

# Little Willows Staff

All of our staff have been full-time, stay-at-home moms for at least part of their mothering career. Please take a moment to get to know a little about us...

## Purple Monkeys



**1-2's Teacher: Megan Donnelly...**Megan is beginning her 9<sup>th</sup> year with Little Willows. She has several years' experience working with children in the Church and school. Megan resides in Germantown Hills with her husband, Aaron, and their two girls, Anna, 14, and Katie, 12. She became familiar with the Little Willows Program while her girls attended for 5 years. She enjoys reading, traveling, shopping and spending time with family.



**1-2's Teacher/Assistant Director: Gina Keele...**Gina was part of the developing team of Little Willows, is beginning her 14<sup>th</sup> year teaching, and serves as assistant director. She has a background in surgical nursing and has volunteered with children in various settings. Gina resides in Germantown Hills with her husband, Scott, and three children, Michael, 22 and in college, Brian, 18 and in college, and Lisa, 16. She enjoys running, reading, music, and family time.

## Green Frogs



**2-3's Teacher: Heidi Landes...**Heidi is starting her 8<sup>th</sup> year of teaching at Little Willows this year. She has a background in advertising and has taught Sunday school for many years. Her youngest son attended Little Willows for three years. Heidi resides in East Peoria with her husband, Jim, and their two children, Tyler, 17, and Evan, 12. She enjoys traveling, camping, and spending time with family.



**2-3's Teacher: Erica Falcione...**Erica is returning for her 8<sup>th</sup> year at Little Willows. She has a background in Early Childhood Education and has taught children in various classroom settings. Her son attended Little Willows for two years. Erica resides in East Peoria with her husband, Dave, and son, Aidan, 12. She enjoys reading, running, and spending time with her family and cats.

## Orange Tigers



**3-4's Teacher: Chris Locknar...**Chris is returning for her 6<sup>th</sup> year at Little Willows, the 3<sup>rd</sup> in Orange Tigers. She was one of our first teachers before relocating out of state for a few years. She also has experience in childcare. Chris resides in Washington with her husband, Greg, and her daughters, Breann, 21, and Megan, 18, both in college. She enjoys spending time with her family and dog, doing crossword and jigsaw puzzles, and is an avid Chicago Blackhawks fan.



**3-4's Teacher: Nicole Crow...**Nicole is beginning her 2<sup>nd</sup> year teaching at Little Willows. She has experience working with children through her children's classrooms, scouting, and being a hands-on mom. She lives in Germantown Hills with her husband, Jon, and children, Eli, 7, and Macie, 6. She enjoys camping, spending time with her family, National Parks, and all things kids and Disney.

## Blue Dolphins



**4-5's Teacher: Becky Smolarchuk...** Becky is starting her 7<sup>th</sup> year of teaching with Little Willows. She has over 10 years experience as a stay-at-home mom and community volunteer. She resides in Germantown Hills with her husband, Jason, and three children, Luke, 17, Hailey, 15, and Blake, 11. She enjoys hanging out with friends and family and watching football, hockey, baseball, and cheerleading.



**4-5's Teacher: Cheryl Wilmot...** Cheryl is beginning her 8<sup>th</sup> year of teaching with Little Willows. Cheryl has a background in art education, has taught Sunday school, organized playgroups, and now enjoys photography. Cheryl lives in Germantown Hills with her husband, Chip. She is mother to three children: Bailey, 23, a nurse who is married and living in Metamora, Regan, 21, in college, and Ty, 18, a senior at MTHS. She enjoys spending time with her family and is excited to become a grandma in November!



**4-5's Teacher: Natalie Roberts...** Natalie is beginning her 3<sup>rd</sup> year at Little Willows, now a team teacher in the Blue Dolphins classroom. Natalie has volunteer experience in the Bright Beginnings program and as a stay-at-home mom for over 10 years. She resides in Germantown Hills with her husband, Justin, and children, Gavin, 17, Matthew, 15, and Summer, 7. Natalie enjoys watching her son run cross country, extra-curricular activities with her kids, spending time with family, reading and listening to music.

## Directing Staff



**Little Willows Director: Gina Hulett...** Gina initiated the team who developed our Mom's Day Out program in 2004. She currently serves as Director of Christian Education and Youth at Willow Hill United Methodist Church and has a background in special education. Gina resides in Germantown Hills with her husband, Derek. She is mother to three sons: Jacob, 23, an engineer living in Phoenix, Josh, 21, and Justin, 18, both in college. She enjoys movies, puzzles, reading, and spending one-on-one time with her boys and dog.