



Dear friends,

Executive transitions can be rough, but we feel very blessed to have supporters who have stood with us through the passing of our board member, John G. Lapham III, in October 2022, and the retirement of our executive director, Naomi McSwain, in March 2023. Thank you to John's family and friends who donated more than \$175,000 in 2022 for general operating, and the Nonprofit Sustainability Initiative, which awarded a \$100,000 grant to help cover the training, salaries, and other transition costs.

Some foundations understandably do not award grants to agencies undergoing an executive director transition. We lost more than \$200,000 in projected revenue for programs and facilities that we reportedly did not receive due to requirements such as at least one year of executive stability (we achieved this as of December 12!).

While providing an update on our programs and expressing gratitude for the supporters who have contributed to our work through the years, this letter is also an appeal for help covering the gaps we experienced. Can you help us with a donation by December 31? Our goal is \$50,000 so gifts small and large are appreciated. Please contribute at www.wootencenter.org/christmas2023. Thank you to those who can or desire to do so.

As the year closes, it is important to us to share our appreciation for our supporters—the donors, volunteers, partners, parents, youth, board, and staff who provided college and career readiness for more than 300 students in grades 3-12 in the South Los Angeles area in 2023.

With our supporters' help, we exceeded all our CollegeTrek Afterschool Program outcomes in the 2022-23 school year with 81% (v. 80%) of students increasing their scores and 28% (v. 10%) attaining grade-level proficiency in reading. Some 87% (v. 80%) of students increased their scores while 38% (v. 10%) attained proficiency in math. Grade-level promotions, high school graduation, and college enrollment were all 100% (v. 80%)!

We are grateful that our pandemic-inspired service providing one-on-one private tutoring in reading and math is continuing with Corey's leadership. Homework assistance, STEM and music classes, teen internships and discussion groups, college tours and advisement, College and Career Day guest mentors, parenting workshops, and other academic and personal enrichment are also ongoing.

New offerings include two new bimonthly discussion groups for all ages: Boys to Men and Just for Girls. We are elated about the return of Juvenile Justice Jeopardy after its pandemic hiatus. Jeopardy is a monthly discussion group and digital game bringing cops and teens together in partnership with game developer and long-time partner Strategies for Youth.

We absolutely could not have helped students achieve our outcomes without our supporters. Thank you from our hearts. May you and your loved ones share a warm holiday season always.

In appreciation and partnership,

Paul Wetmore, Board Chair
Corey Dantzer, Executive Director
and our entire Wooten family!



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