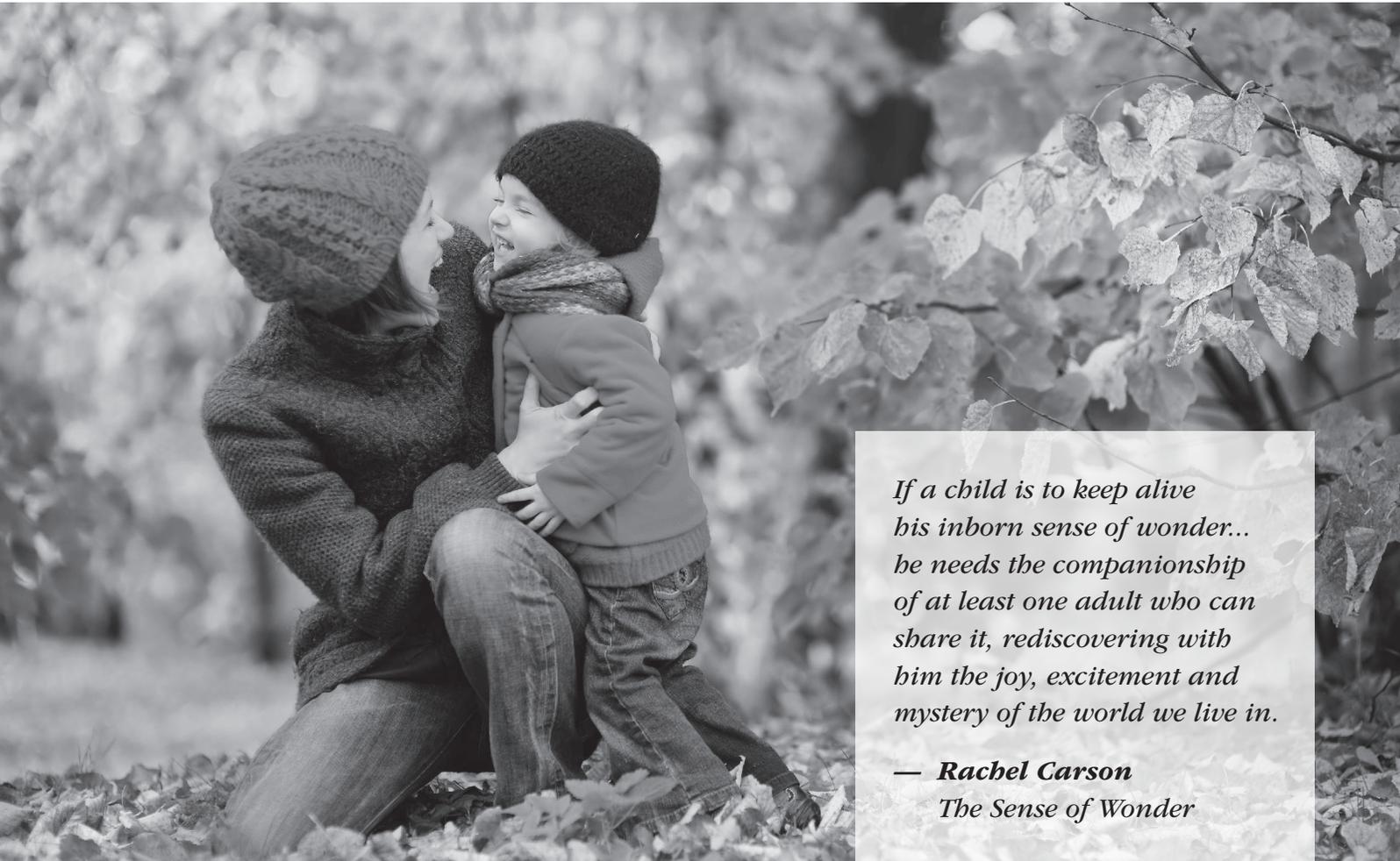




Working With Children

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*If a child is to keep alive
his inborn sense of wonder...
he needs the companionship
of at least one adult who can
share it, rediscovering with
him the joy, excitement and
mystery of the world we live in.*

— **Rachel Carson**
The Sense of Wonder

Tree planting, improving the environment, and children go hand in hand. All are the future, the hope of tomorrow. Working with children is one of the most important things we can do in urban and community forestry, and all it takes is a good idea and a little understanding of young people.

Think back to when you first became interested in trees. Do you recall the adult who steered you into a scout project or made it possible for you to attend an Arbor Day program?

Chances are that each of us was influenced by someone who cared about the environment and cared about children. Today, many adults want to “pay back” a debt of gratitude by introducing children to the wonderful world of trees, but they are not sure how best to proceed. In the pages that follow are some examples of projects and organizations

that are performing modern miracles by putting children in touch with trees and nature. They are transforming lives and at the same time making neighborhoods better places in which to live.

Will kids be receptive to the right kind of help? Consider these findings from a study of 8- to 15-year-olds conducted by the Disney Institute. When asked about their biggest concern for the future, “the environment” was right up at the top just behind “hate” and “violence.” When young leaders were asked to define “the biggest challenge you faced in making a difference in your community,” the top answer by an overwhelming margin was that kids “are not taken seriously by adults.” In another survey, when the organization Kids F.A.C.E. (Kids for a Clean Environment) asked its 300,000 members what they would like to do to make the world a better place, “tree planting” was the number one response.