talitha Kuom as an Act of Kindness



Dear WMS Families & Friends,

“Thank you” is not sufficient in expressing my overwhelming gratitude for the generosity that has been shown to our school during the 2016 – 2017 school year. Generosity has been shown in a variety of ways including countless volunteer hours and a wide span of monetary gifts, but most importantly your trust in the invaluable education that the instructional staff provides for the children enrolled at Waco Montessori School. Not only were we strong in admissions and enrollment, but we also exceeded our fundraising goals and achieved record participation as we celebrated our 40th Anniversary.

This Annual Report recognizes those who have given time, treasure, and talent to our school. Your investment in our school directly supports the incredible faculty, and enriches the experience of all of our students, from our youngest toddlers to our sixth level leaders. The people reflected in this Annual Report have built on the dreams of the families that founded our school. Most importantly, we are able to offer the kind of education that our founding families envisioned – one that nurtures and respects the child. We did this because of the amazing community that supports us – our parents, grandparents, teachers, alumni, and friends of the school who give their time, money, and energy so that the school stays strong.

Thank you for all that you do to support the mission of Waco Montessori School. It would be almost impossible for us to thank each and every one of you personally for all that you give to the school, or to relate each and every one of the stories that would illustrate the ways in which your support helps our students and faculty. We do want you to know, however, that you are making a true and lasting difference in the lives of these children and for that, we are deeply grateful.

With warm regards,

Shirley Jansing
Shirley Jansing



Early Childhood work

Fiscal Year End July 31, 2017

Statement of Financial Activities

REVENUE	
Tuition and Fees	\$1,770,159
Fundraising	\$150,292
Other Income	\$236,441
TOTAL REVENUE	\$2,156,892
EXPENSES	
Educational and Program Services	\$1,636,169
Management and Supportive Services	\$370,583
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$2,006,752
NET INCOME	\$150,140



Fire Safety Week



Loved Ones Day

Message from the Board President

Dear Friends and Families of Waco Montessori School,

Our focus this year was to increase our Annual Fund dollars and number of participants, which we did! We also wanted to celebrate our school's 40th Anniversary in a big way, which we also did! It was a privilege to serve as the Board President and watch the school's commitment to excellence up close.

I am pleased to report that the revenue for the year ending July 2017 totaled over \$2.16 million, up from \$2.05 million in FYE 2016. The 5% increase in revenue exactly offset the 5% increase in operating expenses for the year ending July 2017.

Waco Montessori School is a special place. We are grateful for all of you – parents, grandparents, alumni, and friends. Your support keeps us strong financially. On behalf of the Board of Trustees, we pledge to continue to serve responsibly as stewards of our school resources.

Sincerely,



Rich Chatmas



Waco Montessori School Donor Honor Roll

Waco Montessori School would like to thank the following donors for their generosity throughout the 2016-2017 Fiscal Year:

Annual Auction

Anniversary (\$5,000)

Visiting Angels

Platinum (\$2,500)

Anonymous

Volvo & Mack Trucks of Waco

Gold (\$1,000)

Alliance Bank

Drs. Shanna & Sherwin Attai

Dental Station Family Dentistry

Pattillo, Brown, & Hill LLP

Premier ER Plus*

Martha & Tom Salome

Silver (\$500)

All Pro Maintenance

E.H. Anderson PR

Anonymous

Janet & Ray Bagby

Bailey Insurance & Risk Management

Beard Kultgen Brophy Bostwick & Dickson LLP

Jennifer & Chris Chance

Community Bank & Trust*

Seedhouse Creative, Cathi & Coleburn Davis

Erin & Bob Davis

Cynthia & Joe Dunlap

First National Bank Central Texas*

Meredith & George Harmon

Callie Carruth-Harper & Mike Harper

Kathryn & Mitchell Horner

Allison & Kyle Hulme

Independent Bank*

Johnson Hobbs Squires LLP*

Kelly Realtors

Drs. Jessica & Todd Meehan

Liz & Brian Mitchell

Nikki & David Oates

Powerhouse Business Innovations

Ramsgate Veterinary Clinic

Reed & Reed

Claude & Dan Valahu

Vanguard College Preparatory School

Woodland Insurance Agency (Allstate)

The Zimmerman Law Firm

Bronze (\$250)

Katy & Aaron Abel

Bailey Insurance & Risk Management

Golda Brown

Sheila Mundy & Greg Denman

Shirley & Michael Jansing

Korpi Posture & Alignment Therapy

Living Springs Village

Stacey & Chris Meyer

Tricia & Eric Meyer

Lucinda & Ryan Myers

Ann & Bud Salome

Brooke & Charlie Schlecte

Brinn & Michael Serbanic

Aaron Thompson

Casie & Clint Weaver

Kelly & Adam Ylitalo

Annual Fund

\$1,000+

Anonymous (2)

Susan & Todd Behringer

Jennifer & Michael Hillman

Kathryn & Mitchell Horner

Jessie & Michael Matsumoto

Leigh Ellen & Matt Morrison

Isabel & Justin Reed

Aaron Thompson

Carol & Ricky Thompson

Jay Tracy

\$500-\$999

Anonymous

Patsy & Bruce Burdett

Jennifer & Mark Hobbs

Amy & Jack Jordan

Tracy & Stewart Kelly

Jennifer & John Manning

Jessica & Todd Meehan

Sarah & Korbett Roberts*

Brooke & Charlie Schlecte

Gabby & Garrett Strickland

Casie & Clint Weaver

\$250-\$499

Katy & Aaron Abel

Catherine & Brent Bauer

Jan & Art Briles

JoAnn & Jimmy Carruth

Ginger & Brad Funk

Jamie & Jay Goble

Kimberly & Bryant Hale

Ivy & Greg Hamerly

Allison & Kyle Hulme

Francesca & Matt Jensen

Ann King

Chris Meyer

Stacey & Chris Meyer

Tricia & Eric Meyer*

Liz & Brian Mitchell

Blaire & Caleb Mooney

Stacie & Rick Petter

Claude & Dan Valahu

Kelly & Adam Ylitalo*



\$1-\$249

Anonymous
 Kristen & DJ Adams
 Melissa & Bryentt Allen
 Linda Arnold
 Donna Baker
 Jamie Baker
 Jinsil Bang & Sunghun Kim
 Debbie Barber
 Rosy Bautista
 Caroline Bennett
 Brooke & Benjamin Blevins
 Lori Bradley
 Cherise & Brandon Bridgwater
 Kay & Mike Brown
 Kandy & Chris Bullajian
 Dave Burfischer
 Marie & Brody Burks
 Jennifer & Chris Chance
 Melanie & Rich Chatmas
 Jennifer & Darrell Cloudt
 Diana & Mike Coggin
 Margaret & Timothy Condon
 Brittney & Clay Corley
 Christina & Craig Crenshaw
 Katie & James Croft
 Cathi & Coleburn Davis
 Ruthie & Shane Davis
 Donna & Rex Davis
 Molly & Lange Debault
 Michael Deemer
 Sheila Mundy & Greg Denman
 Catherine Diaz
 Melisa & Marcus Dracos
 Melissa & Jason Ellis
 Mandi & Cliff Emmons
 Cara Engelbrecht
 Mary & Vince Erickson

Nicole & Aaron Fanning
 Jenn & Clayton Felton*
 Dorie & John Fugate
 Breck & Brian Gamel
 Amy & David Gibson
 Polly Ann Good*
 Amy & John Goodman
 Marilyn & Joe Goodman
 Carrie Graham
 Haley & Jud Griffis
 Erin & Jackson Griggs
 Adrienne & Daniel Hare
 Kelly & Clint Harp
 Callie Carruth-Harper & Mike Harper
 Janyce & Rich Haskett
 Tammy & Casey Hector
 Megan & Sam Henderson
 Mary & Brad Herridge
 Kathy & John Hillman*
 Maria & Artemio Ibarra
 Shirley & Michael Jansing
 Stacy & Paul King
 Kathleen & Steve Lackey
 Sherry Lopez
 Dave Luedtke
 Robert & Annie Mach
 Michelle & Jeff Manning
 Christy & Rob Martinez
 Alta Mayer
 Kate & Bill McCunniff
 Cynthia & Tom McGrath
 Claire & Michael McNamara
 Anne & Shane Merchant
 Jill Michaels
 Caitlin Milam
 Heather & Randall Miller
 Julie Munson
 Michelle & Boris Murillo

Lucinda & Ryan Myers
 Jennifer & Trent Neumann
 Jeanne Price Nowlin
 Nikki & David Oates
 Kessa & Greg Payne
 Brandy & Patrick Pendley
 Kristen & Justin Pond
 Virginia C. Powell
 Cathyren & John Provine*
 Anna & Stephen Reed
 Lori & Daniel Reese
 Chelsa & JD Ressetar
 David Roberson
 Christine & Kenneth Robinson
 Meg & Rell Salome*
 Allison & Tripp Sellers
 Brinn & Michael Serbanic
 Amanda & Richard Sevcik
 Avery Shelburne
 Anna Sigler
 Erin & Sam Simpson
 Amanda & Rishi Sriram
 Renee & Joseph Stubenrauch
 Tracey Sulak
 ReNay & Kent Swarts
 Christy & Kelly Tharpe
 Marlana & Sam Thurman
 Patricia Turner
 Tali Uttech
 Hayley Voige
 Wendi Weaver
 Natalie Carnes & Matthew Whelan
 Maggie & Jason Whitt
 Lanissa & Blake Willis
 Wendy & Brian Winarick
 Kim & Kirk Zander

* a portion or all of the donation was made in honor or in memory of someone

2017 Golf Tournament

Title Sponsor (\$5,000)
Volvo & Mack Trucks of Waco

Golf Ball Sponsor (\$1,750)
Premier ER and Urgent Care

Silver Sponsors (\$1,000)
Pattillo, Brown, & Hill LLP
Sironia*

Silver Corporate Sponsors
Community Bank & Trust
First National Bank Central Texas
Independent Bank
Johnson Hobbs Squires LLP

Hole in One Sponsors (\$700)
Advent Direct Primary Care
Drs. Shanna & Sherwin Attai
Bailey Insurance & Risk Management
Allen Samuels Dodge Chrysler Jeep Ram

*in kind donation



40th Anniversary video in the making

Lower Elementary Thanksgiving



Celebrating 40 Years: 1976-2016

Waco Montessori School (formerly Austin Avenue Montessori School) began in September 1976 inside Austin Avenue United Methodist Church with one Montessori classroom of six students, lead by Virginia Powell. By the spring of 1977, the number of children in the classroom had doubled.

In 1993, the church and school agreed that more space was needed. Several parents formed a non-profit corporation becoming Waco Montessori School (WMS) and purchased the assets of the school. In September 1994, WMS opened the Children's House located at 1920 Columbus Avenue.

A second building was completed and opened in December 1995 to house the Elementary program. In 1997, the building was extended, dedicated, and renamed the Richard E. Brophy Building.

Today, WMS has an enrollment of approximately 270 students ranging from 18 months to twelve years of age, all reaping the rewards of 40 years of vision, dedication, generosity, and hard work. Parents, grandparents, educators, and the Waco community have formed the strong foundation on which WMS stands. We are grateful.



A Letter from Jennifer Hillman, 40th Anniversary Chair

What an amazing year it was celebrating the 40th Anniversary of Waco Montessori School during the 2016-2017 school year! I was incredibly honored to chair this committee, and I am still in awe of the remarkable events, accomplishments, and acts of service our school community initiated.

In the Fall of 2016, our beautiful new logo was unveiled and we announced our intent to perform 40 Acts of Kindness. Our first act was an all-school canned food drive to support Caritas. We collected over 313 pounds of canned goods during our Back to School Carnival! After that, our entire school community participated in things such as making CASA care bags for foster children, writing letters to veterans and firefighters, collecting books, toiletries, and other items to donate to different organizations, volunteering at Talitha Koum, and much more! These Acts of Kindness were a truly special way to work together as a school to bring joy and happiness to those around us and to teach our children the importance of serving others.

We also had a 40th Anniversary Speaker Series in which five extraordinary women shared their passions for education and their specific areas of expertise. Among the speakers were Founder of Waco Montessori School Virginia Powell, Senior Lecturer in Educational Psychology Dr. Janet Bagby, Specialist in Intentional Family Life Dr. Carrie Contey, WMS mother and Social/Digital Media Expert Chelsa Resselar, and our very own EC4 Teacher Stacey Meyer. It was such a treat hearing from each one of these women and gaining more wisdom about our children's education and how to incorporate new practices into our homes.

The 40th Anniversary Ruby Auction and Gala was a highlight of the year! Auction Chairs Jenn Felton and Meg Salome, with many volunteers, created a beautiful and magical evening that raised significant funds to support the school. WMS Founder Virginia Powell made another guest appearance, and many teachers and staff were recognized for their years of service. It was the perfect night!



The End of the Year Celebration and Alumni Reunion on our newly renovated playground was the ideal way to close out the 40th Anniversary festivities. Families old and new enjoyed a fun day of food and fellowship, as well as live entertainment from Waco Montessori's very own alumni band Rising Sons Trio. We enjoyed reconnecting with students and families from the past and seeing how WMS has made such a positive impact on their lives.

I would like to personally thank the 40th Anniversary committee, the students, the staff, and the families and applaud all of you for making this year a genuine success in commemorating our wonderful school. It was a true privilege to serve in this way, and I look forward to seeing what the next 40 years hold for Waco Montessori School!

With love and gratitude,
Jennifer Hillman
Jennifer Hillman



40 Acts of Kindness



End of Year Celebration & Alumni Reunion

On May 20, 2017, over 200 current family members and alumni celebrated Waco Montessori School's 40th Anniversary milestone on our newly renovated playground.



Rising Sons Trio performance: WMS Alumni Jackson Anderson, Spencer Davis, and George Eichenberg

The Playground.....

Waco Montessori School is incredibly grateful to **Susan and Todd Behringer** for endorsing our mission with their gift of \$105,000 to lay the foundation for our playground enhancements. After a survey of the school boundaries, they provided a beautiful new fence along the perimeter and toddler area, synthetic turf under the playscapes, restructured and resurfaced the track, removed trees and brush, and added crucial concrete and granite walkways. The Behringer family spent countless hours overseeing the execution of these improvements. As Maria Montessori said, "Play is the work of the child," and our children have a beautiful environment to do so!



photo by Charla Holmes



Taylor Lee Behringer & friends



The last week of the school year we were able to utilize our beautiful new playground restroom - which has two stalls and two water fountains. **Proceeds from the Annual Golf Tournament** made funding for this project possible.

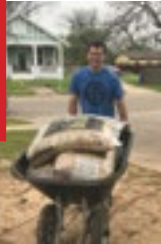
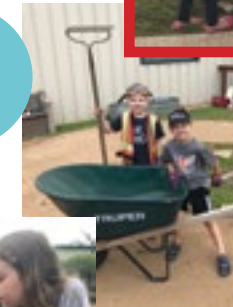
A huge thank you to **Kristen and Aaron Mynar** for leading the installation of our playground restroom - from personally installing the forms for the slab to coordinating the construction and installation.

Thank you also to Mazanec Construction, Estes McClure, Walker Partners, The John Rogers Company, Goodwin Plumbing, MP Electric, and Britco USA for the expertise, donated time and services, and patience as we put our playground restroom together.



Parent Natasha Frank coordinated efforts for the addition of two new benches for the playground, in memory of Kim Patterson and Harold Frank.

Board President Rich Chatmas donated many improvements, including removal of the black top and installation of the concrete slab. In addition, Rich oversaw the various projects by providing guidance, manpower, and encouragement. Parents **Meg and Rell Salome** planned and facilitated our Family Dig Day, donating PVC pipe and snacks for the volunteers. Parents **Julia and Josh Jurgensen** provided the Rain Harvesting tank and pump. Numerous volunteers young and old stepped in to spread mulch, plant flowers, and pull all of the projects together.



Auction / Gala

WMS celebrated its Ruby (40th) Anniversary in style at the Auction & Gala on November 11, 2016 at Downtown 301. Over 200 guests, including WMS founder Virginia Powell and several alumni families, attended the celebratory evening. Alumnus Jackson Anderson performed during the VIP reception, which was a huge hit. Our 40th Anniversary video was shown for the first time, which can still be seen on our website. We are especially grateful to **Visiting Angels**, the evening's Anniversary Sponsor, for supporting WMS in such a meaningful way. Visiting Angels has been especially charitable to WMS, sponsoring several of our events. We cannot thank the Hillman family enough for their spirit of generosity and commitment to our school.



Golf Tournament

Our 7th Annual Golf Tournament on April 24, 2017 was a huge success. Over 125 participants and volunteers enjoyed their day at Ridgewood Country Club, supporting Waco Montessori School. Proceeds from the tournament helped us finish the outdoor restrooms and water fountains for our students. WMS is especially grateful for our Title Sponsor, **Volvo & Mack Trucks of Waco**. The Salome Family has been faithful in their support of WMS, not only financially, but with countless hours of volunteer work for this special event. On behalf of Coach Dave Luedtke and WMS, thank you to all of our golfers, sponsors, and volunteers for your generosity.



Thank You from a Teacher

I would like to express my gratitude to the Waco Montessori School community for affording me the opportunity to continue my education, delving deeper into what it means to be a Montessori teacher. I truly believe in lifetime learning, especially as a teacher at WMS because this is what we desire for our students!

Support to the WMS Annual Fund allowed me to receive my Montessori Certification from the Center for Guided Montessori Services this past January. The knowledge I gained during the certification process has given me a new confidence in myself to provide a rich environment for our children. I am a better guide, teacher, and observer.

I have always deeply believed in the Montessori philosophy for childhood education. Your support to allow me to receive my formal Montessori Certification has been a blessing to me professionally, but also hopefully to all of the students at WMS. Thank you.

Margaret Condon

Margaret Condon



Did You Know?

Waco Montessori School was voted **Best of Waco in 2017** for Preschool & Private Elementary School.



We are harvesting rainwater!

What is a Rainwater Harvesting System? It is a tanking system that will catch rainwater that may be reused and pumped into other areas that need watering. Rainwater harvesting is an innovative alternative water supply approach that captures, diverts, and stores rainwater for later use.

Implementing rainwater harvesting is beneficial because it reduces demand on existing water supply, and reduces run-off, erosion, and contamination of surface water. Why did we do this?

In addition to the practical reasons (Toddlers LOVE mud, but parents may not prefer it), this is an environmental issue. We have an opportunity to teach our kids about caring for the environment, reusing our natural resources, and caring for others. We are able to take our Montessori lessons from the classroom to the outdoors.



The **first Montessori classroom** in Waco was in the 1920's!



Upper Elementary students collaborated with Baylor's Entrepreneurship Program to experiment with a **Hydro Garden**.



Founder Virginia Powell

Waco Montessori School was **founded in 1976** as Austin Avenue Montessori School. Classes were held at Austin Avenue Methodist Church.



CELEBRATING 40 YEARS
.....
Have you tried wrangling 200 students to stand still for 10 minutes?





Waco Montessori School

1920 Columbus Avenue
Waco, Texas 76701
(254) 754-3966 phone
(254) 752-2922 fax
www.wacomontessorischool.org

Follow us on Facebook and Instagram
for updates, photos, and more:

 www.facebook.com/WacoMontessoriSchool/

 www.instagram.com/waco_montessori_school/



Upper
Elementary
collaboration
with Baylor



Upper Elementary Culture Fair

Excellence, 
because children are
worthy of nothing less.