



November 2011

Dear Friend,

*Tamarack Waldorf School is grateful to its families and their relatives, our alumni and friends, for your support during our 15 years of operation. As we seek your donation to this year's **Annual Appeal**, please know that every dollar counts and is especially needed this year. To ensure the school's ability to offer a wide range of Waldorf specialties, we must raise at least \$30,000. We know the economy remains difficult, but even small gifts do make a difference. Please give what you can: As our alumnus Israel Pechstein says in his letter below, the gift of Waldorf education resounds far into the future.*

Caro/Dear Tamarack Community,

Greetings from Portugal! My name is Israel Pechstein and I write to you as an alumnus of the school, in my time known as Tamarack Community School, now called Tamarack Waldorf school.

For better or worse, the world is becoming more of a community everyday, and it desperately needs those creative, innovative minds who embrace, rather than eliminate, differences. Tamarack breaks the mold of traditional, didactic education, emphasizing instead the development of students in relation to their environment, surroundings, classmates, and community.

My experience at Tamarack taught me to enter a new environment with curiosity, not preconceptions, to learn about a place without necessarily 'studying' it. Students who appreciate the diverse nature of the world will have advantages in whatever they aspire to achieve, because they will always retain a fundamental respect for one another and the global community.

I am confident that all Tamarack students develop a complex sense of gratitude, one that has helped me succeed in my pursuits after eighth grade graduation in 2005. Indeed, looking back, it is difficult to give proper thanks to Waldorf education, because there is no simple way to describe the ways it influenced my development. Something about the caring, loving nature of Waldorf educators demonstrates an immense appreciation for the students. It would be accurate to say that since my time with Mrs. Marks and all the teachers at Tamarack, the standard to which I hold my professors and educational institutions is very high.

I have always performed my best in educational environments where I feel comfortable, encouraged, and appreciated. It is only in retrospect that I can accurately attribute my high educational standards to Tamarack Waldorf School, where I felt comfortable, encouraged, and most of all, appreciated.

Perhaps not daily, but quite frequently, I am reminded of Tamarack in some way. During these moments of nostalgia, I am filled with gratitude for the privileged

opportunity to have attended Tamarack Waldorf School. It is my hope that Tamarack continues to thrive with students and teachers who appreciate each other and the communities in which they exist. Maybe this hope is selfish to some extent, as I owe so much to Tamarack and have also often considered pursuing Waldorf education in my eventual (dare I say, inevitable?) career as an educator.

Abracos/Regards,

Israel Pechstein, Tamarack Class of 2005

Pursuing a B.A. in Spanish, Portuguese, and Latin American Caribbean & Iberian Studies at the University of Wisconsin-Madison

Your donation at work:

- \$5 buys a pair of wooden knitting needles
- \$10 buys three reams of copy paper
- \$15 buys a box of beeswax crayons
- \$25 buys water color paints and a paintbrush
- \$100 buys a used musical instrument for loaning to students
- \$500 buys two-thirds of woodworking supplies for the year
- \$1000 buys heat and electricity for the building for one month

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Please make your tax-deductible donation to Tamarack today!

In gratitude,
Jean Kacanek
Administrator