



Coralwood Foundation c/o Coralwood School 2477 Coralwood Drive Decatur, GA 30033 678.874.6002 www.coralwoodschool.com Like us on Facebook!





Coralwood Foundation



Coralwood School

Coralwood School is the only public school in DeKalb County dedicated to serving children with special needs between three and six years of age. Our research-based educational model includes 12 collaborative and coteaching classrooms in which six to eight children with special needs and ten to fourteen 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 teach 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.

2013 - 2014 CORALWOOD FOUNDATION

Committees & Chairs

ALUMNI - Jennifer Graham

CORALWOOD AUCTION - Jill Roark, Lane Carter, Meg Scheid

CORALWOOD CHALLENGE - Lila Cooperider

FINANCE - John Graham

HOT (Higher Opportunities for Teachers) - Cathy Ethridge

MARKETING & PUBLIC RELATIONS - Michael W. Martin

MASTER PLAN - Janet Haury & Rebecca Blanton

2013 - 2014 CORALWOOD FOUNDATION

Board of Directors

PRESIDENT

Wendi Berkman

SECRETARY

Jean Drezek

TREASURER

John Graham, Milemarker Group, LLC

SCHOOL PRINCIPAL

Melanie Castelle, Principal Coralwood School

TEACHER LIAISON

Marti Hunnicutt

TEACHER LIAISON

Cathy Ethridge

DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT

Julie Dascher

Rebecca Blanton, Coralwood Principal, retired

Brian Burns, Emory University

Terri Burns, AFLAC

Lane Carter, Fidelity Bank Mortgage

Lila Cooperider Coralwood Parent

Jennifer Graham Coralwood Community

Janet Haury, Zimring Law Firm

Pam King, Ringlez, Inc

Kristen Logan Coralwood Community

Michael W. Martin, MWMartin Communications

Jill Roark, Carter Consulting, Inc. for CDC

Meg Scheid Coralwood Parent

Jennifer Seay, Genex

2012-2013 Coralwood School Year

of Students: 229
of Home Schools Represented: 46

Percentage of students in the following categories:

Disabilities 46.29% Free and Reduced Lunch 8.29% Minorities 30%

No Limits

We focus on the limitless potential of all of our students, no matter what their gifts or challenges.



Life with "No Limits." Really? This is unimaginable to many families, especially those with special needs children who are often told that there are limits on expectations for progress or potential. Here at the Coralwood School, we focus on the limitless potential of all of our students, no matter what their gifts or challenges.

Last year, when faced with the loss of veteran teachers, significant budget cutbacks, and furlough days for all staff, the Foundation knew that a bold move was required to maintain the innovative program that we have built here at Coralwood. We all came together as a community to build an annual fund of \$60,000 to give back to our staff. Yes, that's right. We invested in our most critical resource: our staff. This included everyone, from our most senior teacher to the lunch ladies. Why? Because building a learning community that espouses "No Limits" as an educational philosophy requires talented and dedicated staff at all levels to reach and teach our children. Thanks to each of you, Coralwood weathered the storm and continues to be an incubator of early learning for DeKalb County.



So this year, as we continue in this "new normal" of enhancing our children's educational experience through the development of new programming, school improvements and staff incentives, please know how much we appreciate your financial gifts to the Foundation as we continue to create limitless opportunities to reach and teach children.

Janet Haury

2012 - 2013 President of Coralwood Foundation

Helanie Castelle

Melanie Castelle Coralwood Principal

Coralwood Foundation 2013-2014 Calendar

SEPTEMBER 26 - OCTOBER 25, 2013:

Coralwood Challenge

SEPTEMBER 6. 2013:

Coralwood School Homecoming

JANUARY 11, 2014:

Saturday Parent Academy (SPA)

FEBRUARY 22, 2014:

Coralwood Foundation Auction

2012 - 2013 CORALWOOD FOUNDATION

major accomplishments

- n Turner Volunteer Day Coralwood School was chosen as a site for Turner Volunteer Day on Tuesday, October 2, 2012. Nearly 80 Turner employees arrived at Coralwood and worked for hours on various projects around the school including: power washing sidewalks, benches and picnic tables; creating a crushed stone path and shade garden at the school's front entrance; cleaning the nature trail path and cutting back brush and ivy; placing tons of mulch and pine straw around our playground areas; cleaning out the sandbox; planting winter vegetables; building a scarecrow; painting wooden decorative vegetables and helping build a stand for a new outdoor nature trail map. Our school looked amazing!
- n Coralwood Homecoming Event Coralwood's First Homecoming event took place Saturday, August 25, 2012 and was a huge success! Hundreds attended this fun day and got to enjoy a Homecoming parade, (with floats made by Coralwood students & teachers) Bruster's Ice Cream, popcorn, a bounce house and live music from Sizzle Hiss Pop Band. Past and present Coralwood students, parents and teachers had the opportunity to reconnect with one another and made new memories!
- n Excellence in Teaching Award Lisa Nasser and Martha Hunnicutt were recognized at Coralwood's Homecoming Event for their Excellence in Teaching. This Coralwood Foundation award recognizes teachers and paraprofessionals who do an outstanding job in instruction, professional learning, communication, supporting the school and leadership.
- n Community Partner Award Fernbank Science Center's School Master Gardener program awarded Coralwood School with its Community Partner Award on May 10, 2012 at its School Master Gardner Celebration. Coralwood was recognized for its accomplished outdoor classroom areas where students and teachers go to learn. It also recognized all of Coralwood School's partners who worked on maintaining and improving these outdoor areas this past year including Turner Broadcasting, Briarlake Baptist Church and those families who participated at our Grounds Work Days. Congratulations Coralwood!
- n Coralwood Challenge Thanks to the many Coralwood families, staff, grandparents, teachers, board members and friends who gave generously to this year's Coralwood Challenge campaign, we raised over \$60,000. Every teacher and staff member at Coralwood received a monetary gift from this campaign to recognize and thank them all for the work that they do at Coralwood every day. Over the past seven years, the Coralwood Challenge has raised almost \$500,000.
- n Coralwood Foundation's 11th Annual Auction took place on Saturday, February 16, 2012 at the Miller-Ward Alumni House. Over 200 people attended including parents, friends, teachers and staff and we raised over \$230,000 to help fund teacher training and purchase playground equipment.
- n Camp Incredible Social skills summer camp called Camp Incredible. Thirty campers attended this three week camp in June. The camp was based on the Superflex Curriculum and campers were taught social and problem solving skills in a creative and fun environment with the support of the Alliance Theater.
- n Moon Rock Coralwood Foundation purchased a new moon rock climbing structure for the playground.
- n **Grape Crush Gala: A Night in Lebanon** On Saturday, May 4, 2013 the Coralwood Foundation's annual Grape Crush Gala celebrated with Lebanese cuisine, drink and entertainment at Oak Grove's own Mezza Bistro. This annual fundraiser supports the Coralwood Foundation.
- n Founded in 2008, **Higher Opportunities for Teachers (HOT) Committee** funds academic and enrichment opportunities to teachers and staff that are not supported by the school or PTA budget. This year, the HOT Committee awarded professional development proposals and mini grants. Congratulations teachers and staff and thank you for all you do for Coralwood!

GRANTS

- Atlanta Botanical Gardens
- Dollar General
- Kroger
- Turner Broadcasting

CORPORATE SPONSORS

- Children's Medical Group
- Merry Puppins Pet Sitting
- Publix
- Sagamore Properties

FAMILY SPONSORS

• Mr. & Mrs. Alan Singer

IN-KIND GIFTS

- Decatur Package Store
- di Amano Chocolate
- Dunwoody Bakery
- The Grove Restaurant and Tavern
- Sierra Nevada
- Sweet Dee's Bakeshop

IN-KIND SPONSORS

- Alliance Theater
- Mezza



fundraising events

n CORALWOOD FOUNDATION ANNUAL AUCTION

Coralwood Foundation's 11th Annual Coralwood Auction was held February 16, 2013 at Emory's Miller-Ward Alumni House. Funds raised from the auction supported professional development and mini-grants for our teachers and staff. Over 200 people attended and raised \$23,293, including \$3,904 towards our Fund-A-Project, which helped purchase a new moon-rock climber for our playground. Our generous sponsors included Sagamore Properties, Children's Medical Group, Merry Puppins Pet Sitting and Mr. & Mrs. Alan Singer. In-kind sponsors included The Grove, Sierra Nevada, Dunwoody Bakery, Piece of Cake, Decatur Package Store, Sweet Dee's and di Amano Chocolate. The auction was a huge success and the Foundation is grateful to all those who made a contribution towards this event.

CORALWOOD FOUNDATION WINE TASTING EVENT

Coralwood Foundation's Annual Wine Tasting Event was held May 4, 2013 at Oak Grove Village's **Mezza Bistro.** The Lebanese theme invited Coralwood parents and friends to sample delicious Middle Eastern wines and foods provided through Mezza and Peter Manzi of Quality Wine & Spirits while treated to belly dancing and music. We even got to bid on wonderful auction items. Thanks to those who organized the event and to those who attended, we raised \$2,205 towards Foundation operating expenses.

Give generously to the Coralwood Challenge!







VOLUNTEER!

volunteer@coralwoodschool.com

2013 – 2014 CORALWOOD FOUNDATION

Committees

- Alumni
- Coralwood Auction
- Coralwood Challenge
- Finance
- HOT (Higher Opportunities for Teachers)
- Marketing & Public Relations
- Master Plan





August 2013

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

- n AUGUST 7 8:30 am Parent Open House
- n AUGUST 12 First day of school
- n AUGUST 23 9:30 am New Parent Welcome Coffee
- n AUGUST 27 6:00 pm Curriculum Night





Coralwood Foundation, Inc. was incorporated in May 2005 to create a permanent endowment fund, the income of which is used to promote excellence in early childhood inclusion education at Coralwood School, 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, as well as a Director of Development who writes grants and raises funds for specific educational initiatives.

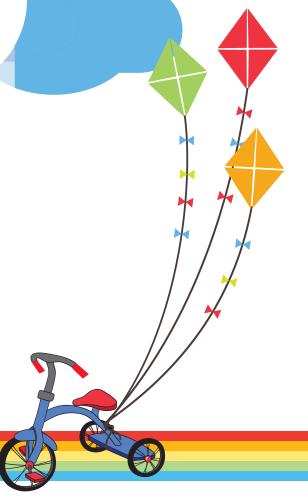
Currently, the efforts of the Foundation's Board of Directors are focused on the following initiatives:

- 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 Annual Auction and Wine Tasting, as well as grant writing activities;
- Working with the DeKalb County School System (DCSS) and the Board of Education to fund the Master Plan for Coralwood's campus in order to provide enhanced educational opportunities for our children;
- Implementing a marketing and communications plan that will position Coralwood School as the premier inclusion school in Georgia;
- Launching the website as a central location for comprehensive information about Coralwood and the Foundation, the PTA, related events and parent resources;
- Actively engaging Coralwood alumni, parents and friends in the continued work of the Foundation through community involvement and outreach as part of the "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.

*In the inclusion
education model, students
with special needs spend most or
all of their time with typicallydeveloping students. The school is
structured so that all students learn
together and benefit from each other.
For more information on Coralwood's
inclusion education model,
see page 21.







September 2013

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
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15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

DATES TO REMEMBER

- n SEPTEMBER 2 LABOR DAY School Closed
- n SEPTEMBER 3 Flower Power Fall Fundraiser
- n SEPTEMBER 6
 Coralwood Homecoming
 Coralwood Challenge
 kicks off!



Please give generously to the Coralwood Challenge!

WHY IS CORALWOOD SO IMPORTANT TO AIMEE & JACK SMALL Current Coralwood Parents

When our daughter's name was selected for Coralwood School. we were optimistic, but did not yet realize how lucky we really were. Once school began, it took no time at all to realize we had truly "won the lottery"! Madelyn thrived in this environment. She blossomed into a confident. inquisitive 4 year old through the cultivation of her tremendously talented teachers. At the same time, she developed an extraordinary sense of empathy from the relationships with her classmates. She has since graduated, and her younger sister is now able to begin her journey at Coralwood. Our family's lives will be forever changed by this unique adventure. We will continue to support the Coralwood Foundation to allow other families like ours the opportunities we have been fortunate enough to experience.





October 2013

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27	28	29	30	31		

- n OCTOBER 1
 Turner Day
- n OCTOBER 7
 School Pictures
- n OCTOBER 14 COLUMBUS DAY School Closed
- n OCTOBER 17Bus DriverAppreciation Day
- n OCTOBER 21 5 8:00 pm Spirit Night
- n OCTOBER 21 25 Book Fair
- n OCTOBER 25Book Character ParadeCoralwood Challengecomplete
- n OCTOBER 30 Pumpkin Patch at Coralwood

PAMELA AND ED KING

Current Coralwood Parents

Our son came to Coralwood in Pre-K with mild to moderate autism and developmental delay. Diagnosed at age two, we started devoting every resource available to help him. We made a lot of progress, but it wasn't until he was at Coralwood that we saw magnificent change.

The Coralwood team including the teachers in his classroom, his speech and occupational therapists, his paraprofessionals and the administration has helped our son blossom. He loves going to school. Now in Kindergarten, he excels in language arts and math, and his social skills are commensurate with his typical peers.

Coralwood has changed our lives. We could never have done on our own what Coralwood has done in their daily devotion to our son.

We give our financial support and our time to ensure that Coralwood will continue to help others like us in DeKalb County. May those that follow do the same. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

We are forever grateful.





November 2013

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
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24	25	26	27	28	29	30

- n NOVEMBER 1Square One ArtOriginal Artworkssent home
- n NOVEMBER 14 5:30 pmFall Performance5-8:00 pm Spirit Night
- n NOVEMBER 21 Thanksgiving Luncheon
- n November 25 29THANKSGIVING HOLIDAYSchool Closed



HYDI AND BRUCE KALMIN

Parent, PTA Exec Board Member

Our first experience with Coralwood was back in 1979, when Bruce was three years old and attended Coralwood after not meeting language milestones. Hydi's brother also attended Coralwood for his preschool years and her mom served as PTA co-president in the early 1980s. Fast forward to 2009, and our quiet little Benjamin began missing language and social milestones. Ben began going to speech and occupational therapy weekly since he was 19 months old. While he was making progress, the preschool programs we were enrolling him in simply didn't have the resources or knowledge to help Ben succeed in a school setting. At 3, we knew we had to get our son a spot in the Coralwood preschool inclusion program for the "therapy" piece and "social/educational" piece to fit together.

He started his preschool year in Meghan Pate's class, and had a truly incredible year. He started speaking out in class, first in a few words, but by the end, was talking in full sentences. And, he sometimes got in trouble for talking too much in class. He began to do silly dances during morning circle. He hugged friends. He HAD friends. We knew just what an impact the inclusion classroom had on him in November, when we planned on just inviting a few family friends to his birthday party at home. Ben looks at us, and says, "No Mommy, I want MY friends to come". And then started listing the kids in his class, one by one. Those 15 kids became his Coralwood family. So we had a large birthday party. Ben truly is a different child from the one who walked in the doors last August. In his Pre-K year, he is continuing to work on his goals and we fully expect to have new, more challenging goals written for him this year because his teachers and peers believe in him. He has learned so much about individuality and differences from his friends. Coralwood truly is a place that changes families' lives, not just the children who attend.





December 2013

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
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- n DECEMBER 3 6 Holiday Shop
- n DECEMBER 8 Holiday Treats
- n DECEMBER 23 JANUARY 6 WINTER BREAK School Closed



My name is Taylor and I'm almost 4 years old. I was born with Down Syndrome. A few months later I battled a life threatening seizure disorder. After 9 long months in and out of the hospitals, I got those under control and am still on medicine to help with that. The seizures delayed me in almost every area of my life. Because of them, I have a visual impairment and I am not talking or walking yet. I have to work extra hard to learn these skills. This past summer, I also had to have open-heart surgery to repair a hole in my heart.

My school, Coralwood, is unique as it is the only public preschool through kindergarten in an inclusion setting. This way I get to go to school and learn and play with typical and special needs kids like me. This allows for some very cool interactions, but because it's a public school and especially with all of the recent funding cuts, the budget is very tight.

Without a school like Coralwood, my disabilities would be a lot harder to overcome. I know my parents worry about me and they are so happy to have me in such a nurturing environment where I am given all of the opportunities I need to grow and learn to the best of my abilities, especially at this very important time in my life.



LANE AND CHRIS CARTER
Lane Carter, Foundation Board of Directors





§ January 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
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12	13	14	15	16	17	18
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26	27	28	29	30	31	

- n DECEMBER 23 JANUARY 6 WINTER BREAK School Closed
- n JANUARY 7
 First day of
 second semester
- n JANUARY 11 8 12 pm Saturday Parent Academy (SPA)
- n JANUARY 13 Nominations open for next year's Foundation board members
- n JANUARY 20 MLK DAY School Closed

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

CORALWOOD 12TH ANNUAL AUCTION Callanwolde Fine Arts Center

The annual auction is a primary fund-raiser for the Coralwood Foundation which exists to ensure that the children of Coralwood have a safe, nurturing and stimulating environment to address all their special needs. Join us for a fun and important evening Saturday, February 22nd.

- Meet Coralwood's staff and parents
- Bid on everything from city venue tickets to vacation home rentals to a wide selection of services and items
- Enjoy a catered buffet and cocktails

http://www.coralwoodschool.com/ support/auction/index.php





February 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
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2	3	4	5	6	7	8
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23	24	25	26	27	28	

- n FEBRUARY 14Grandparents and Special Friends' Day
- n FEBRUARY 17 PRESIDENT'S DAY School Closed
- n FEBRUARY 22 Coralwood 12th Annual Auction



Inclusive practices are an integral characteristic of schools that achieve strong measures of academic success. Why? Because:

- Students are educated whenever appropriate in general education classrooms with teachers skilled in the content taught.
- Opportunities to progress in the general education curriculum are greatly facilitated through inclusive practices.
- High expectations for all students are the norm.
- Instruction is differentiated to engage students on the basis of the skill sets, interests, and learning styles.
- Collaboration between general and special education staff results in flexible grouping that includes varied small group instruction, large group, and paired instruction.
- Students are actively engaged in instruction and in their own learning.
- Instructional accommodations and "scaffolding" are used to increase access to learning and academic success.
- Individual education plans identify specific accommodations, modifications and goals for each student.
- Strong parent-school partnerships are the norm.
- Ongoing training and staff development is encouraged and supported.

Sources: partially based on a Wikipedia description provided under "Inclusion (education)."

Accessed 27 August 2013.





March 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
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23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

- n MARCH 7 6:00 pm Family Reading Night
- n MARCH 28 Run, Walk and Roll



2012 - 2013 CORALWOOD FOUNDATION

Board of Directors

Suzanne Baker L'Arche USA

Rebecca Blanton

Coralwood School principal (retired)

Terri Burns AFLAC

Brian Burns

Emory University

Melanie Castelle, Principal Coralwood School

Julie Dascher, Director of Development Coralwood Foundation

Cathy Ethridge Coralwood School

Susan Glenz-Pierce
Dekalb County (retired)

Jennifer Graham
Foundation Board Member

John Graham

Milemarker Group LLC

Joanie Gross, Secretary Georgia Tech Catholic Center

Janet Haury, President Zimring Law Firm

Martha Hunnicutt

Coralwood School

Janet Langford
Coralwood School

Kristin Logan Coralwood Community

Anna Lutz Coralwood Parent

Michael W. Martin MWMartin Communications

Tara Merritt-Merchant

Kids Enabled

Lisa Nasser

Coralwood School

Jill Roark
Carter Consulting, Inc. for CDC

Jennifer Seay GENEX Services

Jennifer Sedlack
IHM School





Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
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13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

DATES TO REMEMBER

n APRIL 7 - 11 Spring Break

- n APRIL 23 Administrative Assistant **Appreciation Day**
- n APRIL 24 5:00 pm Spring Performance and Family Meeting
- n APRIL 28 MAY 2 **Teacher Appreciation Week**

THE ROARK FAMILY

Jill, Jerrimiah, and Henry

Our son Henry has been in some type of therapy for his needs since he was born. The one therapy that never seemed to progress was speech. The summer before he turned 3, Henry was diagnosed with autism. He couldn't say his name or tell us what he needed. He refused to participate in private speech therapy. We needed another plan.

Enter Coralwood. Henry started just days after his 3rd birthday and we were hopeful this would be exactly what he needed. We were excited and we had huge expectations. Still, Coralwood EXCEEDED our expectations. Within a few months we could already hear a difference. We were amazed to see him interact with his teacher. At home, he started using two-word phrases. By the end of the year, he was spending part of his day in an inclusion class.

Just before Henry's second year at Coralwood, we had his speech and communication skills evaluated. It was amazing. One year of Coralwood took him from the bottom of the speech chart to just below typical for his age!

All of the things that Coralwood provides wouldn't be possible without the support of Coralwood's parents, alumni, friends, relatives, and the community. The Coralwood Foundation has taken a very special school and made it extraordinary. And Coralwood has taken our very special child and made him a very special — and talkative — star student.

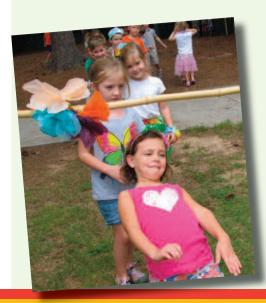




% May 2014

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25	26	27	28	29	30	31

- n APRIL 28 MAY 2 Teacher Appreciation Week
- n MAY 9 Spring Fling
- n MAY 20 Last Day of School



income statement

CORALWOOD FOUNDATION, INC. Statement of Income as of June 30, 2013

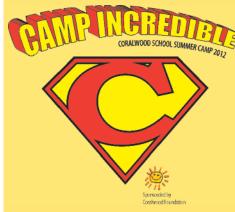
Income	Amount
Contributions	58,747
Grants	7,760
Special Events Income	
Auction Income, Net of Expenses of \$11,795	23,293
Grape Crush Income, Net of Expenses of \$1,895	2,205
Camp Incredible Income, Net of Expenses of \$14,721	1,190
Total Special Events Income	26,688
Miscellaneous Revenue	450
Investment Income	
Dividends and Interest	8,929
Gain on Value of Long-Term Investments	17,223
Total Investment Income	26,152
Total Income	119,797
Expenses	
Development Fees and Expenses	17,324
Coralwood Challenge Awards and Grants	39,879
Equipment, Landscaping, School Program Support	6,120
Parent Academy Net Expenses	679
Higher Opportunities for Teachers (HOT) Expenses	7,106
Administrative Expenses	2,744
Depreciation Expense	5,509
Total Expenses	79,361
NET INCOME	40,436





June 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
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29	30					



Camp Incredible is a place for students to improve their social skills—the best predictor of future success in school and life. Camp Incredible's" Superhero" theme features theatrical elements while also teaching students how to build appropriate social skills in a fun motivational way.

DATES TO REMEMBER

n JUNE 30 End of Coralwood Foundation Financial Year



balance sheet

CORALWOOD FOUNDATION, INC. Statement of Financial Position as of June 30, 2013

ASSETS

Current Assets	
Cash	37,700
Accounts Receivable	3,791
Investments	
Capital Improvements Fund	6,323
Endowment Fund	428,951
Total Investment Assets	435,274
Fixed Assets	
Furniture, Equipment and Other Fixed Assets	43,505
Less Accumulated Depreciation	(26,364)
Net Fixed Assets	17,141
TOTAL ASSETS	493,906



LIABILITIES

Accounts Payable	111
TOTAL LIABILITIES	111

NET ASSETS \$493,795



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		



THANKS TO THE FOLLOWING FOR THEIR HELP WITH THIS YEAR'S CALENDAR:

- Tracy Fernandez of Fernandez Design
- Candy Beam of **Gwinnet Graphics**
- Mike Martin of **Skylab*B**

2012-2013 Coralwood Challenge Donors

The Coralwood Foundation Coralwood Challenge is vital to our school. It supports our teachers and staff by providing opportunities for workshops and other continuing education programs that help make Coralwood a successful and enriching learning environment. The Coralwood Challenge also funds the Coralwood Foundation endowment, so children who attend Coralwood in the future will benefit from the same exceptional education our students receive today.

\$1,000 - \$5,000

Bill Crane
Todd & Lila Cooperider
Lester & Jean Drezek
John & Lydia Foreman
Todd & Brooke Goodwin
Scott & Jessica Hughes
Spencer & Trett Johnson
Hydi & Bruce Kalmin
Matt & Lauren Kehrli
Mark Kwan & Emily Leung
Jerrimia & Jill Roark

\$500 - \$999

Jeff & Wendi Berkman
Rebecca Blanton
Doug & Anu Bourgeois
Christopher & Alexandra Burris
John & Caterina Cappellari
Mark & Jill Cohn
Kelly Deen
Alexander & Dawn Durham
Walt & Liza Gebelein
John & Jennifer Graham
Mark & Ilene Grossman

Janet Haury
Jack & Heather Hawkins
Misha & Jo Ann Helms
Elliott & Amanda Jackson
Scott & Valorie Koziol
Bobby Mack
Adithya Rao & Vrinda Fernandes
James & Meg Scheid
Mark & Sonya Verrill

\$250 - \$499

Craig & Paula Ackerman
David & Valerie Alden
Addis Alemayeltu & Sara Abate
Noorali & Leticia Amersi
Jeremy Arieh & Mala Sharma
Jonathan & Lara Baldwin
Kevin & Jessica Bandy
Avner & Rachel Barisaac
Mark & Staci Beckwith
Stephen & Susan Besch
David & Stephanie Bravo
Matt & Elyse Burton
Britt Cloud & Suzanne Baker

Michael Coddington & Erin Dichiara
Daniel & Amy Codman
Jason & Stephanie Collins
Ryan & Nichole Collins
Kyle & Kataska Davis
Wade & Kelli Davis
Thomas & Meredith Dunn
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Matching Gifts

Abbott Laboratories Bank of America Home Depot Kimberly Clark Turner Broadcasting Wells Fargo Lila and Todd Cooperider are current parents at Coralwood. Lila is an active Board Member on the PTA and Foundation and is the 2013-14 Coralwood Challenge Chair. Below is her personal story and why she supports Coralwood.

The Cooperiders

Todd. Lila and Colin

The first time we heard about Coralwood School was when we were fifteen weeks pregnant with our son, Colin, and had just learned that he had Down Syndrome. Upon learning of our unborn son's diagnosis we immediately connected with the Down Syndrome Association of Atlanta and met a group of parents with children, both typical and special needs, who attended Coralwood School. The excitement and enthusiasm with which those parents spoke to us about Coralwood was hard to forget, even though at the time we were not yet thinking clearly about what school our son may attend someday. After Colin was born in September 2007, we continued to hear about Coralwood, and its unique inclusion environment for learning. However, as new parents of a child with a disability, we still did not fully comprehend why Coralwood was held in such high esteem by so many families in the community.



A handful of years have passed, and Colin is just shy of his sixth birthday and a student in an inclusion Pre-K class at Coralwood. Colin did not walk independently until shortly before his third birthday, and he was essentially non-verbal when he started in the Preschool program at Coralwood at age three. Within the first few weeks of attending Coralwood, we noticed that Colin's speech and vocabulary increased dramatically, as did his interpersonal and social skills with others. He was excited about going to school each day and the child that did not walk on his own until he was almost three years old was now running everywhere! It was apparent that Colin was energized by his new school environment, and we immediately fell in love with the teachers and staff at Coralwood. We finally understood the sentiment so many other parents shared with us about this school.

We understand, as realistic parents of a child with a disability, Colin's learning and development are delayed, and he continues to face a variety of challenges every day just to keep up with his peers. Regardless, we want what every parent wants for their child

- we hope that our son makes friends, enjoys hobbies and sports, obtains a quality education, pursues a job or career that he loves, contributes and gives back to his community, and most importantly, that he is happy. For us, Coralwood is the place where the foundation of all these hopes and dreams begin.

Coralwood is not simply an early elementary learning center. It is a place of promise and hope for all students of all abilities. It is a place where our son is accepted for his differences and encouraged by his teachers and peers to succeed. It is a place where he is challenged to push himself every day and is expected to follow the same rules and protocol as anyone else, regardless of the physical and intellectual challenges associated with having Down Syndrome. It is a place where he is taught compassion and patience for others, and it is also a place where he is taught to be a leader and to strive for excellence every day in everything he does.

We expect great things of Colin and know that he is intelligent and capable of accomplishing many things in life. The educational foundation and sense of community that Coralwood provides to its students can change lives. It has changed our lives. Because of Coralwood, we are now confident that Colin will continue to progress and mature and that he is on a path to successful growth. Because of the community that is Coralwood School, we are filled with hope for Colin's future.