

Shining Mountain Waldorf School Barn Dance

*\$200 Grant from the Alex "Tink" Wilson Legacy Fund
September 2019*

By Kate Galt - Development Director

In late September of 2019, in the spirit of Alex "Tink" Wilson's passion for creating events that enliven people and broaden people's view of life, Shining Mountain Waldorf School hosted a celebratory evening of barn dancing with live music, and a spirited caller to lead the dancing. The caller was Tina Fields, and the musicians were Sandra Wong and Jon Sousa. The band was Sousawong. They played authentic barn dancing music and songs that captured the old-timey mood of the event.

The event was a success, with over 100 folks joining the celebration. There was laughing and singing, jumping, and moving by all ages, from 2 to 75 years of age. It was great to see how all connected with each other in such different ways from the usual school day.

Shining Mountain Waldorf School highly values live music. All students learn to play a musical instrument; they learn about the world through music and sing songs from many cultures, originating from many centuries back. The curriculum values movement on an artistic, social and physical level, including folk dancing, social dancing and Eurythmy. The barn dance beautifully aligned with the spirit of the school in an engaging and fun way.

Grant funds were used to partly cover the live music and caller. Entry was free for all our Shining Mountain Community. Teachers, faculty, parents, grandparents, alumni, and alumni parents alike and children of all ages danced together. It was a wonderful community-building event that made life glow.

We are hoping that this dance will inspire some of our families to visit some of the area contra dances.

Thank you very much to the Alex Wilson Legacy Fund for the experiences. Here are some pictures to exemplify the spirit of the evening.

