



OUR MISSION

LITTLE STAR SCHOOL SPARKS CHILDREN'S CURIOSITY, COMPASSION, AND SENSE OF COMMUNITY THROUGH JOYFUL LEARNING AND DISCOVERY.

LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Little Star turns 40 this coming March! Some of our current teachers were students in the very first class up on the hill behind Winthrop. What started as a small preschool program for three and four year olds has blossomed into a community wide childcare and early learning school serving children from infancy up through age six. While we have grown significantly, Little Star is still that special place that Rayma Hayes founded in 1982 -- a place that celebrates the magic of childhood, honors relationships and builds community. Even during a pandemic.

Over the years, we have made important strides to meet the growing needs of our community and to address the issues surrounding affordability and accessibility for early learning and childcare. We continue to participate in state-wide advocacy efforts to address these issues -- and some key investments have been made.

But there is more work to do -- we keep saying this because it's true! And we can't afford to wait for the state and national funding landscape to change. Our families and teachers deserve better.

Therefore, as we celebrate our 40th birthday, we are taking the bold step to raise \$2M for our Rayma Hayes Financial Aid Endowment Campaign! This will ensure that all children and families can get the care they need and that early learning teachers have health care and wages commensurate with K-12 teachers -- in perpetuity. **To learn more, email dani@littlestarschool.org**



WITH LOVE & GRATITUDE,
DANI REYNAUD

2021-2022 STAFF & BOARD



To learn more about our amazing staff and board, please visit: littlestarschool.org/staff-and-board

TEACHER SPOTLIGHT

KIM CLAUSSEN

I can hardly believe that I have been a part of Little Star for half my life! I have worked in other schools, but when I came here, I knew that I was home. The loving, supportive culture of our school nurtures not only the children, but the families and staff as well. Maria Montessori wrote poignantly about the importance of the spiritual preparation (self care) of the teacher, and Little Star honors and nurtures that. My life has been immeasurably enriched by this opportunity. Thank you. And, thanks to Rayma! ♡

Little Star Winthrop Early Childhood Teacher

We celebrate and honor Kim on her thirtieth year of teaching at Little Star!

Our dedicated teachers continue to show enormous resolve to serve our community's children during the COVID-19 pandemic. Please say thank you if you see them!

ANOTHER YEAR OF LITTLE STAR MEANS LOVE, JOY, AND CONNECTIONS! TOGETHER, WE:

NURTURED 105 BABIES, TODDLERS, AND PRESCHOOLERS, PREPARING OUR NEXT GENERATION WITH A FOUNDATION OF RESPECT, EMPATHY, MOTIVATION, AND PEACE EDUCATION.

SUCCESSFULLY HOSTED OUR FIRST EVER ONLINE AUCTION TO SUPPORT OUR CHILDREN, TEACHERS, AND FINANCIAL AID PROGRAM.

EMPLOYED 34 TEACHERS AND STAFF MEMBERS AND SUPPORTED THEM WITH PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND EXPANDED BENEFITS.

PARTNERED WITH ROOM ONE, TWISPOWORKS, AND THE METHOW VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT TO PROVIDE WRAPAROUND SUPPORT FOR FAMILIES IN OUR COMMUNITY.

DISTRIBUTED \$86,894 OF FINANCIAL AID TO OVER 30% OF FAMILIES ATTENDING LITTLE STAR.

COLLABORATED WITH FAMILY HEALTH CENTERS, CONFLUENCE HEALTH, AND THE METHOW VALLEY LONG TERM RECOVERY ORGANIZATION TO SUPPORT FAMILIES WITH COVID PREVENTION RESOURCES AND TESTING.

STAYED OPEN AND STRONG DESPITE ONGOING CHALLENGES FROM COVID AND WILDFIRES



“ We are so grateful for Little Star! The teachers are so thoughtful and caring and Max really started to enjoy her time there. Max started at Little Star when she was three months old, and it was such a relief to know that she was receiving quality care and attention while we both went back to work.

There's no way we could both work our current jobs without this essential service in the Valley. ”

PARENT SPOTLIGHT

ASHLEY THRASHER & CHRIS RAMISKEY

2020-2021 FINANCIALS

Tuition Income	\$944,906
Fundraising, State & Federal Grants, PPP Forgivable Loan	\$366,911
Transfer from financial aid reserves*	\$39,477
TOTAL 2020-2021 INCOME	\$1,351,294

*Little Star continues to spend down our financial aid reserve fund to support families each year. This year, federal aid for childcare gave us a buffer that will allow us to put some funds back into the reserve.

Staff Support: Payroll, Health stipend, Retirement Matching plan	\$855,260
Financial Aid and Family Support	\$86,894
Building and Maintenance Expenses**	\$183,316
Education Program Expenses	\$38,575
Administrative Expenses	\$25,816
TOTAL 2020-2021 EXPENSES	\$1,189,861

**Little Star's building and maintenance expenses were higher than usual this year due to investments to improve ventilation and air filtration and make upgrades to our beloved Earth building on the Winthrop campus. Typically, building and maintenance accounts for about 7-8% of our budget.

DONOR SPOTLIGHT

STEVE HIRSCH & REBECCA SHOUP

“ We continue to support Little Star because we recognize how very much their program enriches the lives of our young ones. We've chosen to include Little Star in our will to ensure that generations of children to come have the same opportunities at Little Star that our own children had. ”

If you'd like to donate to the financial aid program, the Rayma Hayes Endowment, or make a planned gift to Little Star, please contact dani@littlestarschool.org.

Every year, Little Star makes a significant commitment to support families in our community with need-based financial aid.

To respond to additional need caused by the pandemic and wildfires, we have significantly increased our financial aid budget to \$120,000 in 2021-2022. We rely on fundraising to make the program work!

In October, you can support Little Star and other important organizations through www.GiveMethow.org

DID YOU KNOW

HERE'S HOW YOU CAN HELP LITTLE STAR SERVE FAMILIES:

- ★ Make a tax-deductible donation: littlestarschool.org/giving
- ★ Consider a planned gift to Little Star in your financial or estate plan
- ★ Thank a teacher
- ★ Volunteer on campus or join our substitute teaching team
- ★ Call your representative to advocate for public support of early childhood education