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.

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 Meekian
Justin Reed
Chelsea Renander
Sarah Roberts
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Allison Sellers
Brinn Serbanic
Tracey Sulak
Chris Weaver
Kimberly Hale, PTO President

Early Childhood Class Field Trip

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

Horner kids taking care of our school sign

Early Childhood Class Field Trip
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 relive 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

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Fiscal Year End July 31, 2017
Statement of Financial Activities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
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<td>Management and Supportive Services</td>
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Early Childhood work

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From Safety Days.

Loved Ones Day
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**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tr>
<td>Gold ($1,000)</td>
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<td>Drs. Sharma &amp; Shrinivas Attai Dental Station Family Dentistry</td>
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<td>Patterson, Brown &amp; Hill LLP</td>
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<td>Premier ER Plus*</td>
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<td>Martha &amp; Tom Salome</td>
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<td>Silver ($500)</td>
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<td>Meredith &amp; George Harmon</td>
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**Annual Fund**

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<td>Woodland Insurance Agency (Allstate)</td>
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<td>The Zimmerman Law Firm</td>
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**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, and 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 as stewards of your support.

Sincerely,

Rich Chatmas
$1-$249
Anonymous
Kristen & DJ Adams
Melissa & Bryentt Allen
Linda Arndt
Donna Baker
Jame Baker
Jin Song Bang & Sung Hyun Kim
Debbie Barber
Rosy Bautista
Caroline Bennett
Brooke & Benjamin Blevins
Lori Bradley
Cherise & Brandon Bridgwater
Kay & Eric Brown
Kandy & Chris Bullajian
Dave Burfischer
Marie & Brody Burks
Jennifer & Chris Chance
Mary & Rich Chair
Jennifer & Darrell Cofield
Diana & Mike Duggan
Margaret & Tim Condon
Brittany & Clay Corley
Christina & Craig Crenshaw
Katie & James Croft
Cathi & Coleburn Davis
Ruthie & Shane Davis
Donna & Rex Davis
Molly & Lurgeon Debach
Michael Deemer
Sheila Mandy & Greg Denny
Christene Deitmar
Melissa & Marcus Doss
Melissa & Jason Ellis
Mandi & Cliff Emmora
Cara Engbelt
Mary & Vince Erickson
Nicole & Aaron Fanning
Jenn & Clayton Feltman
Diane & John Fugate
Breck & Brian Gamel
Amy & David Gibson
Polly Ann Good
Amy & John Goodman
Marilyn & Joe Goodman
Carrie Graham
Haley & Justin Griffin
Eric & Jackson Griggs
Adrienne & Daniel Hare
Kelsi & Clint Harp
Cafe Caruth-Harper & Mike Harper
Jannary & Rich Hembree
Tannya & Casey Hewett
Megan & Sam Henderson
Mary & Brad Hermida
Kathy & John Hillhouse
Marie & Artemio Ibarra
Shelby & Michael Jansing
Stacy & Paul King
Kathleen & Steve Laxley
Sherry Lopez
Dave Luzadder
Robert & Anne Mach
Michelle & Jeff Manning
Chrisy & Rob Martinez
Abby Mayer
Kaye & Bill McCurniff
Cynthia & Tom McCraith
Claire & Michael McEvans
Anne & Shane Merchant
JF Michaels
Caitlin Milam
Heather & Ronald Miller
Julie Munson
Michelle & Boris Murillo
Lucinda & Ryan Myers
Jennifer & Trent Neumann
Jeanne Price Nowlin
Niko & David Oates
Keeso & Greg Payne
Brandy & Patrick Pendley
Kroen & Justin Pfeil
Virginia C. Powell
Cathysen & John Provine
Anna & Stephen Reed
Lori & Daniel Rennar
Chelsia & JD Rensnar
David Robison
Christine & Kenneth Robinson
Meg & Bell Salter
Allison & Trigg Sellers
Brin & Michael Santoro
Amanda & Richard Sevick
Avery Shelleman
Anna Sigler
Erin & Sam Simpson
Amanda & Rich Sirens
Renea & Joseph Stultbaugh
Tannya Suzuki
ReiKay & Kent Swarts
Christy & Kelly Tharp
Maryland & Sam Thrap
Patricia Turner
Tali Uttech
Hayley Utte
Wendy Weaver
Natalie Cames & Matthew Wheelen
Maggie & Jason Whitt
Lantana & Blake Willis
Wendy & Brian Winnick
Kim & Kurt Zander

2017 Golf Tournament
Title Sponsor ($5,000)
Volvo & Mack Trucks of Waco
Golf Ball Sponsor ($1,750)
Premier ER and Urgent Care
Silver Sponsor ($1,000)
Pattillo, Brown, & Hill LLP
Smirnoff
Silver Corporate Sponsors
Community Bank & Trust
First National Bank Central Texas
Independent Bank
Johnson Hobbs Squares LLP
Table Sponsor ($750)
Advent Direct Primary Care
Drs. Sherron & Sherman Aitken
Bailor Insurance & Risk Management
Allen Samsuri Dodge Chrysler Jeep Ram

*In kind donation

* A portion or all of the donation was made in honor or in memory of someone
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, led 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 1520 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 Kouns, 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 Ressetar, 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 Sakima, 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. 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
On May 20, 2017, over 200 current family members and alumni celebrated Waco Montessori School’s 40th Anniversary milestone on our newly renovated playground.
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!

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, Goodman Plumbing, MP Electric, and Britco USA for the expertise, donated time and services, and patience as we put our playground restroom together.

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 Roll Salome planned and facilitated our Family Dig Day, donating PVC pipe and snacks for the volunteers. Parents Julia and Josh Jergensen 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.

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

photo by Charla Holmes
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 Laudeke 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 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
Did You Know?

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

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

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

Founder Virginia Powell

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

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. 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.

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

Have you tried wrangling 200 students to stand still for 10 minutes? CELEBRATING 40 YEARS
Excellence, because children are worthy of nothing less.

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:

Facebook: www.facebook.com/WacoMontessoriSchool/
Instagram: www.instagram.com/waco_montessori_school/

Upper Elementary collaboration with Baylor

Upper Elementary Culture Fair

Annual Report Designed by Seedhouse Creative