



# Trinity Presbyterian Church

---

1120 Darley Road  
Wilmington, Delaware 19810

website: [www.trinitypresby.org](http://www.trinitypresby.org)  
email: [office@trinitypresby.org](mailto:office@trinitypresby.org)

Brad Martin and Barbara Price-Martin, Pastors

(302) 475-5495

October 9, 2022

To Whom It May Concern:

We are writing on behalf of Trinity Presbyterian Church to advocate for the Great Oaks Charter School - Wilmington and the work of Joe Ross and his colleagues there.

Trinity has a very close relationship with Mr. Ross, and for the past two years we have financially supported the students through the outreach of our Board of Deacons, as well as providing student support through our Mission Service Team.

We very much affirm the mission of Great Oaks Charter School as it uniquely reaches an under-served and at-risk youth population.

Please do not hesitate to be in contact with us.

Sincerely,

*Brad Martin*  
*Barbara Price Martin*

**From:** Carol Yard <[Carol@ycamp.org](mailto:Carol@ycamp.org)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 12, 2022 1:32 PM  
**To:** infocso <[infocso2@doe.k12.de.us](mailto:infocso2@doe.k12.de.us)>  
**Subject:** [External] In support of Great Oaks Charter School

**WARNING: External Email** - This email originated outside of the State email system.  
**DO NOT CLICK** links or attachments unless you recognize the sender and *are expecting* the email.

Hello!

I would like to let you know that we support Great Oaks Charter School. We recently learned that they have been placed under formal review for not meeting enrollment goals. I am hoping that the DOE can see a glimpse into the quality of their work for students who really need it.

This past year, we partnered with Greak Oaks. They sent several students on our BOLD & GOLD trips – Boys and Girls Outdoor Leadership Development. These were fully-funded awards we gave to Great Oaks students to go on multi-day canoeing and hiking expeditions.

BOLD & GOLD is a national YMCA program with proven results. The trips offer opportunities for students to grow in confidence, courage, emotional intelligence, community awareness, and a sense of wonder for the outdoors. Our end-of-season survey results show that 95% of participants in BOLD & GOLD grew in at least one SEL (social and emotional learning) capacity and 85% grew in at least one Outdoors SEL capacity. 70% grew in at least 3 SEL capacities. 70% also grew in academic self-efficacy.

Many of the students from Great Oaks were new to the outdoors and had never slept in a tent, much less been away from home for more than one night. Through their small group wilderness experience, they emerged more equipped to go back and be leaders in their own community.

We expect that through our generous donors, we will continue to get scholarship funding to be able to continue to offer more of these powerful and unique leadership building experiences to Great Oaks Charter School next year and beyond.

We hope that Great Oaks will be approved to continue to grow and be a great resource for the community.

Peace,  
Carol

**Carol G. Yard**  
**Wilderness Programs Director**  
**YMCA of the Pines**  
**Explore. Grow. Thrive.**  
[1303 Stokes Road, Medford, New Jersey 08055](https://www.ycampa.org/locations/medford)  
P: 609.654.8225 x1528 | F: 609.654.8895  
[Website](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Youtube](#) | [Blog](#) | [Twitter](#) | [Instagram](#)  
Preferred pronouns: she/her/hers  
Support our [WE ARE HERE FOR YOU](#) campaign!

## The Peace of Wild Things

"When despair for the world grows in me  
and I wake in the night at the least sound  
in fear of what my life and my children's lives may be,  
I go and lie down where the wood drake  
rests in his beauty on the water, and the great heron feeds.  
I come into the peace of wild things  
who do not tax their lives with forethought  
of grief. I come into the presence of still water.  
And I feel above me the day-blind stars  
waiting with their light. For a time  
I rest in the grace of the world, and am free."

— Wendell Berry, *The Selected Poems of Wendell Berry*