



ANNUAL GIVING: 2025 - 2026

I think most parents like to think their young, developing child is bright for his or her age, and my husband and I were no different. However, many things happened to make us think that maybe we weren't wrong, and I would like to share two of them with you.

When Jeremy was very young, we would visit relatives every year in Clearwater, Florida. On occasion, we would dine in the same restaurant. When asked what he would like to eat, Jeremy said he wanted the same thing he had the last time we were there. We found the idea that he could remember what he had eaten in that same restaurant a whole year previously quite amazing.

Another occasion that comes to mind occurred in October at his daycare center when he was around four. The teacher was reading the refrain spoken by the witches in "Macbeth." Jeremy knew the entire passage and was able to read the words "cauldron bubble." The teacher was not only surprised by Jeremy, but impressed that he knew the word cauldron and actually knew what it meant. Later, when I came to pick him up she made a point of telling me what had happened.

I have to admit that when it came time for first grade, we really didn't know much about education for gifted children. We were familiar with a private school that I would drive past on my way to work. After a bit of research, we thought it might be a good place for Jeremy to attend. Unfortunately, it was not. Since he was not challenged there, Jeremy was extremely bored. We knew we had to find a different school for second grade.

So after a bit more research, we happily discovered Steppingstone School for Gifted Education. Jeremy loved it there. He grew and flourished from grades two through eight. Each year he was challenged, had an outlet for his creativity and had fun at their Summer Camps. The discovery of Steppingstone also began our friendship with the Morse family, including teacher/trustee Donna Coffin and that relationship continues to this day

With his Steppingstone education as a solid base, Jeremy went on to graduate from Brother Rice and Loyola Chicago. He is currently a freelance art director and artist in Los Angeles.

Along the way, Jeremy was a Steppingstone camp counselor and my husband served as a Trustee. I was also a Trustee for many years and served as president for a short time.

My husband and I have supported Steppingstone because we were so grateful to find the perfect school for Jeremy that we trusted to give him a loving and quality education tailored to his specific needs as a gifted child.

Steppingstone recognizes that each child is a unique individual and support is given by admin, staff and faculty to help develop students social and emotional needs. Part of the school's mission is to help keep this love of learning throughout the students' lives.

The total cost of operating a non-profit school is never covered by tuition alone: therefore, if you see the value of this individualized learning program that celebrates gifted learners, please donate what you can. Any amount will not only help but be so, so appreciated.

With deepest gratitude,
Irene Wojchihosky
Former Parent, Former Steppingstone Trustee