

Open for Applications! Newly established Waltham Family School Scholarship receives additional \$100,000 donation to support WFS alumni in post-WFS educational plans.

The WFS scholarship Fund will financially support both alumni parents and children of the program as they continue on their educational journey, whether in college or vocational training.

Waltham, MA, USA, February 4, 2022: The Friends of the Waltham Family School, Inc. (the Friends) are proud to announce an additional \$100,000 donation from John Cloninger to the newly established Waltham Family School (WFS) Scholarship Fund. The WFS Scholarship Fund is available to alumni children and parents who attended the Waltham Family School.

The WFS Scholarship Fund was established in 2021 as a tribute to the founder of the Waltham Family School, Britta McNemar, upon her retirement. The spirit of the fund aligns with the Waltham Family School's motto: "Together We Learn, Together We Read, Together We Succeed." The WFS scholarship offers financial support to WFS alumni, parents or their children, to encourage families to continue learning. The vision of the WFS Scholarship Fund is to break access barriers for immigrant families so they can continue their education after the Waltham Family School.

Over 25 generous donors contributed to create the Fund in honor of Britta McNemar's retirement in June 2021. One of those donors is John Cloninger. As the founder of Running Brook Camps in Waltham, John has a long relationship with the Waltham Family School, beginning in 2004 when he offered free tuition to WFS preschool students to attend the summer day camp. John also served with the founding group of the FWFS Advisory Council in 2015.

"I believe strongly in the mission of the Waltham Family School and in the goals of the WFS Scholarship Fund. I am honored to help support the scholarship financially and hope others will join in so that Britta McNemar's legacy will endure for future WFS students and parents," remarked John.

Britta McNemar, the former WFS Program Coordinator, said, "From its beginning the Waltham Family School has been about families and opportunities to learn. The WFS Scholarship Fund continues those opportunities which began with parents and preschoolers in the Waltham Family School and continued in the Waltham Public Schools. Thanks to John Cloninger and the scholarship donors, for their belief in the importance of continued learning both for the former preschooler now a high school graduate, or for mothers and fathers. There are so few scholarships to assist adult learners overcome barriers to continuing education, whether it be transportation, a GED course, or laptop to take on-line courses. These WFS scholarships will have a tremendous impact on individuals, families and our community."

The fund is available to all family members of a family who participated in the WFS program, and are currently residing in Massachusetts. The Friends are expecting to award at least two scholarships of up to \$2,500 each per calendar year. The scholarships will be awarded to both WFS parents and WFS parents'

children. Application forms and more information about eligible expenses can be picked up at the Waltham Family School or accessed online at <https://walthamfamilyschool.org/wfs-scholarship-fund/>

Waltham Family School

WFS is a family literacy program that empowers English Language Learners families by preparing their preschool children for kindergarten and by improving English skills of the parents, many of whom had limited educational opportunities in their home countries.

Friends of the Waltham Family School, Inc.

The Friends of the Waltham Family School’s mission is to raise financial support and awareness of the Waltham Family School in the community, and recruit volunteers.

More details about the Waltham Family School, and the Friends of the Waltham Family School is available at www.walthamfamilyschool.org.

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