



Isabel Shackelford, Kindergarten

Coralwood Foundation Fiscal Year 2006 Annual Report

The Coralwood School

Coralwood School and Diagnostic Center is the only public school in DeKalb County dedicated to serving children with special needs between 3-6 years of age. For the 2005-2006 school year, Coralwood served about 225 children, approximately 50% of whom had special needs, including medically fragile children, children with autism, children with severe speech/language disabilities who use assistive communication devices, and children with motor disorders such as cerebral palsy or spina bifida. Because Coralwood serves the entire population of DeKalb County, many of these children were bused in from all sectors of the county. Additionally, for the 2005-2006 school year, over 20% of the children received free or reduced price lunches.

Research shows that an inclusive classroom environment increases the developmental and educational gains of special needs children, including higher levels of social play, more appropriate social interactions and greater gains in language, cognitive and motor development. Coralwood School has 16 classes that serve children with disabilities. Eleven of these classes are inclusion classes which integrate special needs students and their typically developing peers. The remaining classes are self-contained and serve students with more severe disabilities. However, the children in the self-contained classes attend music class, motor therapy, and the media center with typically developing students.

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 occupational therapists regarding fine motor and sensory integration issues, physical therapists on balance and gross motor skills, and speech/language pathologists on oral motor and language issues. Primarily, these therapists provide services to children in the classroom and include both special needs and typical children in the various therapies.

What is the Coralwood Foundation?

A brainstorming session held last year in the office of Principal Rebecca Blanton focused on the desire of parents, administrators, teachers, and therapists to ensure that Coralwood's successful inclusion education program will be available to students for years to come. Coralwood Foundation, Inc. was incorporated in May 2005 to create a permanent endowment fund, the income of which will be 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 School. During 2005-2006, the Coralwood Foundation raised over \$77,000 for the Endowment Fund. The Coralwood Foundation funds the educational innovations of teachers and other professionals at Coralwood to support the education of special needs children and funds a Director of Development whose job is to spearhead grant writing and fundraising efforts for specific educational initiatives developed or proposed by Coralwood and other professionals. Additionally, the Coralwood Foundation is helping to create a Master Plan that will lead to the development of facilities designed to enhance the school's services. The Foundation views these projects as fundamental elements to improve the education of our children now and in the future.

The Foundation's Board of Directors, the teachers, the therapists, and the administrators of the Coralwood School are united in our efforts to continue to make a difference for the students of this school. We are giving current students a chance to receive a more comprehensive education and a better start in life, and we are building on that platform for the children who come later. The progress of the Foundation since last year has been remarkable. None of this would have been possible without the generous support of our parents, donors, and volunteers.

Coralwood Foundation Board of Directors

Janet Haury, President
Coralwood Parent Council

Alejandro Walters, Treasurer
Austral Wine Merchants

Elizabeth Rokholm, Secretary
BellSouth

Rebecca Blanton, Principal
Coralwood School and Diagnostic Center

Brenda Alexander
Civic Volunteer

George Clarke
Associated Credit Union

Nancy Gore
Civic Volunteer

Joanie Gross
Coralwood Parent Council

Richard L. Haury, Sr.
URS Corp.

Phyllis Isenberg
Retired, Special Education in DeKalb County

Mary Kaye Moore
Coralwood School and Diagnostic Center

Alexa Ross
Alexa R. Ross & Associates LLC

Kevin L. Sullivan
Fisher & Phillips, LLP

Paula Swartzberg
DeKalb County School System

“A journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step.”

Confucius



I'll never forget the day that a neurologist sat down with my husband, Rick, and me to tell us that our youngest child would probably never walk or talk. Currently in her fourth year at the Coralwood School, Mary Clara now recites the Girl Scout Promise at her Coralwood Daisy troop meetings, climbs and runs all over the playground, and talks about her teachers and friends at the Coralwood School. She has teachers, paraprofessionals, therapists and administrators who treat her like a star student and make a meaningful difference in her life. What all of these people see in Mary Clara is hope—the hope that she will grow up and contribute to society, and they have confidence in knowing that the Coralwood School will give her the start she needs.

The Coralwood School has pioneered the development of inclusion classrooms for young children ages 3-6 where students with disabilities can attend classes with their “typically developing” peers. Today, the school is not only the leading center for early childhood education in DeKalb County, but is also an innovative model where inclusive and self-contained special needs classrooms form an interdependent, integrated learning environment. In 2005 and 2006, the Coralwood School earned the Platinum Award for Academic Excellence from Governor Sonny Purdue, the Governor's Office of Student Achievement, and the Georgia Department of Education. The Platinum Award ranks the Coralwood School in the top 2% (98th Percentile) in Georgia for students meeting and exceeding standards—no small feat when 50% of our students have special needs.

The most remarkable thing about Coralwood School is its very normalcy; all of our children are just children, learning new things each day. Our Mary Clara learns side by side with many other children with special learning needs and “typically developing” children. This inclusive environment enables one to focus on the gifts and talents of each child, not the disabilities and handicaps. At Coralwood, compassion and caring are not abstract lessons, but woven into the fabric of this integrated environment. Coralwood children learn to be cooperative and experience different learning techniques, in an atmosphere devoid of judgment. These essential life skills are not chapters in a textbook at Coralwood, but values that are believed in and practiced every single day.

A very talented specialist may have been mistaken about Mary Clara's prognosis, but he could not have then known the impact of the Coralwood School, the strength of our commitment, and the magnitude of our hope. I want to express my sincere gratitude for our own “journey of a thousand miles,” for the countless hours of service by our directors, staff, parents, and our many volunteers. Many of these same people are also among the generous donors who have helped us come so far in such a short period of time. Together, we have taken the first step on our journey to support the Coralwood School for Mary Clara and her friends, and countless others like them now and in the future.

Sincerely,
Janet E. Haury, President



Christina Norris, Kindergarten

“ Since starting Coralwood, Ellie has become more confident...not only is she making friends, but she works to cultivate the friendships, and is much more aware of the feelings of others. She has grown so much...not only as a student, but more importantly as a person. Coralwood not only lays the academic foundation, but also and most importantly, the social foundation to help our children become wonderful productive members of our society. ”

Andrea and Tripp Smith, parents of Ellie, age 3

Message from the Principal



Over a year ago a small group of parents began talking about a Foundation whose sole purpose was to benefit the school. I knew it would be an exciting year. This dedicated, energized group of parents worked tirelessly to make Coralwood an even better place for children to learn and grow. Coralwood has always enjoyed a challenge. We now have the opportunity to see the Coralwood Foundation grow as it supports the Coralwood family. Everyone involved in the Foundation was amazed to see how much it did develop this first year.

The Board of Directors under the leadership of President Janet Haury is making Coralwood an even better school and is committed to training staff in current and research-based methodologies. This helps meet our goal of preparing all students academically and socially for our global society. It is my hope that the compassion and skills learned during this critical time in our students' development will last a lifetime.

Parents and professionals outside of the Coralwood family have frequently remarked that we never miss an occasion to celebrate. Because all students are special to us, we celebrate the many gifts, talents, and abilities of all students every day. With the remarkable success of the Coralwood Foundation we have even more to celebrate.

Thank you to the many parents, grandparents, special friends, and staff who assisted in making this one incredible year. Your generosity and vision will benefit future generations of young children.

Sincerely,
Rebecca Blanton, Principal



“After evaluating nearly 20 schools for Emily, we knew Coralwood School was our first choice, hands down...Emily's progress in the last two years is nothing short of extraordinary and a testament to the dedication of the Coralwood staff. We support the Coralwood Foundation because we want to ensure that other families like ours have the opportunity to experience the difference Coralwood School can make in their lives.”

David and Gretchen Pawloski, parents of Emily, age 5

Fiscal Year 2006 Progress Report

During the Fiscal Year 2006, the Coralwood Foundation successfully accomplished the following objectives:

- Formed an active Board of Directors consisting of local business people, educators, administrators, and parents.
- Successfully raised more than \$77,000 toward a permanent endowment for Coralwood Foundation, thanks to the generosity of Coralwood parents, friends, and matching corporate gifts.
- Hired Jennifer Sedlack as our Director of Development who is initiating grant writing and fundraising efforts for specific educational initiatives developed and/or proposed by Coralwood teachers, administrators and other professionals.
- Engaged Margaret Hylton Jones to spearhead strategic planning, to develop relationships with various foundations and philanthropic organizations, and to initiate annual and capital fundraising campaigns.
- Initiated the first steps to develop a Master Plan for Coralwood School that will establish a prioritized plan for effectively upgrading and expanding the facilities to fully utilize the 14 acre campus.



Coralwood Foundation, Inc. Fiscal Year July 2005-June 2006

Income:	Amount
Initial Deposit	\$ 501
Special Events	\$ 5,224
Silent Auction	\$ 19,000
Recycling Income	\$ 284
Interest Income	\$ 112
Total	\$ 25,121

Expenses:	Amount
Administration	\$ (841)
Prize "Classroom Challenge" Winners	\$ (427)
Carry-Over Teacher/Staff Professional Development FY 2006-2007	\$ (19,000)
Carry-Over Operating Funds to FY 2006-2007	\$ (4,853)
Total	\$ (25,121)



2005-2006 Coralwood Foundation Classroom Challenge Detail of Gifts

Donor Group	Number of Gifts	% Participation	Contribution
Faculty/Staff	5	8%	\$2,950.00
Friends	11		\$6,945.00
Grandparents	5		\$10,280.00
Matching Gifts	11		\$11,804.63
Parents	81	41%	\$45,141.00
Totals	113		\$77,120.63

“ John has excelled while in an inclusion setting at Coralwood. He is learning not only from the dedicated professionals working with him, but by watching and following his peers. This is an experience we would travel far to have – and we are blessed to have it in DeKalb County. ”

Restricted Income:	Amount
"Classroom Challenge" income for Endowment Fund*	\$ 77,121

* All pledges were made during FY 05-06. Some funds were received/confirmed after June 2006.

Fiscal Year 2007 Goals and Objectives

Our goals for the 2007 Fiscal Year are equally exciting:

- Complete the Master Plan.
- Pursue grant opportunities to fund teacher initiatives.
- Establish relationships with corporate and charitable foundations to fund, among other things, the Master Plan projects.
- Raise \$100,000 toward capital initiatives through the annual Classroom Challenge.

Together with our volunteers and donors, we will continue to make a significant difference in the lives of Coralwood's students through the exciting initiatives of the Coralwood Foundation.



Bella Levine, Kindergarten



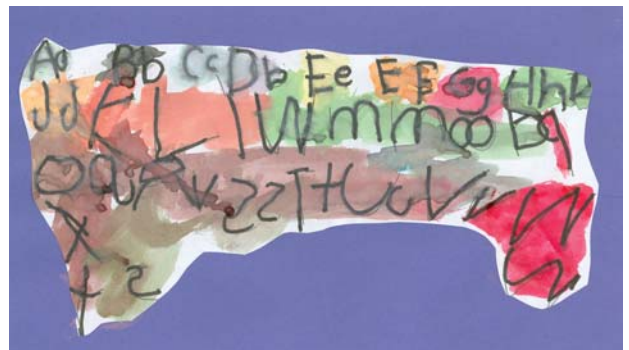
Michelle Martinez, Kindergarten

“ Our daughter had a rough start to her little life, spending 2 years in an under-resourced orphanage after being taken from an unfit mother. Coralwood is the “jumpstart” this challenged little girl needed to feel safe and secure and able to learn in her own way at her own pace. We firmly believe that Coralwood is the “gem” in the DeKalb County School system.”

Cindy Patrick and George Emmert, parents of Anna, age 5

“ The Inclusion classroom has made such a tremendous difference in our son's development. Our son is happy and doing amazingly well both academically and socially because of the unique Coralwood experience. Coralwood has given him a solid foundation for future success both in and out of the classroom.”

Denise and Ed Hill, parents of Jackson, age 5



Gabriel Springer, Kindergarten

Coralwood Foundation First Classroom Challenge (Fiscal Year 2006)

Vision Circle (\$10,000+)

Roger & Kathryn Taylor

Dedication Circle (\$5,000-\$9,999)

Mike & Joanie Gross
Bill & Lucy Hitt
Rhett & Lindsey Maughon

Pride Circle (\$1,000-\$4,999)

Frank & Rebecca Blanton
Zolali & Saba Borz
Larry & Kathryn Chambless
George & Sally Clarke
Douglas & Lee Ann Connell
George Emmert & Cindy Patrick
Marshall & Nancy Ford
The Fisher Family
Rick & Janet Haury
Donald & Wendy Hensel
Richard & Jessica Inskeep
Brian & Tamra Leslie
David & Gretchen Pawloski
Steve & Sandee Rogers
Matt & Sheri Slappey
Robert & Alison Solomon
Roy Wagner & Jody Steinberg
Michael & Sharri Thomas
David & Nancy Vaughan
Alejandro Walters & Katrina Kretsinger

Spirit Circle (\$500-\$999)

Jeff & Sheila Asher
Andy Fleming & Claire Lee
Phyllis Isenberg
Gregory Jay
Kirk & Linda Lanier
James & Joanne McClelland
Doug & Jayashree Morrison
Michael Piansky & Wendy Book
Charles & Deborah Randall
Michael & Lucy Reid
Mark & Mary Richmond
Steve & Becky Smith
John & Susan Stembel
Kevin Sullivan & Clotilde Perez-Espinoza
Luis & Kim Valdes
Robert & Michelle Whitelaw
Philip & Lisa Woody

Supporter Circle (Up to \$499)

Peter & Cara Abramson
Samuel & Angela Bibb
Anita Boyett
Jeff & Kathleen Brugger
Steve & Kristin Carney
Victor & Tina Carter
Tamara Cowan
Chuck & Renae Cureton
Cheryl Debrosse
Michael & Viola Drew
Emily Dunwoody
Mark & Mary Evarts
Benjamin Druss & Michele Fahey
Kurt & Katrina Fanstill
William & Susan Garrett
Scott & Jill Goodman
Nathan & Jamise Goodman
Walter Grosh & Robin Armenia
Eugene & Mary Jane Gross
Richard & Mary Anne Haury Sr.
John & Kim Hepler
Ferman Jay
John & Shellie Johnson
Alyn & Elizabeth Kellerman
Joseph & Julie Kelly
Doug & Theresa Kennedy
Richard & Eden Kozlowski
Robert & Susan Kurtz
John & Wendy Lauber
Martha Lindeman
Linda Melendy
John & Jill Mills
Roger & Nancy Nawy
William & Jolie Nolf
Daniel & Carolina Olazabal
Alexander & Dionne Park
Amnon & Karen Porat
Steven & Lauren Press
Debbie Primm
Dan & Carolann Reiter
Hermas & Angeline Rigo
Julia Roberts
Dennis & Elizabeth Rokholm
Keith & Miriam Sabin
Jeffery & Patricia Schaefer
Ray & Becky Smith
Barry & Laura Snyder
Paul & Barbara Taylor
Antony & Jennifer Tiberia
Michael & Kelly Ulven
James & Jennifer Vaughan
Robert & Stacy Welch
Charles Stowe & Belle Wilmer
Mark & Amy Wilson

Corporate Matching Gifts

Atlanta Group Homes Contribution Foundation
Bank of America Matching Gift Program
BellSouth
Federated Department Store
Kimberly-Clark Foundation, Inc
MeadWestvaco Foundation
Pfizer Foundation
Southeastern Marketing Group
St. Paul Travelers Foundation
The Coca-Cola Foundation
The Community Foundation
TimeWarner
Stone Mountain PR



Cameron Snyder, Pre-K



Quinton Masters Stokes, Kindergarten

