



Dogwood Preschool

Annual Report | July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023



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A Letter from the President

Dear Dogwood Friends & Family,

This year marks our third year as Dogwood Preschool. Last year we had the pleasure of welcoming 91 students into our bustling hallways. We are incredibly grateful to Tuckahoe Presbyterian Church, who warmly welcomed us in the fall of 2021 and provided a home for our preschool for the past two years. As we embark on the 2023-2024 school year, we are excited for our partnership with St. Stephen's Episcopal Church ("SSEC") and occupying the preschool space that many of us enjoyed in years past.

A special thanks to our Dogwood community who continues to support our mission and vision for the preschool. The Board is committed to ensuring the adherence of the Dogwood Way and providing our families with a quality program that focuses on play-based learning where children develop confidence through making their own choices, explore a variety of interests, learn how to solve problems, and create long-lasting friendships.

Katie Baskind
Board of Directors, President 2023-2024

Dogwood Preschool Board of Directors 2023-2024*

Katie Baskind, 2021-2024
President

Lauren Robertson, 2022-2025
Vice President

Ryan Grammer, 2022-2025
Treasurer

Francis Wilkinson, 2022-2025
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Kari Hyman, 2021-2024

Mike Innes, 2022-2025

Jeff Johnson, 2023-2026

Paul Rice, 2023-2026

Rev. John Rohrs, 2023-2026

Paul Saunders, 2023-2026

Kay Tyler, 2020-2023





Our Story

Dogwood Preschool's roots were founded in the legacy of St. Stephen's Preschool. In 2020, a group of seven parents and teachers came together with the goal of creating a preschool that focuses on providing quality early-childhood education for children in the greater Richmond area that would foster curiosity, honor empathy and kindness, and allow children to explore their interests. The language, guiding principles, and philosophy of the preschool is collectively known as the "Dogwood Way." It is due to our founders' vision and the work of so many that Dogwood Preschool is where it is today.

Dogwood Preschool is excited for our new chapter at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church.

Dogwood Preschool Founders

Kari Hyman • Sarah Innes • Mary Lewis • Amy Nelson

Katie Noland • Mary Douglas Rice • Kay Tyler

"Children thrive when offered space to explore and react to a variety of choices, guided by teachers who believe in the importance of their independence and an experience that is uniquely theirs." Amy Nelson, Teacher & Founder





Our Mission

Dogwood Preschool nurtures each child's creativity and builds his or her self-confidence through our dynamic age-appropriate preschool curriculum.

We are guided by *six core values*.





Our Core Values

1. **Above all, we serve the child.** We believe children are made in the image of God – that they have an innate desire to create, to love, to nurture.
1. **We provide an age-appropriate, play-based, dynamic early childhood education** that builds creativity, compassion, and confidence. We celebrate the process – whenever possible, we let a child explore and do not dictate the outcome.
1. **We respect children, each other, and our community.** We model the behavior we want to see – empathy, kindness, attentive listening, patience. We are always learning.
1. **We are good communicators.** We facilitate logistics for families through clear policies, smooth procedures, leveraging technology as much as possible. We are diligent record keepers.
1. **We are good stewards of our resources, using them primarily in support of the child.** We are setting the school up for future financial security.
1. **We invest in our community** through gatherings and opportunities to connect and opportunities to serve.



Highlights of the Year

Dogwood Preschool continues to grow. Here are some highlights from the 2022-2023 school year.

- We welcomed 91 students into our classrooms;
- In addition to our traditional program offerings, which include music, movement, and catechesis, we expanded our supplemental programs to include Tiny Tales, Soccer Shots, Starz, and other programs led by teachers and outside organizations;
- We welcomed 47 children for summer camp in June 2023;
- We signed a lease and partnership agreement with St. Stephen's Episcopal Church;
- We moved to St. Stephen's starting in June 2023. A special thanks to Kate Batten, Marion Chenault, Amy Nelson, Liz Morton, Chris Kennelly, Kay Tyler, members of St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, and SO many more, who worked tirelessly as we moved from Tuckahoe Presbyterian to SSEC;
- We held our inaugural Blossom Bash fundraising community event;
- We hosted a variety of community events from our Coffee and Chat Series to Hibernation Night to the Costume Parade;
- We hired a Program Director, Elizabeth Sykes. Elizabeth started in July 2023, and supports our teachers, their continued training and education, and maintains the Dogwood Way curriculum; and
- We created a Dogwood Way Handbook with the help of Marion Chenault and Sarah Innes. Please contact the office if you would like a copy.



Blossom Bash | May 2023



Dogwood Preschool hosted its first annual Blossom Bash in May 2023. This community fundraiser brought together over 100 friends of Dogwood and St. Stephen's Episcopal Church

- Blossom Bash raised \$22,245.06¹. The success of this event is attributable to the support of our sponsors, ticket sales, donations towards the event, and silent auction proceeds.
- As our inaugural event, we were blown away by the event's success and are incredibly grateful for those who supported the event.
- A big thank you to our presenting sponsor Harris Williams.

A special thanks to the Blossom Bash Planning Committee and all of the volunteers who made the event a success. We also thank our sponsors and community donations that provided the school goods and services for our silent auction. We look forward to next year's Blossom Bash!

Mark your calendar for May 9, 2024 for our next Blossom Bash!



Financials for Fiscal Year July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023



Total Income:	\$423,244.83
Donations & Fundraisers:	\$50,557.30
Total Revenue:	\$473,802.13
Expenditures:	\$402,620.97
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Net Operating Revenue:	\$71,181.16



Thank you to Dogwood Friends & Family!

In our second full year at Dogwood Preschool, we are so grateful to the many members of our community who supported our school. With your decision to support our program, it grew into an even stronger community, and we continue to invest in our students, community, and teachers & staff. Your donations support: our financial aid & scholarship programs, a strategic plan to invest in our playground, and our ability to attract and retain the best teachers and staff.

In our 2022-2023 year, Dogwood Preschool received a total of \$26,959.53 in monetary gifts from 48 donors with gifts ranging from \$25 to \$15,000. There were so many generous in-kind donations of materials and supplies throughout the year that the resource room was quickly overflowing!

Thank you for caring and supporting us. We are committed to providing a quality preschool program that enables our students to build confidence through intentional play-based learning, supported by the Dogwood Way language that our teachers, staff, students, and families use throughout our hallways and at home!



Special Thanks to our 2023-2024 Donors*

Ms. Cate Anthony

Mr. and Mrs. Alex and Meriwether Arnett

Mr. and Mrs. Bruce and Patsy Arnett

Mr. and Mrs. Trey and Courtney Balson

Mr. and Mrs. Tim and Katie Baskind

Mr. and Mrs. Tyler and Jocelyn Bradshaw

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Mr. and Mrs. Ernest and Nancy Vaughan

The WeatherTop Foundation

Ms. Andrea Wherry

Mr. and Mrs. Shawn and Frances Wilkinson

Mr. and Mrs. Taylor and Kaitlin Will



* In addition to the names mentioned above, we received donations from anonymous donors



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