CORALWOOD SCHOOL FOUNDATION

2025-2026

ANNUAL REPORT

KEEPING THE CORALWOOD MAGIC ALIVE

OUR MISSION

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

BOARD MEMBERS

JOIN US!

CO-PRESIDENTS - CAROLINE CAROTHERS & DESIREE NATHANSON-JOHNSON
TREASURER - TOMMY CONROY
PRINCIPAL - MELANIE CASTELLE
ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL - KHADIJAH MUHAMMAD
DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT - SHARON RHODES

MEMBERS-AT-LARGE

REBECCA BLANTON
HEATHER FALKOWSKI
ASHLEY ANDREWS
JONATHAN BROUSE
LIDIYA KROCHMAL
REBECCA HARPER
EMILY KURZEN
ERIN HURST
RACHEL KAN
TERESE SANDERS
JANET PRESTON
NEHA SHAH
LENA SMITH
INGRID HARPER
TRENT LADSON
BRADLEY THOMAS

KEEPING THE CORALWOOD MAGIC ALIVE - TODAY, TOMORROW, ALWAYS

CO-PRESIDENTS' LETTER

(L-R) Desiree Nathanson-Johnson &Caroline Carothers

DEAR CORALWOOD FAMILY,

As we reflect on another incredible year, we are filled with gratitude for the unwavering support and dedication of the Coralwood community. Our theme, **Keeping the Coralwood Magic Alive - Today, Tomorrow, and Always**, reminds us that the magic of Coralwood isn't found in a single moment, but in the people who continue to invest in its future year after year.

We are thrilled to share that, thanks to your generosity, we raised **over $84,000** this year! Through the Coralwood Challenge, our Annual Auction, and other Foundation initiatives, your support continues to strengthen the educational experience for every student. One of this year's most meaningful accomplishments was rebuilding the beloved treehouse on the Coralwood Nature Trail, creating a safer, more accessible space for students and teachers to learn, explore, and imagine together.

Another highlight was our Community Work Day, where volunteers came together to restore and beautify the Nature Trail. Thanks to the generosity of those who participated in our Fund-a-Need appeal during the Annual Auction, we were able to bring in a team of hardworking goats to help begin the removal of invasive vegetation. Volunteers also planted native plants to enhance the trail, helping create a more beautiful and welcoming outdoor classroom for Coralwood students and teachers.

Every volunteer hour, every donation, and every act of kindness helps keep the Coralwood magic alive. **Thank you** for believing in our mission and for ensuring that Coralwood continues to be a place where every child can learn, grow, and thrive - today, tomorrow, and always.

Shine Bright

WITH HEARTFELT GRATITUDE,
CAROLINE CAROTHERS & DESIREE JOHNSON

'25-'26 FOUNDATION **ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

"KEEPING THE CORALWOOD MAGIC ALIVE"

IMPACT BY THE NUMBERS

TOTAL DOLLARS RAISED:

$84,973

TOTAL GRANTS AWARDED*:

$3,000

125

Community partners, auction sponsors and donors

APPROXIMATELY

580

PARTICIPANTS ACROSS EVENTS

OVER 65,000

Facebook and Instagram Views

$9,091

PROVIDED FOR TEACHERS AND CLASSROOM SUPPORT

OVER $73,000

SPENT TO DIRECTLY BENEFIT CORALWOOD

**Grants awards may be paid out in future fiscal years*

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!

- Annual Homecoming Event
- Cultural arts programming including the Alliance Theater Performances, in-school field trips and pottery artist in residence
- Higher Opportunities for Teachers (HOT) training and professional development
- Classroom supplies and curriculum resources
- Outdoor learning garden and classroom improvements, nature trail updates and maintenance
- Ongoing campus capital improvements including, but not limited to, sensory playground equipment, sunshades and sensory room!

ANNUAL HOMECOMING EVENT

We kicked off the beginning of the school year strong in September with our annual homecoming event! **Over 400 students, teachers, staff, alumni, and families** joined the fun to meet and reunite with the Coralwood community, play on the playground, and dance with our DJ.

Planning around our annual theme of "Keeping the Coralwood Magic Alive," kids could create their own magical art and share their photo booth pictures in a collage.

The event also featured a parade, tattoos, **Fellini's Pizza**, **Bruster's Ice Cream**, and a fun photo booth. Many thanks to Co-chairs Caroline Carothers and Terese Sanders, Chamblee High School student volunteers, and our event volunteers for making this fun afternoon possible!

Pictured: Coralwood Foundation Board Members

FALL FUNDRAISING CHALLENGE CAMPAIGN

The Coralwood Foundation's Annual Challenge solicits financial commitments from parents and supporters each year to support the school's long-term goals.

Coralwood families and the community rallied together to raise over $45,000 this year!

The Foundation used these donations to support student programs throughout the year, including arts education with the Alliance Theatre, a pottery artist residency, nature trail improvements and outdoor classroom renovation, classroom material stipends, HOT (Higher Opportunities for Teachers) for staff development, and more!

We are immensely grateful for everyone's support! Special thanks to **Taqueria El Vecino, Napoleon's, and The Grove** for their support in our spirit nights. And to the Lakeside High School cheerleaders for cheering with us at carpool!

Classrooms and teachers received incentives and parties for their participation in the Challenge, including popsicles, **Dunkin' Donuts, Donato's pizza** parties, dance parties, and gift cards. Congratulations to the **Jubirt/Rambler classroom** for achieving **100% participation!** Many thanks to **Desiree Nathanson-Johnson** for chairing this campaign and to the challenge committee for their hard work.

COMMUNITY PARTNERS and SPONSORS

COMMUNITY PARTNERS AND AUCTION SPONSORS CONTRIBUTED IN-KIND DONATIONS VALUED AT OVER

$60,200

IN 2025-26

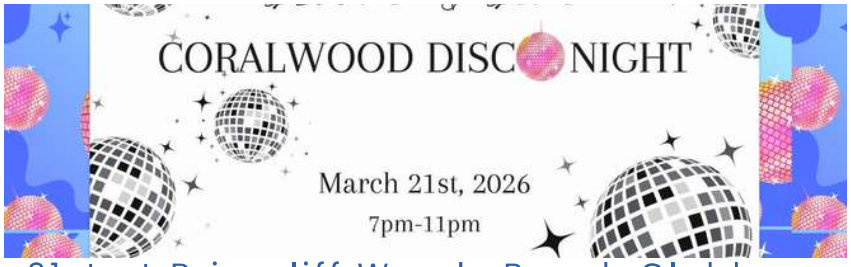
Our Community Partners in Education program aims to build a healthier community by fostering partnerships among businesses, schools, civic organizations, and nonprofits.

Many partner organizations have supported Coralwood through monetary contributions, event sponsorships, volunteering, and in-kind donations and supplies.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to our Community Partners in Education for their dedication to the mission and transformative work happening at Coralwood!

IF YOU OWN A BUSINESS OR KNOW AN ORGANIZATION THAT WOULD MAKE A GREAT COMMUNITY PARTNER, PLEASE CONTACT **SHARON RHODES AT DEVELOPMENT@CORALWOODSCHOOL.COM**

ANNUAL AUCTION



This year's Auction, held March 21st at Briarcliff Woods Beach Clubhouse, was themed **"Groove and Give: Coralwood Disco Night!"** It featured live and silent auctions with local business donations, school artwork, teacher experiences, vacation packages, a themed buffet, and delicious cookies by **Zen-baking**. The Boogie Bust game, sponsored by **Decatur Package Store,** drew enthusiastic participation for high-value liquor prizes and playful lock-ups. Special thanks to **Tower Wine and Spirits, Molson Coors, and Tito's Vodka** who sponsored our bar of beer, wine, and specialty cocktails.

"KEEPING THE CORALWOOD MAGIC ALIVE"

$37,300 RAISED FROM THE AUCTION!

Pictured below (L-R): Auction Co-chair Heather Falkowski presenting our Fund-a-Need project, attendees grooving on the dancefloor, (right) Classroom art and teacher experiences

Auction funds supported our "fund-a-need" project of a **Transformation of Coralwood's nature trail** into an accessible, sensory-rich outdoor learning space, adding features that promote exploration, movement, and hands-on engagement.

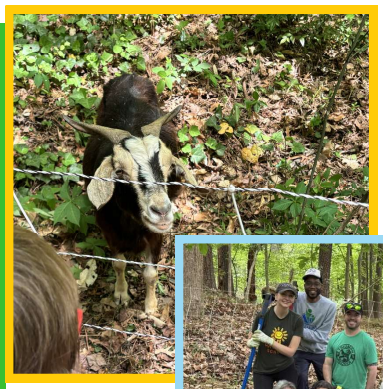
$9,550 RAISED FROM FUND-A-NEED PADDLE GAME!

Pictured:(left) Lidiya Krockmal is locked up in the Boogie Bust game w/ Ed King, (above) Coralwood staff show off their disco outfits for a group photo, (right) featured Alumni speaker, Caryn Murillo

Thank you to the following individuals (and many more!) who made the successful auction evening possible:

- **Ed King**, alumni parent who served as our auctioneer
- **Caryn Murillo**, Coralwood Foundation Alumni and Former Board member, gave a touching testimony about the impact Coralwood has made on her family
- **Wes Kurzen** of Wes Kurzen Photography, who helped document the night & edit event photos
- **Heather Falkowski & Caroline Carothers**, '25-'26 Auction Co-Chairs, and the entire auction committee, who were so generous with their time and energy, and worked tirelessly to pull off this special & successful fundraiser!

GRANTS & FUNDED PROJECTS



We are grateful to the following organizations and individuals that provided grants and support to the Coralwood Foundation, which helped support these major projects:

- **Georgia Council for the Arts** provided a $3,000 matching grant to the foundation, which supported in-school performances from Alliance Theatre for the Very Young and offered a pottery artist-in-residence program taught by **Celeen Robertson**.
- **STEAMland STEM Bus and Party Animals Atlanta** for bringing in-school enrichment programs to Coralwood with live animals and hand-on learning.
- **Coralwood's Garden Committee,** including Nurse Marilyn Anchors, Mrs. Erin Hurst and Ms. Mercy Chori, who completed Fernbank Science Center's Master Gardening Program with support from the Foundation's HOT programming.
- **Old Pine Decks,** for renovating our outdoor treehouse classroom with sustainble composite materials, and to **JPro Painting and Restoration** for completing finishing the project with beautiful staining.
- **Get Your Goat Rentals,** who spent approximately 15 days clearing invasive ivy from the trail area. The goats became a beloved part of the project and generated excitement throughout both the student body and broader community.
- **Coralwood Community Workday Event,** which brought major upgrades to the outdoor learning environment. Volunteers planted native plants, added sensory and exploration features near the treehouse, and mounted new nature-discovery elements throughout the trail. Each classroom now has a Nature I-Spy board to support ongoing outdoor learning.

FOUNDATION FINANCIALS

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITY

CORALWOOD FOUNDATION, INC
Year ended June 30, 2026

Income	Amount
Investment Income	$112,272
Contributions	$45,094
Special Events Income	$37,318
Government Grants	$2,500
Interest Income	$61
Total Income	**$197,245**
Expenses	
Development Expenses	$27,279
Administrative Fees and Expenses	$7,818
Special Events Expenses	$12,926
Capital Improvements / Purchases	$56,683
Higher Opportunities for Teachers	$3,200
Academic and Classroom Support	$5,891
Arts Expenses	$5,500
Groundskeeping	$2,380
Total Expenses	**$121,677**
NET INCOME FROM ACTIVITIES	**$75,568**

FOUNDATION FINANCIALS

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

CORALWOOD FOUNDATION, INC
Year ended June 30, 2026

Assets	2026
Cash and Cash Equivalents	$44,298
Investments	$1,001,325
Furniture & Equipment	$227,970
Less Accumulated Depreciation	($208,917)
Net Fixed Assets	
Total Assets	**$1,064,676**
Liabilities and Equity	
Total Liabilities	-
Opening Bal Equity	$81,057
Unrestricted Net Assets	$908,418
Net Revenue	$75,201
Total Liabilities and Equity	**$1,064,676**

FOUNDATION FINANCIALS

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

CORALWOOD FOUNDATION, INC
Year ended June 30, 2026

Cash Flows from Operating Activities	Amount
Net Revenue	$75,201
Adjustments to Reconcile Net Revenue to Net Cash provided by Operations:	
Accounts Receivable	$0
Accounts Payable	($0)
Total Adjustment to reconcile Net Revenue to Net Cash provided by Operations	$75,201
Net Cash provided by operating activities	**$75,201**
Cash Flows from Investing Activities	
Furniture & Equipment	($22,710)
Furniture & Equipment Accumulated Depreciation	$23,022
Net cash provided by investing activities	**$312**
Net cash increase for period	$75,513
Cash at beginning of period	$970,110
Cash at end of period	$1,045,311

THANK YOU FOR AN **AMAZING 2025-26 YEAR!**

Special thanks to our Foundation Board and all our Coralwood parent and family volunteers for the countless hours they spent to make this a successful school year.

Our heartfelt thanks go to our community partners, grant organizations, and the Coralwood families and community members—including alumni—whose support helped make this an outstanding year.

Finally, we extend a special thank-you to **Mindy Zeh** for her graphic design work on this report.

The Coralwood Foundation's vision and financial support has had a direct impact on our success at Coralwood School. **Each and every child and staff member** has experienced the benefits of the Foundation's efforts & dedication. We are forever grateful for any and every amount of support. **Please consider donating or volunteering!**

– Dr. Melanie Castelle
Coralwood School Principal (pictured above with our Co-Presidents)

DONATE

READY TO GET INVOLVED & VOLUNTEER?

Whether you are a parent, a relative, a community member, or a friend, there are tons of great opportunities to get involved & volunteer through Coralwood's Foundation.

EMAIL SHARON RHODES: DEVELOPMENT@CORALWOODSCHOOL.COM

Skill sets of all levels are valued. Coralwood's many committed volunteers have accomplished amazing things, but there are always great ideas and initiatives that are still waiting to be realized.

Coralwood Foundation c/o Coralwood School
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www.coralwoodschool.com

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