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Dear Friends,

Deep in the basement of a large hospital in southern Florida, an overworked, middle-aged woman sat in her cubicle peering at the flickering screen of her computer. Already that day she had processed countless patients, and now she was asking a string of questions necessary to register my mother.

Abruptly her work was interrupted by a statement that did not belong to this scene: "I have one wish for you". Her face expressed surprise as my father continued: "My wish for you is that someone will soon give you a window." It took a few seconds for this remark to sink in, but the smile that gradually spread across her tired features was worth remembering. We were lifted out of hospital routine and began a conversation, buoyed by a compelling ideal: behind every uniform is a human being that matters.

In a world filled with large institutions and depersonalized interactions, Waldorf schools remain committed to drawing forth the humanity residing deep within each child, parent and teacher. Working together in a class for many years, children learn to build lasting relationships with peers and with adults, while parents and teachers tend the health of the community through the deepening of cultural life. Our assemblies and festivals, for instance, warm our hearts and demonstrate how school can be a celebration of human values.

These qualities, so crucial for our future on this earth, cannot be taken for granted. Nothing is more essential to the vibrancy of a school than the quality of its teachers. Wonderful people, aspiring teachers, come to the Center for Anthroposophy and to the Waldorf Program at Antioch University. They share with us and with each other a wish to serve humanity through Waldorf classroom teaching. They need your confidence and support in order to realize their ideals, the same ideals that may have brought you to Waldorf education in the first place.

Each gift to our annual appeal helps prepare these new teachers for their future work and encourages us to continue ours. Last year we added 60 new donors to our giving community, with gifts of all sizes. We ask our friends, new and old, to reaffirm our common cause.

A Waldorf education for our children is a window into the future of humanity.

With deep appreciation for your continued support,

Torin M Finser

Foundation Studies Renewal and Professional Development Waldorf High School Teacher Education
Waldorf Early Childhood and Elementary Teacher Education (affiliated with Antioch New England Graduate School)