

Davidson Day would not be where it is today without the support of many of its families. Some such as the Wolters have guided the school since its early days. The family joined DDS 11 years ago when oldest son Zach '14 was in preschool and the school building was in an old factory. Karen Wolter, now chairman of the Board of Trustees, said she immediately loved her son's teachers and enjoyed helping set the vision for the future. She was part of a group of families who saw Davidson Day becoming a rigorous college preparatory school with an individual focus on each child.

"The school was built by families that wanted an independent school education for their children close to home, in the Lake Norman area," Karen said. "It's not just the Wolters. Many, many families have donated their time, talents and money. This widespread effort by many is how and why Davidson Day is the school it is today."

She added, "We were so lucky to land Bonnie (Cotter) who had the drive and the vision; she had the skill set to make it happen."

In addition to Zach, Karen and Chuck's other children, Hannah '16 and Jack '19, are also Patriots. In fact, Jack almost got his start in life at the old building. On the evening of Dec. 13, 2000, Karen and Chuck were watching Zach perform in a music show at school. After the show, they dropped Zach and Hannah off with a babysitter and then drove to the hospital where Jack was born the next day.

Jack said his favorite part about our school is "P.E. class and all the games we play" and the friends he's made.

Hannah said DDS teachers make learning enjoyable and encourage interaction between students. "You get to have fun in class, instead of just taking notes... you learn how to do integers in a fun way by playing games."

Zach said it feels good to be a part of all the changes -- the increasing student population and opportunities for students and top-notch facilities -- since he started at DDS as a 4-year-old. "You feel like you're the root of the program."

Last week, Davidson Day honored the Wolters for their long-time financial and volunteer support of the school by naming the football, soccer and lacrosse field in their honor.

"When I think of Karen, I think of leadership, an entrepreneurial spirit and a whatever-it-takes mentality," said Head of School Bonnie Cotter. "She has never backed away from the hard decisions and that has made all the difference to our school developing and growing so successfully in such a short time."