



He has Wings

Jim Boyd has climbed the highest mountains in the world. It's a passion of his. When he was in a car accident that almost claimed his life, he held onto the dream of climbing again. The idea of walking once more seemed unlikely – but not to Jim.

Every day Jim, a member of our Board, struggled to make progress in his physical therapy – literally taking one step at a time. An important skill we teach at WINGS is perseverance. Jim's got it!

Last month, walking under his own power, he traveled to Alaska to get to the base camp of Mount McKinley or Denali, as Native Americans named it, meaning "Great One." At 20,000 feet, it's the tallest peak in North America

and known to climbers as the world's coldest mountain trek.

Next year, Jim plans to begin climbing again.

He has WINGS.

- [Read more about Denali.](#)

“Emotional engagement is the essence of information processing and learning.”

- Columnist David Brooks
New York Times



Watch how dancing Matt connects without words.



Brand New Challenge

We're full of anticipation about the launch of a brand new WINGS program next month at Chicora Elementary School at 1912 Success Street in North Charleston. It's a big challenge with a big payoff – for the kids and their families, for the school, for WINGS.

Already there's a waiting list to get into the WINGS program, which has enrolled 134 kids. Says Program Director Nicole Lovecchio, "The parents seem so grateful to have a place for their kids after school, and were super friendly at our sign up event."

Chicora currently has no after school program, and a recent survey showed

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Hot Wings

How Kids Can Cool Down

Teaching Kids to Cope with Stress and Cool Down

S – Stand back

T – Talk it over

R – Read

E – Exercise

S – Slow down

S – Sing

It's normal to get mad and lose control when life gets hectic. What we tell the kids at WINGS is that they need to learn different ways to cool off when they are fired up or stressed out.

They learn that otherwise they may take action they regret – like yell at someone when they don't mean it, quit a cherished activity or cause physical harm. We also talk to the kids about how becoming stressed out can make them feel tired or cause headaches.

Talking with kids about some options that might work for them means that they are more likely to control those fired-up feelings in a constructive way. It helps to teach them the STRESS acronym.

We tell them that to Stand back means removing yourself from the stressful situation. Talking to someone can defuse the problem. Reading offers a way to quiet kids down. Exercise is a great outlet for stress and anxiety. Kids can always use more practice in Slowing down and taking deep breaths that make them feel centered and back in control so that they think before they act. And Singing or listening to music is a favorite way for kids to regain calm.



Brand New Challenge,
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that 88 percent of parents want one. Several neighborhood after school centers have shut down, leaving working families with few options for keeping students off crime-ridden streets in the critical hours after school. We are happy to work side-by-side with Metanoia, a neighborhood program serving a variety of community needs including an after school program for 50 students who have been identified as leaders.

Police have called Chicora the most crime-ridden neighborhood in Charleston. Rife with gun violence and drug dealing, this is a community of entrenched poverty where it's hazardous for children to grow up.

So much planning, preparation and fundraising has been required to reach this point. The program debuts on August. 25, a week after school starts.

- [Learn more about Metanoia.](#)
- [Learn more about Chicora Elementary School.](#)





The Wings Creed

I soar with WINGS. Let me tell you why. I learn lots of skills that help me reach the sky.

I love and accept who I am on the inside and know my emotions are nothing to hide.

Life's full of surprises that make me feel different ways. If I can control myself, I will have much better days.

I understand the choices I make should be what I want to do, and what happens is on me and not any of you.

I understand others are unique. I want to learn more about everyone I meet. I want to step into their shoe and see what they are going through.

I am a friend. I support and trust. Working together is a must.

Kind and caring I will be. I listen to you. You listen to me.

I soar with WINGS. I just told you why. All of these things are why I fly high.

wingsforkids.org



Meet Raji

Fourth-grader Raji Polite is a high-energy kid with a contagious smile. He has great team spirit and really loves to compete.

Raji constantly demonstrates how well he understands that "working together is a must," as The Creed states.

Raji just loves to play jokes on the WINGSLeaders. He's always trying to help the other kids in his Ravens Nest come together, listen to each other and find the best way to be successful.

After 3 years in WINGS, Raji knows how important it is to help others improve at the same time that he works on his own skills and capabilities.

During the time he spent in the Great Outdoors choice time, he really enjoyed games like horseshoes, badminton and volleyball and the time spent outside learning to play them. At the same time, he was acquiring and practicing relationship skills that strengthened his ability to trust others, feel confident about himself and manage conflicts that inevitably arise.



We're celebrating! The U.S. Education Department awarded WINGS a vote of confidence and a fiercely competitive 21st Century Learning Center grant for \$673,000 over 4 years. But government funds pay only 1/3 of our costs. We rely on private investment now more than ever.

• [Donate now.](#)

