



according to **GOD'S PURPOSE**

Our mission statement is not just a description of our values and culture—we believe it is a calling according to God's purpose for our school.

Romans 8:28 says “And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.”

In the pages ahead, we will celebrate and share with you the ‘good’ of what God has done—and is doing—at Brookstone Schools with your support. Better access to high-quality education is a reality for more students, and we are grateful to all who have helped to make it possible.

PURPOSE STATEMENT

LEADERSHIP MESSAGES

Overwhelming Thanks

Dear Brookstone Families and Friends—

Each year I look forward to sharing our Annual Report, as it is an opportunity to thank God for His many blessings and you, our donors, for joining our story and partnering in God's work here at Brookstone.

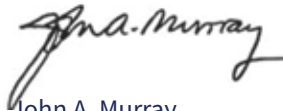
Here are just a few of the highlights we are thankful for so far this year:

- The highest enrollment in the school's history (220) with 80 new students—including the largest 8th grade class (23).
- A new bus service with two separate lines—one in East Charlotte, the other in West Charlotte—supporting 89 students, 21 students who are new to the school
- The highest student retention rate—92%—since we began keeping records in 2016.
- The new Junior Kindergarten for 4-year-olds—accepting 15 new students for this school year.
- Our new “Bridge Program” that allows us to accept students who are more than 1-3 years behind where they should be academically. We currently have 10 students in the program from grades 1-4, and we hope to grow to 25-30 students next year.
- Our students in grades 3-8 scoring 90+% at or above grade level in reading comprehension and math

We cannot thank you enough. I hope you enjoy this Annual Report and celebrate the work God is doing for our students and families, as we seek to glorify Him in all we do.

Faithfully yours,

God bless you!



John A. Murray
Head of School



Cultivating Wisdom

Brookstone Schools was founded as a Christ-centered school with a mission to honor God by offering a program of academic excellence to under-resourced students. Recognizing the timeless and comprehensive nature of a Christ-centered classical education, the founders selected this model over 20 years ago as Brookstone's educational philosophy.

The format of a Christ-centered classical education prioritizes the skills of learning (how to learn) and aligns with children's natural development. In our Lower School, this looks like lots of songs, chants, and memorization that reinforces and solidifies a body of knowledge that students will need as they advance through school. On this foundation,

Upper School teachers can engage students in meaningful discussions, research, writing, and debate. All of this serves as a strong program of preparation for high school.

Because our goal is to cultivate wisdom in our students, the content of a Christ-centered classical education is carefully considered. As Christians, we recognize an inherent relationship between knowledge and wisdom - but they are not synonymous. As C.S. Lewis said in his treatise on education, *The Abolition of Man*, "Education without values, as useful as it is, seems rather to make man a more clever devil." A Christ-centered classical education teaches what is noble, right, pure, lovely, and admirable (Philipians 4:8).

As a philosophy, our goal at Brookstone is not just to pass along information, but to help students see themselves as image-bearers of God with a divine purpose to fulfill. Anchored by this identity, students are called to sharpen their minds and soften their hearts, so that they can serve God with lives of leadership and service, wherever he takes them.

Sarah Arensman

Sarah Arensman
Assistant Head of School



Sarah Arensman is Brookstone's Assistant Head of School. Sarah joined Brookstone in 2023 after twelve years at her former school. She began her career in education as an elementary classroom teacher, moving up to teach middle school and finally high school. Sarah has also worked as an Academic Dean, an Instructional Coach, and a Head of School.

With a background in Christ-centered classical education, Sarah brings a wealth of knowledge and experience in helping Brookstone shape its academic identity and lead its teachers in pursuing a unifying educational program.



BROOKSTONE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Bill Elmore – *Chair*
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Robert Huggins – *Development Chair*
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Shaun Dreyer
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Beth Harvey
Anne Ishee
Theresa Kasay
Palmer McArthur
Greg Taylor



THANK YOU TO VOLUNTEER COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Partner Council
Development Committee
Event Planning Committee

SERVING THE PURPOSE

BROOKSTONE OVERVIEW

220 STUDENTS

Currently the highest enrollment in the school's history, 80 students are new to Brookstone this year. We have the largest 8th grade class with 23 future graduates.

11:1

Average Student to Teacher Ratio

30%

Faculty with Advanced Degrees

13

Average Years of Faculty Teaching Experience



Now offering
4 y/o Junior
Kindergarten

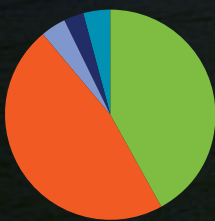
Significant Scholarships

Brookstone 8th grade students have been offered significant scholarships to attend the following prestigious high school programs

- Carmel Christian School
- Covenant Day School
- Charlotte Christian School
- Woodberry Forest
- Hickory Grove Christian School

\$550K

in high school scholarships provided for 7 Brookstone graduates last year.



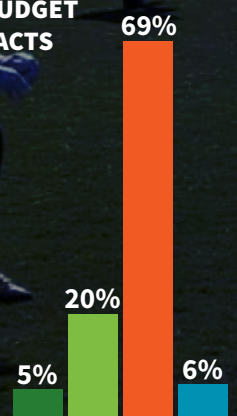
STUDENT COMPOSITE

- 47% African/African American
- 42% Asian/Pacific Islander
- 4% Hispanic
- 4% White
- 3% Multiracial

15

NATIVE
DIALECTS

BUDGET FACTS



- Family Tuition
- NC Opportunity Scholarship
- Supporter Generosity
- Endowment

75%

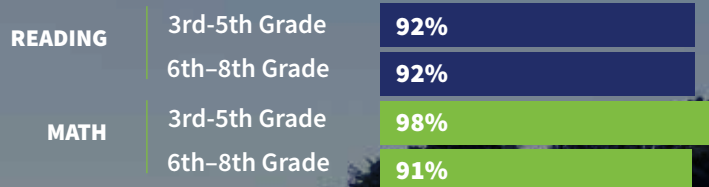
Students who
qualify for free and
reduced lunch



46%

Faculty of Color

Brookstone students' reading/math scores are at or above national norms.

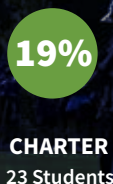


99% 

High School graduation rate
among Brookstone alumni
since 2014

The number of students Brookstone graduated since 2014 who attended
area public, private, or charter schools.

124



BROOKSTONE ALUMNI HAVE
CONTINUED TO THESE COLLEGES

Air Force Academy	Tufts University
Appalachian State	UNC - Charlotte
Clark Atlanta Univ.	
North Carolina A&T	
North Carolina State	

Providing for Today: Annual Promise Fund/Operations

Today we have grown to over 200 students in grades Junior Kindergarten through 8th. Over 70% of our budget is covered by the generosity of community members and grants.

\$3.1MM

2024-25 BUDGET GOAL

\$4.5MM Planning for the Future: Endowed Funds

Our goal is to make sure that Brookstone Schools can serve students well into the next generation and beyond. Growing our Endowment is a necessary step toward sustainability and will provide interest earnings to support classrooms for years to come.

SUPPORTING PURPOSE

GRATEFUL FOR YOUR SUPPORT



ENRICHMENT PARTNERS

Ms. Nichelle Nelson's Etiquette Class
Demetrius Dawson's Violin Class
Charlotte Eagles
God's Outreach Ministry Arts Plus
Augustine Literacy Project
CMPD - Officer Davies
Handprints and Footsteps Museum on the Move
Charlotte Christian School

CHURCHES AND COMMUNITY GROUPS

All Saints Anglican Church
Hope Community Church
Resurrection Presbyterian Church (OPC)

Snyder Luther Fellowship Bible Class MPUMC
South Lake Presbyterian Church
Sovereign Grace Presbyterian Church
St. Matthew Catholic Church
The Longview Men's Group
Uptown Church, PCA
Westminster Presbyterian Church

FOUNDATIONS

Akers Foundation Inc
Hayes Family Foundation
Lucille P. & Edward C. Giles Foundation
Mebane Charitable Foundation, Inc.
The Dickson Foundation, Inc.

The Dowd Foundation
The Four Ten Foundation
The George T Lewis, Jr. 2001 Foundation
The Herschel H. and Cornelia N. Everett Foundation

CHARITABLE ORGANIZATIONS

American Endowment Foundation
Ayco Charitable Foundation
Bank Of America Charitable Foundation
Everence Foundation, Inc
Foundation for the Carolinas
GiveClear Foundation (DAF)
Goldman Sachs Philanthropy Fund

Jeremiah 9:23 Fund
National Philanthropic Trust
The National Christian Foundation
The Signatry Foundation
U.S. Charitable Gift Trust
US Bank Foundation

INDIVIDUALS

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Rosemary Smith*

Leadership Partners

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Cindy and Jack Carmola*
Ellie and Bill Elmore*
Jeanine and Tim Flanagan
Janet and Frank Harrison



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Andrea and Nathan Howard*

Kelly and Randy Lake

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Betsy and Kenneth Samuelson*

Nancy and Don Smith

Robyn and Randy Stump*

Maryalice and Tink Vann

Full Tuition Partners

Jane and Tom Coyle*

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Phyllis and Kodwo Gharthey-Tagoe

Karen and Jeffrey Kung*

Liz and Whit McDowell*

Lynn and Preston Purdum*

Wendy and Jason Schmidly*

Robin and Steven Weaver*

Partners Plus

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Roy Cook III

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Anne and Peter Gilchrist*

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Lucy and Keith Trent

Cindi and Jamey Vaughn

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Kevin Kelly

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Audrey McBratney*

Kathy and Frank McElwee*

Portia and Steve McLeod

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Meg Montague*

Jenny and Stephen Neill*

Emily and Bill Oliver*

Connie Ott*

Katherine and Hunter Pugh*

Norma and Mark Ricci

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Angel and Dan Rutledge*

Sandy and Paul Stewman*

Kate and Ethan Stillinger*

Laura and Joe Talamo*

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Julie and Perry White*

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Brenda and Francis Brantley

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Beth and Terry Comer

Rebecca and Jacob Darling

Loree and William Davis*

Meg and George Dewey*

LaDelle and Paul Dowdy

Patsy and Jere Drummond

George Edmiston

Kathleen Feezor*

Kathy and Bill Foster*

Nancy and Mel Garofalo*

Monica and Norm George*

Hillary Gruce

Susan and David Hiller

Sarah and Andrew Holmes

Clare and Wayne Houston

Suzy and Clark Johnson

Joy Lamb*

Elaine and James Martin



GRADUATE WITH PURPOSE

STUDENT STORIES



Chris Martin
Brookstone Class of 2010



'23-'24 Brookstone basketball team players in action.

Everything Started Here

Brookstone is special because it's the first thing my whole family invested in together. My brother, sister, and many of my cousins graduated from here. For me, everything started here. It's where I received guidance, began my relationship with God, and discovered my love for basketball. Brookstone was like a second family to me.

Seeing the way Brookstone has taken care of my family drives me and pushes me to make sure I'm doing something right for them because of what they did for me. —Chris Martin



- Chris was a 2024 HBCU All-Star award winner and was named the Earl “the Pearl” Monroe NCAA Division 2 player of the year
- Chris was also the SIAC player of the year and his Clark Atlanta Men’s Basketball team were the 2023-24 SIAC Champions.



Co-Valedictorians

On the Cover

Last spring we were honored to celebrate co-valedictorians;
Kalkedan Woldesenbet and Tyler Nelson.

We applaud their accomplishments and pray
for them as they start their high school years.
Both currently attend Covenant Day School.



Kalkedan excels at spelling and writing. Her favorite subject is English and in the future she wants to be an author.

“Brookstone has been like a second home to me. I love my friends, and I am so glad God brought me to this school.”



Tyler excels at football. His favorite subject is PE. In the future he'd like to be an NFL player.

“I’ve been at Brookstone since kindergarten. I’ve had an amazing time here and I’m sad to leave.”

A HIGHER PURPOSE

PASSIONATE DEVOTION

Darci and Chris Home

Brookstone Partners and Founding Members of the Legacy Society

From the day Brookstone students began to fill our church halls and join us for the children's ministry program we led, we knew God was working. The new faces and friendships we made then were an absolute joy. We have had the privilege to watch many of them grow up and move on while staying connected to the newer, younger students who are destined for greatness.



Brookstone delivers an educational experience unlike any other. This school is a close-knit, caring community that allows children of all ages and social circumstances to flourish educationally while growing and developing their relationship with Jesus. As a result, Darci and I have witnessed firsthand the positive changes in the lives of students and families that will forever impact their future.

As volunteers, it is a blessing for us to come alongside the amazing teachers and faculty and see tangible results—how God is raising up the next generation of community leaders at Brookstone!

People often ask how we got involved in this ministry and what it means to us. We were immediately drawn in when God brought Brookstone to First Baptist Charlotte. He planted a passion in us to help students break through a cycle of poverty through a strong, Biblically sound education.

We are fully devoted to Brookstone's mission and the life-changing, Christ-centered education it provides. Please join us by supporting Brookstone and make a Kingdom building impact for the future, for many years to come.

LEGACY SOCIETY MEMBERS

Carole and Ray Ardizzone
Alice and Bill Brafford
Sara and Miller Byne
Cindy and Jack Carmola
Debbie Hix and Doug Christensen
Olive and Sam Cornwell
Sally and Don D'Alessandro
Meg and George Dewey
James C. Evans
Mollie Faison
Jenn and Mike Freno
Patty and John Gruce
Frank and Jan Harrison
Lois and Mark Hawkins
Charlie Holcomb Sr.
Darci and Chris Horne
Sue and Dennis Makepeace
Julie and Flint McNaughton
Lisa and Robert Menzel
The Bill and Dot Morgan Family
Legacy Fund
Jenny and Stephen Neill
Jackie and Lou Pfeiffer
Lynn and Preston Purdum
Rosemary and Brad Smith
Sharilynn and Mike Smiley
Jane and Gibson Smith
Erika Steiner
Cathy and David Thompson
Mary and John Tinkey
Bradley Touma
Suzanne and Peter Wilson
Melanie and Charles Winton
Ann and Gayle Wylie

DUAL PURPOSE

GIFTS GIVEN IN TRIBUTE

■ School Library Named In Honor of Its Founder

AUGUST 15, 1951–JULY 18, 2024

IN MEMORY OF KAREN MELLO

Brookstone Schools' library founder and first librarian.

From Brookstone's humble beginnings with just two classrooms, Karen set out to create a library—often bringing in donated books one box at a time. Over 23 years, she's shared her love of reading with students; a legacy that will live on at Brookstone Schools.

Brookstone Schools is pleased to name the school library in Karen's honor, for her dedication and commitment to excellence.



Paul A Bennett

Betsy and Mike Blair

Melissa Bryant

Kim and Ed Cherry

Dale Coulthard

Terry Thirion Fitzpatrick

Betty Hower

Davis Kuykendall

Jackie and Lang Ligon

Beverly and Lawrence Lueke

Sue and Dennis Makepeace

Marilyn Newton

Ann and Jim Prock

Susan and Bob Salvin

Betty and Philip Talbott

Carla and Larry Vitez

Robin and Steven Weaver

HONORARIUM

DONOR | IN HONOR OF

Lauren and Charles Thrift | Anne Ishee

Marc and Mattye Silverman | Annette Dreyer

Stacy and David Cordes | Arnold S. Chamberlain

Sue and James Moore | Brookstone's Montagnard Students

Kris and Chris Ullman | Carole Ardizzzone

Teresa Akins | Cathy McElfresh

Vicky and Adam Holtzschue, Patricia and Jere Drummond | Maryalice Vann and Clifton (Tink)

Anne Woody, Livingston and Haven | Clifton Vann III

Elizabeth and Bart Shaw, Meg and George Dewey, Jay and Olga Faison, and Sara and Miller Byne | Kitty and William Bray

Jessica Klasinski | John and Patty Gruce

Donna and James Cloud | John West Jr.

Wandra and George Mackie | Karen Pritchett

Allison Meyer-Tucker | Ken Samuelson

Begee and Clifton Vann | Maryalice Vann

David Burack | Mona Wesley and Michelle Baldwin

Mary Crowder and Reed Paden | Patricia Gruce

Ann and Gayle Wylie, Steve Wylie and Steve Duprey | Robin and Steve Weaver

Debby and Stuart Woodhouse | Robin Weaver

Cindi and Breck Bolton | Sam and Olive Cornwell

Roberta and Claude Davis | Sam Cornwell

Elizabeth and Bart Shaw, Alice and Bill Brafford | Sara and Miller Byne

Emily Jarrell Urbanek, William B. Cook | Suzanne Wilson

JoBeth Edwards | Todd Martin

Michele and Walter Fisher | Tom and Jane Coyle

Richard Deason | Whit McDowell

MEMORIAL GIFTS

DONOR | IN MEMORY OF

Nancy and Don Smith | Brad Smith



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Claudia and Tom Waters
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Stuart Woodhouse*

Level of Excellence

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Louise and James Whitley
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Jonathan Wilson
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Anne Woody

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Jon Williams*
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Henry Winship
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Ann and Gayle Wylie*

PURPOSEFUL LIVING

NEW PROGRAMS

Bridging the Opportunity Gap

When good public schools are inaccessible and private schools are unaffordable, families in under-resourced communities are stuck without options for their child's education.

Since we believe every child deserves an outstanding education, it is our goal to bridge the gaps to opportunity. Along that line, we are honored to share the new programs established to better serve under-resourced families.

Students testing behind their grade level is an all-too-common reality. This is particularly true for students with limited access to high-quality programs that address the issue. Since the pandemic in 2020, the gaps have only gotten wider for students at all socio-economic levels. In the past, Brookstone applicants testing more than 18 months behind grade level would have been turned away. Starting this year, we have two new programs that will address this critical issue.



THE BRIDGE PROGRAM

First, we are piloting a “Bridge Program” that allows us to accept students who are more than 1-3 years behind where they should be academically.

They receive intensive reading, writing, and math instruction from trained interventionists for three hours each day with a 5 to 1 student to teacher ratio.

Your continued support can help us to grow to reach our goal of 25-30 students in this program.



JUNIOR KINDERGARTEN

Second, we are now offering Junior Kindergarten for 4-year-olds—accepting 15 new students for this school year. Children who start school in junior-kindergarten are more likely to develop motor skills, learn pre-math and reading skills, and increase language and thinking skills that properly equip them for a successful move into Kindergarten.



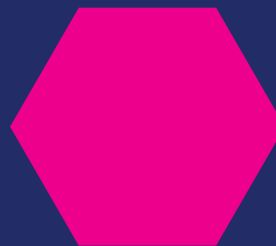
BUS TRANSPORTATION

We began bus service with two separate lines, one in East Charlotte, the other in West Charlotte, reaching neighborhoods previously unserved. Today, 89 students have taken advantage of this program, enabling us to increase enrollment as well as help with our retention rate of 92%—the highest in our recording history.

By God's mercy and grace, Brookstone is arguably in the best place in its 25-year history. Your support has played a vital role and we cannot thank you enough.

Enrollment is open for the 2024-25 school year. Brookstone is a private, Christ-centered school that seeks to glorify God by equipping under-resourced students spiritually, socially and academically for future lives of leadership and service.

Scan here for more information. We invite you to share with families or ministries that may be interested in this opportunity.



ASEP is looking for volunteers!

The After School Enrichment Program (ASEP) offers homework help, enriching activities, field trips, and special events for students needing after school care.

To volunteer, reach out to volunteer@brookstoneschools.org and mention ASEP and we will help you get started.





Friends Society

Karen Ackeifi
Teresa Akins
Angela and Daniel Anagho
Ann Marie and
Vaughn Antab
Matthew Ausen

Amy and Eric Bartel
Elizabeth and Charles
Beck III
John Bentley*
Kathy and Jeff Blank
Patricia and
Lawrence Blume
Mary and Raymond
Boardman
Gilda and
Stanley Boelkins
Judy and Dave Boozer

Jennifer and Paul Briggs
John Brown*
Tom Brown*
Leigh Bullard
David Burack
Donna and Donald Butler
Tyler Campbell
Kay and Bud Carrier*
Naomi Carry
Allison Chambers
Alison and Joe Cherry
Donna and James Cloud
Kathy Combs
William Cook
Sue Ann Copley

Hunter Cosgrove
John Crawford
Mary Crowder and
Reed Paden
Nancy and John Currid
Zoe and Nick Dabbs
Lori and Kevin Dale
Roberta and Claude Davis
Allene and Raymond
Dean
Richard Deason
Janny and Bill Deloache*
Derrick Dohm
Shelley and Larry Dove*
Debbie and Victor Duniec
Angela Dusenbury
JoBeth Edwards
Esther and Sam Farnham
Becca and Lucas Fries*



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 Carmen and Brian Gray
 Tamiko Greenlee
 Pam Griffin
 Nancy and Daniel Grover
 Sherrie Hall*
 Dolly Hoffmann
 Jasmin and Ryan Johnson
 Alecia Johnson
 Scott Jones
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 Janice and Francis King
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 Kathryn Spieler
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 Zach Thornton
 Bradley Touma
 Alan Tsumas
 Emily Urbanek*
 Begee and Clifton Vann
 Shandrea Walden
 Nancy Kate Walker
 Anne Watkins
 John Weaver
 Nancy White and Wendy Burnham*
 Steve Wylie and Steve Duprey
 Mary and Steven Zimmerman

**Longterm Patrons*



PURPOSEFULLY CONNECTED

ENRICHMENT PARTNERSHIPS

The Uptown Farmers' Market and Nourished Rhythms join our garden volunteers for healthy snack initiatives



Micro Class Benefits Students

Kathleen Smith has been tending the school garden and teaching 'garden to plate' lessons to students for 14 years. Last year, Anne Ishee joined Kathleen's volunteer team and together they created a healthy snacks micro class to teach healthy eating habits and share snacks made from the school garden's harvest.

Our little garden didn't always have enough of a harvest for this growing program, so we partnered with the Uptown Farmers' Market to add more farm fresh veggies and fruits!

We are so thankful to the volunteers and to our partners for making these initiatives possible, because healthy eating is a vital first step to improve focus, memory and alertness for a successful day of learning.



- Learn more about how Anne's small business supports Brookstone Schools by visiting <http://www.nourishedrhythms.com/services>
- Learn about the Uptown Farmers Market here <https://www.uptownfarmersmarket.com/>



Serving Student Athletes in Charlotte

- We Want To Thank Our Partners At The Charlotte Touchdown Club For Helping To Support Our Sports Programming In 2023-24



The Charlotte Touchdown Club is a 501(c)3 non-profit Sports-Social organization founded in 1990 for the purpose of promoting high school, collegiate, and professional football in the Charlotte, North Carolina Region. Today, the Club has grown as well as diversified, boasting a Sponsor Team of over seventy companies.

Through a joint partnership with Coca-Cola Consolidated, we have been named the Club's principal charitable organization for marketing and support.

Over 70% of our budget is met by the generosity of supporters in the community. We are grateful to our corporate partners for their contribution.

BROOKSTONE'S CORPORATE PARTNERS

A-Wow The Plant Gal LLC	KNEX Worldwide LLC
Beacon Partners	Livingston and Haven
Charlotte Touchdown Club	Nuttall Associates
Chris Kearns & Co., LLC	Chemical Brokers
Coca-Cola Bottling Co. Consolidated	Showalter Construction
Crosland Southeast	Todd Brower Real Estate
DeSignia	TrinityPoint Wealth
Duke Energy	Truist
Edison International	Wealth Enhancement Group
Ernst & Young U.S. LLP	Wells Fargo - Oliver Private Wealth Management
Harris Teeter, Inc.	
Horne Heating and Air Conditioning	

To learn more about how your business could get involved, email development@brookstoneschools.org

SERVING THE PURPOSE

FINANCIAL YEAR IN REVIEW

REVENUE

Grants (Prior Year Received)	\$178,239.92
Contributions and Grants (Current Year)	\$2,332,226.68
Investment Earnings Distributed	\$213,750.00
Student Tuition and Fees	\$194,058.35
NC Opportunity Scholarships	\$702,771.00
Total Income	\$3,451,839.63



DONATION REVENUE

- 54% Individuals
- 32% Businesses
- 11% Foundations
- 3% Churches

EXPENSES

Personnel Costs	\$2,988,565.24
Occupancy	\$166,969.97
Marketing and Development	\$49,756.02
Fundraiser	\$64,595.30
Academics and Program Costs	\$341,825.15
Administrative Overhead	\$249,455.66
Special Projects/New Initiatives	\$78,541.79
Total Expenses	\$3,939,709.13
Net Operating Activities	(\$487,869.50)



EXPENSES

- 73% Programs
- 14% Management
- 13% Development



This report is a compiled cash basis statement. Audited financials are available upon request after the completion of the annual audit process.