



Open Connections

Freedom to Learn and Create

November 2018

Dear Friend,

My name is Allie Neilson (formerly Webber). I am an alumna, staff member, and current parent at Open Connections. I graduated from OC in 2010, alongside my now husband, Billy. We have two sons, Charlie and Theo, who both currently attend programming, and I am the Facilitator in the Pre-Open Program. This is the first year I have been more involved with OC since graduating.

Open Connections has had an *immeasurable* impact on our lives. Getting reacquainted with OC has given me so much more joy than I anticipated. Seeing OC through a “staff lens” has been wonderful, however, seeing OC and its philosophies through a “parent lens” has been extraordinary. The ability to give my children the freedom that I want and that they need, without being questioned by others, has been a refreshing change.

This year, as in previous years, a version of this letter, written by someone who cares about and supports Open Connections, is sent out to ask for help from the OC community in the form of donations. I write to you now as someone who has seen (almost) every side of OC, and continues to believe in it completely. OC relies on Annual Giving each and every year, and **we hope that you will consider making a donation towards Annual Giving for the 2018-2019 year.**

Your donation will:

- Provide financial assistance to those families who otherwise couldn't afford to attend.
- Ensure that up-to-date resources and materials are provided to the programs that Open Connections offers.
- Give young people and their families a knowledgeable, safe, and loving environment, as they navigate the challenges of Partnership Education.
- Support Open Connections in its belief that all people, any age, have an innate desire to learn, grow, communicate, nurture, and create.

I'm sure that Open Connections has also played an important role in your life. **Would you show your support for OC by making a donation, in any amount, to OC's 2018-2019 Annual Giving?** You may even consider becoming a Sustaining Supporter by setting up an automatic, recurring donation, which will simplify the process for you and for OC. Don't forget that **ALL** donations will be **doubled** by The Wyncote Foundation, making your impact even greater! Also, please check with your employer regarding their corporate matching program; if they match your gift to OC it would quadruple your donation!

If you do wish to donate, please use the envelope provided, and mark any boxes that apply. Or you can contribute online by visiting **OpenConnections.org/donate**.



Thank you, in advance, for your support to ensure that OC will continue to impact the lives of young people and their families.

Warmly,



Allie Neilson
OC Alumna, Parent, Staff Member

