

IMAGINE  
INSPIRE  
IGNITE  
*Our Future*

*Endowment campaign for the  
Waldorf School on the Roaring Fork*



## OVERVIEW

In 1991, a group of families inspired by Aspen Institutes's Goethe's Bicentennial Convocation and Musical Festival decided to start a Waldorf School in Aspen, Colorado. Rudolf Steiner, founder of Waldorf education, was a student of Goethe's.

The principles of Waldorf education evolve from an understanding of human development that address the needs of the growing child. Waldorf Education aims to inspire life-long learning in all students and enables them to fully develop their unique capacities.

When the doors opened in 1991 with one classroom in the Yellow Brick building in Aspen, one could only dream of how the school would thrive and grow. Twenty-eight years later, we have close to 200 students, and inhabit a beautiful 13-acre straw-bale campus located centrally in the Roaring Fork Valley.

Waldorf School on the Roaring Fork is taking the next steps to secure our future by embarking upon a five-year endowment campaign entitled, **IMAGINE INSPIRE IGNITE OUR FUTURE**. WSRF has accomplished a great deal; now it is time for us to move to a new level of excellence. We have remained strong over the past 28 years, and have shown focus and dedication to our mission, have increased amounts raised throughout our annual fund campaigns, and have demonstrated financial stability year-in and year-out. Enrollment is strong. What better time to build on that stability and community strength through a \$7 million **IMAGINE INSPIRE IGNITE OUR FUTURE** endowment campaign.

The endowment will provide the long-term, stable revenue source necessary to fund strategic initiatives that support the head, hands and heart of the school. Funds contributed to the Endowment give the school administration and trustees the flexibility and confidence to grow, improve, and respond to strategic developments. Envision how your support will transform and impact our students, faculty, programs, and community!

---

*WSRF has a history and it's time to provide for its future.*

---



## OUR PLAN

IMAGINE INSPIRE IGNITE OUR FUTURE will build an endowment that allows our school leaders to focus on the future, on supporting an outstanding faculty, and on strengthening our academic programs and teaching methods. WSRF remains committed to the Waldorf philosophy, and to use our independent school status by continually assessing children's needs today. The school must be open to innovation based in Steiner's pedagogical indications and be free to experiment and be a catalyst for educational change — changes that could impact the whole field of education. We have the opportunity to be cutting-edge from a steeped, well-educated and collective platform.

The goal of IMAGINE INSPIRE IGNITE OUR FUTURE is to raise \$7 million to preserve our mission while encouraging progressive thinking and creativity. All dollars raised remain intact in perpetuity and will be carefully invested to earn income that will be used to support the school. An endowment helps us secure current endeavors while allowing faculty and school leaders to look forward. The world is ever-changing as are our children. We want to continue to work hard to support the development of the whole child. We are endowing excellence.

A successful IMAGINE INSPIRE IGNITE OUR FUTURE campaign ensures that WSRF will continue to provide an exceptional primary education, with a diversity of curricular and enrichment programs; attract and retain a faculty of highly qualified and committed educators; and make future investments in the school, while maintaining a reliable and predictable source of operating income.

Our Board of Trustees identifies establishing an endowment as one of the highest priorities for the school. IMAGINE INSPIRE IGNITE OUR FUTURE will provide the long-term, stable revenue source necessary to fund a myriad of strategic initiatives. It will act as a safety net during uncertain times and at other times as a source of secure, dependable income.

---

*IMAGINE INSPIRE IGNITE OUR FUTURE will provide the long-term, stable revenue source necessary to fund strategic initiatives that support the hands, heart & head of the school.*

---



# USE OF FUNDS

## *Program Growth*

The strength and advantages of a WSRF education lie in our smaller class size, teacher training program, and comprehensive curriculum. The school's strong academic and co-curricular offerings enable WSRF to give its students the very best preparation for the future that awaits them. Gifts to the WSRF endowment help support and sustain the school's curriculum and specialty programs and are an ideal way to ensure continuing excellence in WSRF programs.

Waldorf education provides a rich diversity of learning experiences and environments – inside and outside the classroom. Students are unique and active participants as they live into the curriculum through the grades. Whether doing an ancient Greek play, participating in Medieval Games, embarking on a hut trip to learn snow science, or taking a puppet play to the local senior center, **IMAGINE INSPIRE IGNITE OUR FUTURE** will strengthen the curriculum by investing in enrichment programs, such as:

- Arts & Music
- Math & Science
- Foreign language classes
- Special field trips
- Handwork
- Outdoor Education

In an age of budget cuts, teaching to the test, and common core, WSRF's philosophy of educating the whole child is almost an anachronism, but **IMAGINE INSPIRE IGNITE OUR FUTURE** will help preserve our core beliefs. Our students excel academically, but they also move into life with something more: creative expression, social responsibility, and respect for themselves and others. They become joyful life-long learners who give back to their communities in ethical, tolerant and talented ways.

WSRF graduates are still relatively young, but are accomplished in ways that reflect the variety of their interests and abilities. They make impressive showings in engineering, humanities, the arts, medicine, environmental fields, among many others. They travel the world, and create, produce and participate in important and meaningful work.

WSRF graduates attend diverse universities and colleges throughout the United States and abroad including Bard, Brooklyn Law School, Cal Poly, Colorado College, Columbia



University, Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, George Washington, Harvard, Johnson & Whales University, Lewis and Clark, Middlebury College, Pepperdine University, University of Colorado, Whitman College, and Yale, among many others.

WSRF is a model Waldorf school, leading the way in our curriculum, pedagogical studies, and innovative program development, leading the way in the Waldorf movement and beyond.

### *Faculty Support*

A school is only as strong as its faculty, and the quality of the teaching staff defines a child's educational experience. Attracting and retaining high caliber, experienced educators by offering competitive salaries and benefits to our faculty is a top priority of WSRF.

Teachers are the hands and heart that make learning happen every day in every classroom. Professionals who are excited and engaged in their own learning process translate that enthusiasm to their students. Enriching the classroom environment and supporting faculty professional development remain among our highest priorities. Throughout IMAGINE INSPIRE IGNITE OUR FUTURE we will invest in our teachers by endowing competitive salaries, rewarding faculty who stay committed to the school year after year, and supporting professional development training.

### *Competitive Compensation*

The base salary for entry-level teachers at WSRF is comparable to that of other independent schools and to the public system. However, the total compensation package, especially for experienced teachers, is 50% of the mean for other Waldorf schools in the United States. Greater resources will enable WSRF to attract more experienced teachers.

### *Professional Development*

An endowment to encourage lifelong learning and the rejuvenation of professional skills is tremendously important to allow WSRF faculty to pursue advanced degrees, to attend conferences and meetings, and to travel and study during the summer. Faculty members return with broadened outlooks and new skills that translate into better educational experiences for students. A variety of faculty development funds are needed, and IMAGINE INSPIRE IGNITE OUR FUTURE will support this initiative through designated funds, by discipline or by division.

Professional development includes individual enrichment and mentor training. Mentors work with faculty annually on a rotating basis. Having "master teachers" support our existing faculty in their specific field brings new richness and diversified experiences within our curriculum.

---

*Supporting our teachers translates into more exciting classrooms,  
solid curriculum and, ultimately, stronger students.*

---



## Tuition Assistance

Endowed Tuition Support (both partial and full) preserve the school's mission and are a unique opportunity to participate in Rudolf Steiner's vision of education. Many tuition support donors speak of extending to others the kind of help they once received at WSRF. An endowed tuition support scholarship will last in perpetuity at WSRF and will benefit students for generations to come. Funds for scholarship support the school's commitment to provide an independent education that is privately funded and accessible to all children, regardless of an individual family's ability to pay the tuition. Today, approximately 45% of our families receive financial aid through our tuition adjustment program. We want to keep our community diverse!

## WHY NOW?

WSRF has developed and matured over the past 28 years; our mission is firmly established as a Waldorf school. Through **IMAGINE INSPIRE IGNITE OUR FUTURE**, we can be confident that our founding vision and mission will endure for all students – today and tomorrow. Since 1991 WSRF has built a tradition of generosity from its families and from the broader community. Nearly 100% of current parents, faculty, administration and board of trustees participate in our Annual Fund and these same parents contribute thousands of volunteer hours of time and talent each year. The support of our extended community is truly the heart that keep the school thriving and growing.

Our successful Annual Fund helps us close the gap each year between tuition revenues and yearly operating costs. The Annual Fund, however, is about the present. A well-funded endowment will enable us to grow the principal amount, while simultaneously underwriting key strategic initiatives through generated income. It will allow us to maintain our “nest egg” while buffering the school from unforeseen economic or market events in the future. It is time to focus on the future.

WSRF is ready to take the next steps and join several other local independent schools that have established endowments or are in the process of raising endowed funds.

Aspen Country Day School's goal.....	\$50 Million
Colorado Rocky Mountain School (CRMS) .....	\$22 Million
Maine Coast Waldorf School.....	\$4.5 Million
AWSNA.....	\$4.4 Million
San Francisco Waldorf School.....	\$3.2 Million
Kimberton Waldorf School.....	\$1.8 Million
Chicago Waldorf School .....	\$1.1 Million

---

*WSRF is ready to take the next steps and join several other Waldorf and local independent schools that have established endowments or are in the process of raising endowed funds.*

---

# BUILDING A LEGACY

## *How you can help*

Our endowment is small now, but our future is tied to its growth. Imagine the ripple effect of the additional income to enrich our students' educational experience and to support our teachers. The IMAGINE INSPIRE IGNITE OUR FUTURE campaign will assure that today – and into the future – WSRF will be able to provide children with the strong foundation they need to achieve their full potential as learners – hands, hearts and head.

We cannot meet this challenge alone. We are asking you to help us to build our endowment. By supporting the school you love, as those before you have also done, you'll have the satisfaction of making a lasting impact on the education of your child and many children to come.

By supporting IMAGINE INSPIRE IGNITE OUR FUTURE you are making an investment in your child's future, the school's future and, perhaps more importantly, the future of the Roaring Fork Valley at large. We are asking you to make a meaningful gift to IMAGINE INSPIRE IGNITE OUR FUTURE and be a part of this legacy.

---

*Imagine the ripple effect of the additional income to enrich our students' educational experience and to support our teachers.*

---





WALDORF SCHOOL OF THE ROARING FORK

16543 Highway 82 • Carbondale, CO 81623 • 970.963.1960 • [www.waldorfschoolrf.org](http://www.waldorfschoolrf.org)