

CORALWOOD SCHOOL "SHINING BRIGHTER TOGETHER"

2022-2023

ANNUAL REPORT



OUR MISSION IS TO PROMOTE EXCELLENCE IN EARLY CHILDHOOD INCLUSION EDUCATION AND TO PROVIDE A VEHICLE FOR LONG-TERM FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR CORALWOOD SCHOOL

CO-PRESIDENTS' LETTER



**WE SHINE BRIGHTER TOGETHER!
KRISTINA CESA & JERRY THOMAS**

Dear Coralwood Family,
 The start of the new school year usually comes with a bustle of activity and a wide range of emotions. Whether you are a returning family or new to Coralwood school, you are all part of a welcoming family that shares your anticipations, hopes, and struggles. After the last few years, many may feel a bit disconnected from this amazing community, which is why we started the 2022-2023 school year resolving that we shine brighter together!
 Coralwood is a unique and wonderful place and that is due to many factors. The inclusion model itself creates a diverse and varied community that values and promotes individuals and benefits from their contributions. The dedicated staff and teachers are supported and encouraged to create the optimal environment for our children to learn and develop. And of course, there is the Coralwood community that you have now joined. Coralwood has a history of being supported by the families that have come here. Once you are part of the Coralwood family you tend to stay part of the Coralwood family. Families stay involved after their children have graduated. Alumni show up for homecoming annually!

The Coralwood experience is often compared to that of a private school, which is exceptional for a public school. The Coralwood Foundation's mission is to

support that experience with the resources necessary to provide the quality of education our children require and deserve. This is only possible because of the generous community we have.

Because of the contributions of many, the Coralwood Foundation is able to supplement funding beyond what DeKalb county provides. It is another reason that Coralwood is not just another school. As you can imagine, county budgets can be tricky to navigate and oftentimes leave school administrators faced with the seemingly impossible task of providing quality educational programming in a very constrained financial environment. What that means for Coralwood School, is that the budget is based solely on the number of kindergarten students enrolled, does not take into account the preschool or pre-kindergarten, and for the 2022-2023 school year is set at less than \$8,000.

The Coralwood Foundation can help support the school you envision for your child and encourage educational excellence from within. Through your gifts, we fund Higher Opportunities for Teachers (HOT) educational programs for the staff to provide training programs to our teachers such as the Handwriting Without Tears program and Orton-Gillingham training. The Foundation supports Homecoming, sponsors Alliance Theater performances for students, provides supplies for the STEM lab and classrooms, supports curriculum resources, provides funds to update playground equipment, the nature trail, and the Sensory Hallway!

The Foundation was founded in May 2005 by parents, teachers, therapists, and school administrators with a vision to make Coralwood a school that could serve as a national model of excellence in inclusion education. The key to our success is the wonderful community we've built over the years. Whether you would like to volunteer, serve on the board, or donate, we need your support to ensure that Coralwood School keeps shining brighter and brighter each year.

Kristina & Jerry

Co-Presidents Jerry Thomas, Kristina Cesa

Treasurer David Mitchell

Secretary Kristin Murff

Principal Melanie Castelle

Assistant Principal April Kaigler-Neely

Director of Dev. Sharon Rhodes

PTO President Dana Hughes

Members-At-Large:

- Rebecca Blanton Becky Mason
- Liz Coleman Kate Michalak
- Peaches Flanagan Jenna Neary
- Rebecca Harper Janet Preston
- Laura Hobbs Cheryl Rambler
- Erin Hurst Caryn Steinman
- Daniel Mandel Mindy Zeh



BOARD MEMBERS



WE'D LOVE TO HAVE YOU JOIN US!

CORALWOOD HIGHLIGHTS IN 2022-2023

WHO IS THE CORALWOOD FOUNDATION & WHAT DO WE DO?

We organize and fund programs, training, and facility improvements that benefit current and future students. Here are just a few!

- Homecoming
- Alliance Theater Performances & in-school field trips
- Higher Opportunities for Teachers (HOT) - professional development
- Classroom supplies and resources
- Nature trail improvements
- Grants and other funded projects:
Sensory Hallway, outdoor classroom, learning garden, sensory playground equipment, and sunshades

"SHINING BRIGHTER TOGETHER" - IMPACT BY THE NUMBERS

Total dollars raised:
\$92,368

1,835

SOCIAL MEDIA ENGAGEMENTS

APPROXIMATELY

580

PARTICIPANTS ACROSS EVENTS

OVER \$60,000 SPENT TO DIRECTLY BENEFIT STUDENTS

TOTAL GRANTS RECEIVED:
\$10,520

Number of community partners increased by
45%

9 funded projects completed

\$15,243 PROVIDED FOR TEACHERS AND CLASSROOM SUPPORT



HOMECOMING

We Shine Brighter Together! We kicked off the beginning of the school year in September with our homecoming event. Approximately 400 students, teachers, staff, alumni and families **partied on the playground** and danced with our DJ. There was a parade, face painting, crafts, pizza, ice cream and a fun photo booth. The **Coralwood community** really turned out for this event! Many thanks to Chamblee High School volunteers and to Kate Michalak and Becky Mason for chairing this event.





Nature trail improvements



Class party awards



Alliance Theater performances

CHALLENGE CAMPAIGN

The Coralwood Foundation's Annual Challenge seeks financial commitment each year from parents and supporters in order to fund the long term goals of the school. After several difficult fundraising years during the pandemic, Coralwood families and the community really stepped up and **raised \$52,041**. The Foundation was able to use the donations to provide many different activities and support benefiting the students throughout the year. This included in-school arts education programming with the **Alliance Theater**; **nature trail improvements**; **STEM program support**; **sensory playground equipment**, **music equipment** and a **\$200 stipend for each classroom** to use for materials. We also provided funds for **HOT (Higher Opportunities for Teachers)** to support training and learning opportunities for teachers and staff. We are so grateful for everyone's support! Classrooms and teachers received incentives and parties for their participation in the Challenge, including popsicle, donut and pizza parties, dance parties and gift cards. Congratulations to **Harper/Barnes** and **Hill/Thrasher** who achieved **100% participation!**

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Our Community Partners in Education program is designed to create a healthier community, where **businesses, schools, civic organizations, and nonprofits come together in partnership** to support one another. We had many partner organizations support Coralwood through monetary contributions and sponsorships of events, volunteering, and providing in-kind donations and supplies. Thank you to our many Community Partners in Education who are committed to the mission and life-changing work taking place at Coralwood! If you have a business or know an organization that would be a good Community Partner, please contact Sharon Rhodes at development@coralwoodschool.com.

Coralwood School loves our Community Partners in Education!

Diamond

Audi Atlanta | BRU'STER'S real ice cream | CLINEBELL + ANDERSON ORTHODONTICS | GEORGIA ESTATE & ELDER LAW

Platinum

local three KITCHEN & BAR | SHERWOOD CHIROPRACTIC CENTER | Tower Beer, Wine & Spirits

Gold

Chick-fil-e | Children's Healthcare of Atlanta | 2nd Step | Marci Swim | M.J.C.C.A. | MOLSON COORS | Total Wine & More

Silver

Chocolate Coffee | Eaton Pediatric Dentistry | In-Town Ace Hardware | Momcierge Atlanta | Queria El Vecino | Tito's Handmade Vodka | Oak Grove Market

AUCTION

Coralwood Foundation's Annual Auction "**Starry Night Shining Bright**" took place in February at Briarcliff Woods Beach Club. More than 180 people, including parents, teachers, friends and community supporters, celebrated "under the stars" for a special night full of fun and community.

Coralwood **alumni parent Lila Cooperider and her son Colin** gave an incredibly touching testimony about what Coralwood has meant to their family. We were able to **raise over \$32,000** to help fund new sensory playground equipment and sunshades (see photo bottom right)!

All of the funds we raise through our foundation are crucial to help bridge the gap between what Coralwood receives from district funding and what it needs to provide life-changing education. Special thanks to alumni parents Ed King, who served as our auctioneer, Randy McDowell, as photographer. Auction chair, Kristina Cesa, and the auction committee worked tirelessly to pull off this huge event, and we are so grateful for their generous commitment of time and energy to this very special and successful fundraiser.



Alumni parent Lila Cooperider and son Colin



Attendees enjoyed both a silent and live auction, dinner, and dancing



New sensory playground equipment and sunshades



GRANTS AND FUNDED PROJECTS

WE ARE GRATEFUL TO THE FOLLOWING ORGANIZATIONS WHO PROVIDED GRANTS TO THE CORALWOOD FOUNDATION WHICH HELPED SUPPORT THESE MAJOR PROJECTS:

THE **SEED AND FEED MARCHING ABOMINABLE ENDOWMENT GRANT** PROVIDED \$315 TO FUND CORALWOOD SCHOOL'S YOUNG MUSICIANS PROJECT. WE PURCHASED SEVERAL MUSIC EQUIPMENT ITEMS FOR DR. KATIE'S MUSIC PROGRAM, INCLUDING BOOMWHACKERS, TUNED TUBES OF PLASTIC IN RAINBOW COLORS AND THAT CAN BE PLAYED ON ANY SURFACE. WE ALSO PURCHASED CASTANETS AND RHYTHM RIBBONS. ALL THE ITEMS ARE ACCESSIBLE INSTRUMENTS FOR CORALWOOD STUDENTS AND PROVIDE A UNIQUE WAY TO EXPERIENCE MUSICAL ELEMENTS SUCH AS BEAT, RHYTHM, PITCH, AND HARMONY AND PERFORM SONGS.

GEORGIA COUNCIL FOR THE ARTS PROVIDED \$2,000 IN GRANT FUNDS FOR OUR "YOUNG MINDS EXPLORING THE THEATRE" PROGRAMMING. WE PARTNERED WITH ALLIANCE THEATRE FOR THE VERY YOUNG TO BRING IN-SCHOOL FIELD TRIP PERFORMANCES TO CORALWOOD.

THE GEORGIA SHAPE NUTRITION, PHYSICAL ACTIVITY AND STAFF WELLNESS GRANT PROVIDED \$4,900 TO HELP BUILD OUR NEW OUTDOOR CLASSROOM AND LEARNING GARDEN. FUNDS ALSO SUPPORTED A PORTION OF THE NEW SENSORY PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT BEING INSTALLED ON THE SIDE PLAYGROUND. WE PARTNERED WITH VISTA YOGA STUDIO TO BRING INSTRUCTORS TO THE SCHOOL FOR SEVERAL STAFF WELLNESS SESSIONS.

THE HOME DEPOT FOUNDATION PROVIDED \$3,300 WHICH WE USED TO PURCHASE ADDITIONAL EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES FOR OUR OUTDOOR CLASSROOM AND LEARNING GARDEN EQUIPMENT. HOME DEPOT ASSOCIATES AND CORALWOOD VOLUNTEERS CAME TOGETHER FOR A **TEAM DEPOT WORK-DAY** WHERE WE BUILT THE ENTIRE OUTDOOR LEARNING GARDEN AREA IN ONE DAY!

OTHER FUNDED PROJECTS:
NATURE TRAIL RESURFACING AND REGRADING
PLAYGROUND SHADES
SENSORY HALLWAY

FINANCIALS

Financial Overview	
Total Revenue	\$150,639
Total Expenses	\$94,129
Net Revenue	\$56,510

Revenue		Expenses	
Challenge Campaign	\$52,041	Nature Trail Renovation	\$16,365
Auction	\$29,807	Playground Equipment & Shades	\$19,245
Grants	\$10,520	Classroom Supplies & Equipment	\$13,933
Carryover from previous year	\$11,732	Staff Continuing Education	\$1,310
Investment Income	\$46,539	Art Shows & Sensory Hallway	\$5,750
		Spirit Day Shirts, Alumni Events, Auction	\$10,325
		Administrative	\$27,201
Total Revenue	\$150,639	Total Expenses	\$94,129



THANK YOU

SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR FOUNDATION BOARD AND ALL OF OUR CORALWOOD PARENT AND FAMILY VOLUNTEERS FOR COUNTLESS HOURS SPENT TO MAKE THIS A SUCCESSFUL SCHOOL YEAR. WE APPRECIATE OUR COMMUNITY PARTNERS, HOME DEPOT, MICHAEL RITER OF TRAIL CONSULTING AND CONSTRUCTION, AVALON TREE SERVICE, AND SOUTHEAST OUTDOOR SOLUTIONS WHO ALL IMPROVED OUR SCHOOL GROUNDS AND COMMUNITY. FINALLY, WE WANT TO SAY A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO RANDY MCDOWELL PHOTOGRAPHY; THE CORALWOOD YEARBOOK COMMITTEE; COACH EVERETTE SCHOATES, SATTI NALLO, AND JASMINE ARCHIE FOR INSTALLING OUR SENSORY HALLWAY; BECKI HARPER FOR HER LEADERSHIP IN INSTALLING AND MAINTAINING THE NEW GARDEN AREA; AND ERIN HURST FOR HER GRAPHIC DESIGN WORK ON THIS REPORT.



"Thank you Coralwood Foundation, and thank you parents, as it is through your donations to the Foundation that make these improvements possible."
-Dr. Melanie Castelle, Principal

Interested in learning more about the Coralwood Foundation Board?

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