

# Acorn KinderHouse

## Financial Aid Program

### **Underlying Vision, Philosophy and Purpose for the Acorn KinderHouse Aid Program**

It is our wish that every young child be able to have a Waldorf Early Childhood experience, regardless of financial ability. For those families unable to pay full tuition, a need-based policy has been developed to allow consistency and fairness. Every effort will be made to find an affordable tuition for families willing to follow the schools procedures. Our guiding principle is that a family should be expected to pay according to its financial capabilities. Putting this into practice, however, requires judgment and sensitivity. It also is made more challenging because we are a new school. We strongly believe in this vision of Waldorf for everyone. As a new school embracing this vision Acorn KinderHouse was established to be a nonprofit organization. We also believe in smaller class sizes so that each child may receive individual attention to their developmental and educational needs. We have made every effort to keep our tuition as low as possible and in comparison to other schools that utilize a Waldorf curriculum we have achieved that. However, we realize that our tuition may be slightly higher than many commercial, private business and public schools because of the nature of our materials used, foods served, smaller class size etc. Because we are a non profit school our financial resources are limited, however, we have pledged to help families as much as we are able. Ideally every family will have a picture of the financial life of the school, and would make a realistic and effective contribution based upon their own circumstances as a member of the school community. The sum of these contributions would comprise what the school needs to function. In the event of unforeseen circumstances Acorn KinderHouse reserves the right to terminate financial aid at the sole discretion of Acorn KinderHouse.

### **Tuition and Financial Aid Assumptions**

1. Tuition fairly reflects the costs of the Preschool
2. Total dollars available for the Financial Aid Program is set annually.
3. The Financial Aid Program will be reviewed annually

### **Types of Tuition Adjustments**

1. **Early Tuition Payment Discount** is available only to re-enrolling families which meet the deadline.
2. The Finance Committee will offer various enrollment incentives as the school budget allows.
3. The **Needs Based Financial Assistance Program** is available on a first come first serve basis.

### **Funding**

1. **Operating Revenue.** A specific percentage or amount of the operating revenue for financial aid will be set annually.
2. **A Financial Aid Fund** will be established from donations, gifts, grants etc.
3. The School will hold fund raising activities to increase the Financial Aid funding.

## **Guidelines**

### **Availability**

Consideration for participation in the Acorn KinderHouse Financial Aid Program is available to any family that wishes to apply.

### **Award Limitations**

Awards are limited by the amount of funds specifically available for financial aid that school year.

### **Volunteer Hours**

Those families receiving financial aid will be required to participate in additional volunteer hours during the school year. The policy for volunteer hours can be found in the Parent Handbook. Failure to fulfill this requirement may lead to the termination of Financial Aid.

### **Confidentially and Record Keeping**

The Financial Aid program is administered on a strictly confidential basis. All records, including financial aid applications are maintained in a locked area of the building and are destroyed after three years.

### **Equal Opportunity**

Acorn KinderHouse admits students of any race, color, national and ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs and activities generally accorded or made available to students at this school. It does not discriminate on the basis of race, gender, creed or national origin in its admission policies or in the conduct of its educational, recreational, or scholarship programs.