

November 2016



Hello Friend,

My name is Nora Gillern. I am an OC alumna and member of the OC Board of Directors, currently working and living in Manhattan. I graduated from OC in 2012 after eight happy years of programs and moved to New York to study history at Eugene Lang: The New School for Liberal Arts.



After I graduated from college, Open Connections invited me back to the campus to talk about my experience as a former homeschooler in a collegiate environment. It was after this experience that I was able to truly reflect on how essential and impactful OC was to my educational journey. It became essential to me to give back on a more consistent basis to the community that had given me so much. This was when I joined the OC Board.



I write to you now as an alumna, a Board member and a passionate believer in self-directed learning, to urge you to donate to this year's Open Connections Annual Giving campaign. The donations given to Annual Giving each year are an essential resource for OC, as your donations help bridge the gap between income and the funds needed to maintain and grow the Open Connections community.



- If it is important to you to continue helping provide financial aid to those with lower incomes, it is essential that you donate.
- If it is important to you to continue ensuring that programs have essential resources, that Open Connections continues to stay up to date on all of the latest and greatest programs and materials so that young people can continue to follow their passions, it is essential that you donate.
- If it is important to you that families and young people have a touchstone for their self-directed path, a community of like-minded people for support, and that parents have a resource to guide them as they help their family navigate open education, it is essential that you donate.
- If it is important to you to perpetuate a love of learning, to nurture curiosity and to have OC continue to be a beacon of change in the educational system, it is essential that you donate.



Donating to Open Connections will of course allow the community to continue to thrive, but I now encourage you to go a step further and help OC grow on a much more consistent basis by becoming a Sustaining Supporter. **Would you consider becoming a Sustaining Supporter at \$5 per month?**



Becoming a Sustaining Supporter provides reliable support for Open Connections. When you become a Sustaining Supporter, your donation will renew year after year and your credit or debit card will automatically be billed; you'll save time and make a more effective donation. Sustaining Supporters help decrease the cost of fundraising for OC enabling more funds to go directly towards programs. Open Connections will have reliable revenue to be able to bridge the gap between income and operating expenses which will allow our community to continue to thrive for many more years.



One of the best parts of donating is that no matter how large or how small your donation is, it will once again be doubled by the Wyncote Foundation, furthering the impact you have on OC! If you do wish to donate, please enclose your check in the envelope provided and mark any boxes that apply. Or you can contribute online by visiting OpenConnections.org/donate.



On behalf of OC, I thank you in advance for your **tax-deductible** donation!

Warmly,

Nora Gillern
OC Board Member and dedicated OC Alumna

P.S. Don't forget, every dollar you donate gets *doubled* by the Wyncote Foundation! It's the BOGO deal of your dreams!

