



Coralwood Foundation

FISCAL YEAR 2009 • ANNUAL REPORT



Our mission is to promote excellence in early childhood special education, and to provide a vehicle for long term financial and volunteer support for Coralwood School.



2008-2009
CORALWOOD
FOUNDATION
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THE CORALWOOD SCHOOL

Coralwood School is the only public school in DeKalb County, Georgia dedicated to serving children with special needs between three to six years of age. Our research-based educational model includes 12 collaborative and co-teaching classrooms in which six to eight children with special needs and ten typically developing children are educated together. Research shows that this model results in significant gains for special education students, including higher levels of social play, more appropriate social interactions and greater gains in language, cognitive and motor development. Additionally, Coralwood has four self-contained classrooms that serve children with more severe disabilities. Children in the self-contained classes engage in multiple learning experiences with typically developing children throughout the school day.

The classrooms at Coralwood are led by highly specialized teachers and paraprofessionals who cater to a broad set of students with varied needs. The teachers work closely with the following therapists: speech/language, occupational, physical, vision and recreational. Primarily, these therapists provide services to children in the classroom and include both special needs and typical children in various therapies.

2008-2009 Coralwood School Year

of Students: 221

Percentage of students in the following categories:

Disabilities: 48%

Free and Reduced Lunch 18%

Minorities 30%

of Home Schools Represented 42



WHAT IS THE CORALWOOD FOUNDATION?

Coralwood Foundation was incorporated in May 2005 to create a permanent endowment fund, the interest income of which is used to promote excellence in early childhood special education at Coralwood, and to provide a vehicle for long-term financial and volunteer support for Coralwood. The Foundation funds the educational innovations of teachers and other professionals at Coralwood and funds a Director of Development, who writes grants and raises funds for specific educational initiatives.

Currently, the efforts of the Foundation's Board of Directors are focused on the following initiatives:

- Providing learning opportunities, grants for classroom initiatives and professional development for our school staff;
- Supporting the financial goals of the Foundation through fundraisers such as our Silent Auction and Wine Tasting Dinner, as well as grant writing activities;
- Working with county-funded architects to implement the Master Plan for Coralwood's campus in order to provide enhanced educational opportunities for our children;
- Building the Tree House on the Nature Trail;
- Developing a marketing and communications plan that will position Coralwood School as the premier inclusion preschool in Georgia;
- Redesigning the website to provide a central location for comprehensive information about Coralwood, the Foundation and parent resources;
- Researching theme school and charter school options;
- Actively engaging Coralwood alumni, parents and friends in the continued work of the Foundation through community involvement and outreach as part of the newly formed "Coralwood Circle of Friends" group.

The Foundation views these projects as fundamental elements to improve the education of our children now and in the future.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Commitment unlocks the doors of imagination, allows vision, and gives us the "right stuff" to turn our dreams into reality. –James Womack

When my daughter started in the three year old program at Coralwood in 2003, Coralwood was short on funding, volunteers and optimism.

- The principal received only \$4,000 to meet all financial needs of the school, except for building costs and salaries.
- The building had broken light fixtures, peeling paint and a dingy and uninviting cafeteria.
- Classrooms were cramped, shabby and poorly equipped.
- Our teachers paid for most of their classroom needs out of their pockets and did not receive funding for professional development or continuing education.
- The stage was divided into cubicles as office space for staff.
- The playground was a mud hole with tree stumps, a rusty wheelchair swing, and plastic playground equipment that was not handicap-accessible.
- The front of the school was a gravel parking lot with no landscaping or signage.

I was heartsick--was this the best educational experience that I could offer to my special needs child?



Since formation in 2005, the Foundation has raised \$300,000 in its annual Classroom Challenge campaigns for the Endowment Fund and capital improvements with 100% parent participation in 2008-2009. The funds from the Classroom Challenge are used to benefit our current students by funding immediate classroom needs and by partially funding the salary of the Director of Development. For example, this year, \$9,000 of the \$67,000 contributed to the Classroom Challenge immediately went to classroom teachers and paid for literacy and numeracy instructional materials. The remaining \$58,000 from the Classroom Challenge went straight to the Endowment Fund, the earnings from which help pay for the salary of our Director of Development, Jennifer Sedlack who:

- Meets with teachers to determine their needs and helps develop their ideas for classroom innovations;
- Writes grants to secure funding for the teachers and helps them carry out the program goals; and
- Coordinates fundraising activities and serves as the Foundation's daily presence at Coralwood.

Jennifer is committed to making the teachers' dreams a reality for our children who are learning through art, music, technology and campus improvements. Jennifer has helped us raise \$315,000 through special events, grants and in-kind donations. Check out the list on page five of the grants received this year. You will be so impressed!

Additionally, when we give to the Classroom Challenge, we also show our commitment to children who will be Coralwood students in the future. This vision was embraced by the donors in the 2006-2007 Classroom Challenge who gave \$75,000 for capital improvements as part of the Foundation's Master Plan. These contributions are funding the Nature Trail, the Tree House, Promethean ActivBoards in the classrooms and media center, and other capital needs. The generosity of those parents and supporters in 2006 directly benefits our children today, just as your donations to the 2008-2009 Classroom Challenge will benefit current and future Coralwood children.

The commitment of the Coralwood community makes the vision of a model education for young children in an inclusive setting a reality. With every dollar raised at the Silent Auction, Wine Tasting, and the Classroom Challenge, we are able to reinvest those resources in our teachers and classrooms, either directly or through the efforts of our Director of Development. I want to express my deepest thanks for the generous donations and countless hours of service by our directors, staff, parents and our many volunteers. Your children receive a richer education because of our community's commitment to the vision of academic excellence at the Coralwood School.

Janet E. Haury, President



If there is another school in our state which succeeds in the way that Coralwood succeeds, we have not been able to find it. All of the necessary ingredients have come together here: a tireless staff, a dedicated group of parents, and fantastic students. This is a place you never really say goodbye to, and the Foundation provides us a tangible way to give back for all that we have received.

-Jim and Jennifer Vaughan

MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL



Coralwood School has risen to national prominence in the past four years due in large part to the Coralwood Foundation's vision of achieving excellence in early childhood special education.

- Coralwood School will be featured in an upcoming issue of *Impact*, a publication by the College of Education and Human Development, University of Minnesota.
- Coralwood was featured in the PBS Reading Rockets literacy series.
- School systems across the southeast continue to visit and observe our preschool inclusion model.
- Coralwood has received the Governor's Platinum Award from the Office of School Achievement for the past four years.

Since its formation in 2005, the Foundation's vision and financial support have greatly benefited Coralwood students and staff. The Foundation is in the forefront in demonstrating how a dedicated Board of Directors lends support in the areas of professional development, grants, classroom materials and supplies, volunteerism and campus improvements.

Teachers and therapists attend trainings that directly impact instruction in their classrooms and the lives of young students. The Foundation has made it possible for staff to attend the following: Orton-Gillingham training, a multi-sensory approach to reading; Handwriting without Tears; Floortime; Applied Behavioral Analysis; Creating Pride, a workshop for integrating arts into the curriculum; Affect Based Language Curriculum; and Celebrating Calm, a workshop on research-based interventions for the classroom.

Community volunteers met for a year to design and develop a Master Plan during the 2007-2008 school year. In May 2009, the ADA accessible Nature Trail became a reality as the result of the Foundation's Master Plan Committee. Currently, architectural plans are being developed to renovate and add much needed therapy space to the building along with six additional classrooms. Join the "Coralwood Circle of Friends" and watch us grow.

Coralwood School has made incredible strides on our journey toward academic excellence through the successes of the Foundation's Director of Development, Jennifer Sedlack. This year alone, her impact is evident in the new ActivBoard and laptop in Joy Hurd's classroom; in the kindergarten Dance Curriculum under development; in the Fall Festival she created and secured funding for; in the ADA-accessible Nature Trail which includes exercise equipment, an Outdoor Classroom and a planned Tree House; in the Teacher Mini-Grants program she developed and administers each year; and in encouraging our teachers to create innovative learning environments to help every child succeed. All Coralwood students benefit from this amazing work and support.

I am proud and humbled to be part of such a dynamic, energetic group of visionaries. Come join our journey toward excellence by becoming part of this year's Coralwood Foundation Classroom Challenge. Help improve the lives of many young children - impact their future now!

Rebecca Blanton, Principal



We are grateful to the Coralwood Foundation leadership for their tireless work and commitment to funding the tools that keep Coralwood at the apex of early childhood education. With the support of the Foundation, Coralwood's exceptional faculty and staff are able to offer and support an inclusion curriculum like no other. If only every school had such committed parents and friends! We feel very blessed, indeed. -Lauren Davidson

FISCAL YEAR 2009 PROGRESS REPORT

During Fiscal Year 2009, the Coralwood Foundation successfully accomplished the following objectives:

- Raised \$67,000 toward the Endowment Fund through the Classroom Challenge;
- Achieved 100% parent participation in the Classroom Challenge from Coralwood families;
- Awarded \$8,900 for academic support to the 18 classes with 100% participation in the Classroom Challenge;
- Raised nearly \$28,000 through the Silent Auction and Wine Tasting;
- Built the ADA handicapped accessible Nature Trail portion of the Master Plan;
- Designed an ADA handicapped accessible Tree House for the Nature Trail;
- Successfully lobbied the DeKalb County School System to hire architects to begin drawing plans for the school expansion portion of the Coralwood Master Plan;
- Advocated to promote Coralwood's inclusion program and to preserve our partnership with Hawthorne Elementary;
- Received six grants totaling \$41,000 for a Promethean ActivBoard, laptops, development of a kindergarten arts curriculum, additional music classes, a free family festival, cultural arts programs, health and nutrition programming, the Nature Trail and related fitness equipment, and funds toward a Tree House along the Nature Trail;
- Presented five teachers with a total of \$1,400 in Mini-Grants for Teachers awards which funded a recycling program, an advanced reader group, yoga instruction to help modify behavior, a dramatic play program and Twin Vision books which allow sighted and blind students to read together;
- Awarded \$7,200 to teachers and staff to participate in both in-house professional development and off-site conferences through the Higher Opportunities for Teachers committee. Teachers were trained in Handwriting without Tears, Orton-Gillingham's multi-sensory approach to reading, and other innovative teaching methods.

FISCAL YEAR 2009 GRANTS AND IN-KIND GIFTS

GRANTS

Coralwood Parent Council - \$10,000
DeKalb County Board of Health School Nutrition, Physical Activity and Tobacco Use Prevention Grant - \$5,000
Georgia Council for the Arts
Arts Curriculum Enhancement Year Two Grant - \$4,850
Lowe's ToolBox for Education - \$5,000
Northside Hospital - \$1,000
Turner Broadcasting Inc. - \$7,398
UBS - \$2,250
UPS Foundation - \$5,462

IN-KIND GIFTS

Kevin and Jessica Bandy
Jennifer Bell
Chamberlin Blanton Associates
Todd and Amy Cameron
Kendall and Courtney Clark
Andy Fleming
Girl Scout Troop #4070
Cy and Mary Janet Hardin
Steve Harrison
Morris Manning and Martin LLP
Mike and Lucy Reid
Turner Broadcasting Inc.



The importance of the endowment fund becomes clear to me as I consider the short amount of time families are at Coralwood. Long-term, it will be our contributions to the endowment fund that will make a difference in another child's life 10 or 20 years from now. My gifts to the Foundation are a way for me to show gratitude for the love and care my own children have received while students at Coralwood and at the same time ensuring this same level of excellence for the future.

– Jessica Bandy

FISCAL YEAR 2010 GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

During Fiscal Year 2010, the goals and objectives of the Coralwood Foundation are to:

- Finalize architectural drawings of the Master Plan;
- Build the Tree House along the Nature Trail;
- Support and strengthen the Coralwood/Hawthorne partnership;
- Continue to foster an environment that promotes innovative educational methodologies in the classroom;
- Support the financial goals of the Foundation through the Classroom Challenge, Silent Auction and Wine Tasting; and
- Engage both current and alumni parents and community members to fully support the mission of the Coralwood Foundation.



SELECTED EXCERPTS FROM REVIEWED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Statement of Financial Position as of June 30, 2009

ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Cash and cash equivalents	\$60,900
Receivables	<u>2,010</u>
Total Current Assets	\$62,910
Endowment Assets (Long Term Assets)	
Cash	30,926
Marketable securities	<u>187,507</u>
Total Endowment Assets (Long Term Assets)	218,433
Furniture and Equipment, less accumulated depreciation of \$4,330	
	<u>20,147</u>
Total Assets	<u><u>\$301,490</u></u>
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	
Current Liabilities	
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	<u>\$1,800</u>
Total Liabilities	\$1,800
Net Assets:	
Unrestricted	14,619
Temporarily restricted	66,638
Permanently restricted	<u>218,433</u>
Total Net Assets	<u><u>299,690</u></u>
	<u><u>\$301,490</u></u>



The accompanying accountant's report, summary of accounting policies and notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

The entire reviewed financial statements are available online at <http://www.coralwoodschool.org/foundation>

The first place our four and five year olds wanted to go when they returned to school was the new nature trail. Making it accessible for all of the children in the school as well as welcoming the neighbors to enjoy it shows that Coralwood Foundation honors learning beyond the classroom and appreciates being a role-model for the community.

- Rebecca Stapel-Wax

SELECTED EXCERPTS FROM REVIEWED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Statement of Activities for the Year Ended June 30, 2009

	Temporarily Unrestricted	Permanently Restricted	Restricted	Total
Public Support & Revenue:				
Contributions	\$8,658	\$34,618	\$68,887	\$112,163
Special events, less direct benefits of \$5,290	27,741	--	--	27,741
Investment income (loss)	(25,598)	--	--	(25,598)
Donated services	15,750	--	--	15,750
Other	98	--	--	98
Total public support and revenue before transfers	26,649	34,618	68,887	130,154
Net assets released from restrictions due to satisfaction of donor-imposed requirements	36,912	(32,297)	(4,615)	--
Total Public Support and Revenue	63,561	2,321	64,272	130,154
EXPENSES:				
Management and general Program	14,297	--	--	14,297
Fund raising	74,580	--	--	74,580
	9,140	--	--	9,140
Total Expenses	98,017	--	--	98,017
CHANGES IN NET ASSETS	(34,456)	2,321	64,272	32,137
NET ASSETS, at beginning of year	49,075	64,317	154,161	267,553
NET ASSETS, at end of year	\$14,619	\$66,638	\$218,433	\$299,690

The accompanying accountant's report, summary of accounting policies and notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

The entire reviewed financial statements are available online at <http://www.coralwoodschool.org/foundation>

The Coralwood Foundation has afforded our sons Michael and Steven opportunities to learn, grow, and develop by funding specialized instruction for their teachers, providing amazing grant programs in the arts and technology, and building outdoor learning environments where they can explore the world around them. These unique educational programs promote excellence in early childhood education for our children today and will ensure them for the children of tomorrow.

– Mike and Lucy Reid



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