



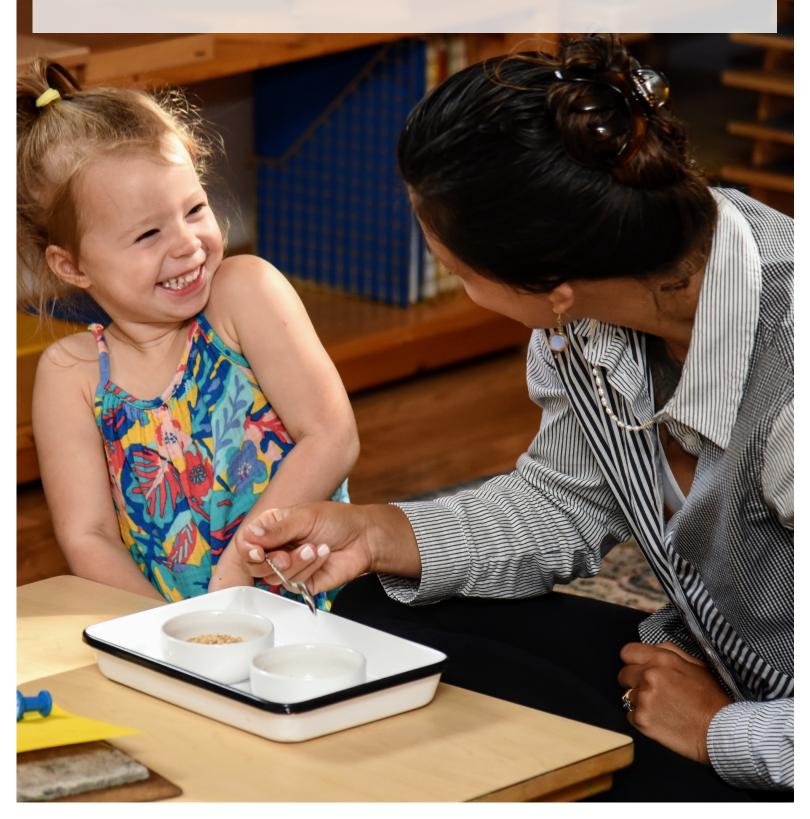
ANNUAL REPORT OF GIVING

2022-2023

2021-2022

2020-2021

The Montessori method of education, developed by Dr. Maria Montessori, is a child-centered educational approach based on scientific observations of children. Dr. Montessori's method has been successfully time-tested for over 100 years in cultures throughout the world.





Dear MSC Community,

While reflecting on the 2020-2021 school year, I was reminded of the extraordinary circumstances we navigated and hurdles we overcame during that time. We united as a community to build a safe place for learning, to support one another through challenges and fear, and to offer our children an environment of acceptance and trust. We collectively bolstered our resiliency, resourcefulness, and appreciation of community. After closing our doors in April of 2020 due to the pandemic, we reopened them in August and have been thriving since.

The years following looked much different than past years, with limited school events, cohorted classrooms, masked faces, and virtual meetings (so many virtual meetings). Our creativity heightened as we offered Zoom orientations, parent conferences, and school tours. We greatly missed our sense of normalcy, but we prioritized our community's health and well-being. Through this, MSC kept our focus on offering an authentic Montessori education to our students and refining our programs. We built a state-of-the-art Learning Lab, thanks to generous donors, set our sights on dual accreditation, and got to work!

In September of 2022, we welcomed Michael Thompson, clinical psychologist and school consultant, to our campus to work with our parents and staff. Finally, in the Fall of 2022, we were able to reinstate many activities that had been placed on hiatus during the pandemic. We resumed student field trips, our "Going Out" curriculum, and school community events. In October, we welcomed the American Montessori Society (AMS) and Southern Association of Independent Schools (SAIS) accreditation teams to MSC, and in February 2023, MSC was officially dual-accredited. This was a tremendous accomplishment. We are so proud to be the only dual-accredited independent school in South Carolina!

I am honored to be a part of this community, to have been a part of it for the past thirteen years, and to have witnessed the collaboration and growth in that time. With your support, we have built a thriving and authentic Montessori school with a strong foundation. I am excited to see what the future holds for MSC. Thank you for your generosity and for choosing to be a part of the Montessori School of Columbia.

In Gratitude,

Leslie Greene

Leslie Greene



LETTER FROM CURRENT AND PAST BOARD CHAIRS

Dear Montessori School of Columbia Community,

As we reflect on the past three academic years, we are filled with immense pride and gratitude for what our community has achieved. The journey from 2020 to 2023 has been marked by unforeseen challenges, and it has been a period of remarkable resilience and growth for our school.

The Montessori philosophy teaches us to adapt and thrive in an ever-changing environment. This has never been more evident than during the global pandemic, where our teachers and staff showed extraordinary flexibility in delivering an authentic Montessori experience, whether in-person or through a screen.

We've made significant strides in enhancing our campus and expanding our programs. From the completion of our Learning Lab, one of South Carolina's first Net Zero Energy buildings, to becoming the only dual-accredited Montessori program in South Carolina, we continue to invest in facilities and initiatives that enrich our students' educational experience.

None of these accomplishments would have been possible without the unwavering support of our community. Your generous contributions to our Annual Fund, Montessori Mile, and Spring Auction have been instrumental in realizing our vision for the school.

As we move forward, we remain committed to strengthening the foundation of our school: an authentic Montessori experience where children thrive. We are excited about the possibilities that lie ahead and are deeply committed to ensuring that MSC remains a beacon of Montessori education.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to every teacher, staff member, parent, and student who has contributed to our school's success. Your dedication and support fuel our collective journey towards excellence in Montessori education.

Thank you for everything,

Bryan Boroughs

Bryan Boroughs
Chair, Board of Trustees
Montessori School of Columbia

Lane Meyer

Lane Meyer
Past Chair, Board of Trustees
Montessori School of Columbia





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Karen Kuse, ex officio

The Board of Trustees

As a 501(c)3 non-profit organization, the Montessori School of Columbia is governed by a Board of Trustees. This group has a legal and fiduciary responsibility for the school as a whole and plays a pivotal role in securing its future. The members bring a diversity of talent and broad practical and professional experience to the work of assuring the school's stability and development.



Annual Fund Committee

Lisa and Travis Wheeler, Chairs

Class Captains

Sarah Roberts, Primary 1 Brittany Saller, Primary 1 Cari Kepner Lee, Primary 2 Patti & Andrew Johnson, Primary 3 Hal & Dani Trapp, Magnolia Andrea Maas. Palmetto Jamie Minter, Palmetto Rachel & Jason DeBacker, Upper El

MSC LEADERSHIP CIRCLE

Arborists (\$5000 & Above)

Austin and Melanie Meyer Steve and Jamie Minter Gary Petersen

Conservators (\$2500-\$4999)

Gay and Jeff Amberg Steve and Sue Gibson

Cultivators (\$1500-\$2499)

None

Propagators (\$1000-\$1499)

Edward and Molley Clarkson Chad and Joy Coffman Nancy Coulling Jared and Erin Johnson Jamie and Karen Kuse William Keane and Ann Ruderman **Emmet and Andrea Maas** The Malison Financial Group, LLC Robert and Gene McEvoy Kevin and Gabby Petersen

Nurturers (\$500-\$999)

Brook and Kim Andrews Anonymous William and Jean Blanks Elizabeth Boggs and Julie Price Ralph and Connie Boroughs Steve and Helga Cohen Tabitha Heck Ray and Marguerite Knox Tyler and Cari Lee Littlejohn Law, LLC Parler, LLC Matthew and Beth Richardson Richard and Anne Saunders

Sultan and Lani Siddique

Phil and Starr Snead Phillip and Elizabeth Stewart Hal and Dani Trapp Travis and Lisa Wheeler

FRIENDS OF MSC

Gardeners (\$250-\$499)

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Seedlings (\$125-\$249)

Norman Bailey

William and Catherine Buchanan Charles and Rebecca Carter David and Randie Cohen John and Sara Ernst Kiel Downey and Aparna Polavarapu Matthew and Adrienne Fink Frontstream Patterson and Joanna Graham Ryan and Mary Lucas Ronald and Deborah Prier Alejandro Salgado and Katie McGee Hayden and Kristl Tomlin Cody Towles and Ann Warner Cal and Jodie Watson Brian Williams and Jessica Klusek Burr Workman

Tillers (to \$124)

Clark and Casey Bannister Starlyn Baxter Darrell and Chanda Booker Douglas and Dorothea Butts Vernita and S. Preston Cobbs Clarence and Stephanie Curry Tina Davis Matthew and Susan DeBacker Jessica Duzan Bill and Clara Ford Walter and Conetta Griffin Leslie Greene and Chris Lawther Kaki Hancock Ken and Cathy Hanson William and Anna Hicks Andrew and Patti Johnson Wayne and Kay Johnston Kristopher and Samantha Jones Corey and Spencer Jungclaus **Ernest Cromartie and** AzurDee Kennedy Erin and Brian Knox-Boyd Ann Lawrence David and Linda Leedom Bill and Betty Levengood Joe and Jeanne Lisowski Senthil Mani and Shalini Balakrishnan Philip McCants Sarah McCants & Cade McConnell Thomas and Heidi McDermott Elizabeth and Emma McLean Mark Minett and Heather Heckman Jonathan and Taren Moody Betty Namuddu Michael and Meredith Pratt **Bryant and Sarah Roberts** Ron and Pam Roberts Justin and Jennifer Roche Rich and Kari Rosmer David Russell Jason and Elizabeth Schmidt Cameron and Danielle Shealy Autrey and Polly Sigmon **Taylor Singletary** James and Yvonne Smalls Samuel and Laverne Smith Kerry Stubbs John Sylvest and Yu Hong Rachel Taylor Kent and Lydia Ureda Charles and Joann Warner

Kirill Simin and Sherry Warren

Errin and Andrea Whetstone

Paul Williams

Joel Wooten

Kathy and Jim Young

Annual Fund Committee

Tyler and Cari Lee, Chairs Andrea Maas, Leadership Chair Lisa Wheeler, Leadership Chair

Class Captains

Katie McGee, Primary 1 Brittany Saller, Primary 1 Erin Marino, Primary 2 Danielle Shealy, Primary 2 Patti & Andrew Johnson, Primary 3 Megan McCullough, Magnolia Lani Siddique, Magnolia Aparna Polavarapu, Palmetto Jodie Watson, Palmetto Rachel & Jason DeBacker, Upper El Lisa Wheeler. Middle School

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David Chadwell and Amy Coquillard The Malison Financial Group, LLC Austin and Melanie Meyer

Cultivators (\$1500-\$2499)

Lisa Barrett Edward and Molley Clarkson Stephen and Sue Gibson Jamie and Karen Kuse

Propagators (\$1000-\$1499)

Kevin and Gabby Petersen Richard and Anne Saunders

Nurturers (\$500-\$999)

Brook and Kim Andrews Maria Arbona William and Jean Blanks Elizabeth Boggs and Julie Price Beverly and Gordon Hamilton Stuart Hope and Heidi Darr-Hope Andrew and Patti Johnson Ray and Marguerite Knox George Kokolis & Erika Senneseth Tyler and Cari Lee **Emmet and Andrea Maas** Pavan Manchikalapati and Gayatri Kuraganti Steve and Erin Marino Carolyn Ross

Luke and Bridgett Shealey

Sultan and Lani Siddique Phil and Starr Snead Travis and Lisa Wheeler

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Seedlings (\$125-\$249)

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Tillers (to \$124)

Miguel and Lisa Almonte Norman Bailey Coeita Bales Clark and Casey Bannister Jesse Barrett Courtney and Solita Bergelt Daniel and Melissa Bergelt Chris and Bonnie Campbell John and Angela Carter Vernita and S. Preston Cobbs Chad and Joy Coffman

Debbie and Rick Cohn James Cook and Cara Koerber Tina Davis Kiel Downey & Aparna Polavarapu John DuBose and Stephanie Nye Matthew and Adrienne Fink Frontstream Leslie Greene and Chris Lawther Walter and Conetta Griffin John and Lydia Hendrix Phillip and Jacqlyn Hogan Jared and Erin Johnson Wayne and Kay Johnston Kristopher and Samantha Jones Corey and Spencer Jungclaus Bob and Bonnie Kelly Patrick Kelly William and Constance Kepner Erin and Brian Knox-Boyd Vinnie Maloney and Kristin Brooks Senthil Mani & Shalini Balakrishnan Philip McCants Sarah McCants & Cade McConnell D.N. and Nancy McDowell Chad Messinger & Heather Rogers Debbie Messinger Mark Minett and Heather Heckman Jonathan and Taren Moody Jongho Moon and Yoonjoo Lee Laura Move Arianne Muhammad Betty Namuddu Xuefeng Peng and Candice Swift Matthew and Kara Pound Janeta Radieva Ron and Marsha Ramer Brian Rhoten and Jennifer Collins Bryant and Sarah Roberts David Russell Jason and Elizabeth Schmidt Autrey and Polly Sigmon **Taylor Singletary** Samuel and Laverne Smith Meghan Steinour Stuart and Dawn Stoner Kerry Stubbs John Sylvest and Yu Hong Hayden and Kristl Tomlin Cody Towles and Ann Warner Hal and Dani Trapp Kent and Lydia Ureda Charles and Joann Warner Lillian Weakland Errin and Andrea Whetstone Paul Williams Joel Wooten

ANNUAL FUND 2021 - 2022

Annual Fund Committee

Joanna Derrick, Chair

Class Captains

Georgia White, Primary 1 Erin Marino, Primary 2 Katie Levkoff, Primary 3 Patti and Andrew Johnson, Magnolia FRIENDS OF MSC Brittany Saller, Palmetto Jodie Watson, Upper Elementary Michael Drennan, Middle School

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Gay and Jeff Amberg Blythewood Village Dentistry

Cultivators (\$1500-\$2499)

None

Propagators (\$1000-\$1499)

William and Jean Blanks

Carolina Dentistry Jeffrey Cima and Saana Tykka Edward and Molley Clarkson Robert Davis Lee Injury Law Kevin and Gabby Petersen Richard and Anne Saunders

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Arunakumari Polavarapu and Venugopalakrishna Polavarapu Shealey Law Firm Michael and Melissa Thigpen Benjamin and Ruth Thompson Travis and Lisa Wheeler

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Seedlings (\$125-\$249)

Darrell and Chanda Booker Karl and Jacquelyn Brewer Bruno and Kelly Delage Kiel Downey & Aparna Polavarapu Stuart Hope and Heidi Darr-Hope Aaron and Megan McCullough Judy Norris and Beth Elliott Gabriel and Sarah Orsinger Andrew and Katherine Pope Don and DeeDee Pope Ronald and Deborah Prier Cameron and Danielle Shealy Jackie Shuler Cody Towles and Ann Warner

Tillers (to \$124)

Miguel and Lisa Almonte Coeita Bales Bob and Janice Bannister Clark and Casey Bannister Geraldine Barbeau Bill and Elizabeth Barna Courtney and Solita Bergelt Daniel and Melissa Bergelt Martha Blanks Willie Booker **Edna Capers** Hunter and Evelyn Clarkson Kevin and Alice Chandler James Cook and Cara Koerber Christine Davis Brent and Wilma Garren Mahasin Gay Stephen and Sue Gibson Walter and Conetta Griffin Neal and Jennifer Hamilton **Duke and Carolyn Hartman** Dennis and Melina Heckers Heather Heckman and Mark Minett John and Lydia Hendrix David and Karen Hodgin Vincent and Tonda Jackson Jared and Erin Johnson Corey and Spencer Jungclaus Adam Kane and Laura Ybarra Roger and Diana Keane Kentucky Association for **Environmental Education** William and Constance Kepner Greg and Ginny Kowalski Carol Knight Bill and Betty Levengood Maggie Malloy Lilly Mann Sarah McCants & Cade McConnell Jonathan and Taren Moody New Day Home Repair, LLC David and Emily Paavola Phoenix Roofing Janeta Radieva Justin and Jaime Sellers Kirill Simin and Sherry Warren Mary Singletary Paul and Gwendolyn Singletary James and Yvonne Smalls Christopher Sutton and Allison Goldstein John Sylvest and Yu Hong Rachel Taylor John and Sue Ureda

Kent and Lydia Ureda

Cal and Jodie Watson

Chris Wendel and Carole Anderson

Carolyn and Tommie Whetstone

Beth Vermeer

Lillian Weakland

Suzanne White

Tom and Lilo Wolfe

Joseph Wills

Development Events 2020-2021

In 2020, during the COVID-19 pandemic, MSC held a virtual Montessori Mile where students collected pledges, walked a mile in their local communities, and shared pictures and posts about their walks to bring us together as a community.

No auction fundraiser was held in 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Development Events 2021-2022

In November 2021, as the COVID pandemic continued, MSC hosted a socially distanced Montessori Mile and Fall Festival on campus. Students collected pledges, walked a mile and enjoyed being together as a community.

No auction fundraiser was held in 2022 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Auction Committee Chairs 22-23 MARDI GRAS NIGHT AUCTION

Auction Co-Chair: Katie Georgiades

Auction Co-Chair: Laura Moye
Acquisition Chair: Bridgett Shealey

Decorations Chair: *None* **Sponsorship Chair:** *None*

Class Project Chair: Lane Meyer

Auction Sponsors 2022-2023

Advancement Connections

Blythewood Village Dentistry

Carolina Dentistry

Jeffery Cima and Saana Tykka

First Citizens Bank

Forest Drive Dental Care

Lee Injury Law

Malison Financial Group, LLC

Lane and Austin Meyer

The Minor Firm

MSC Board of Trustees

Newboult Painting Company, LLC

New Day Home Repair, LLC

Parler, LLC

Phoenix Roofing

Shealey Law Firm

Michael Thigpen

Montessori Mile Chairs 2022-2023

Chair: Joanna Derrick

Thank you!

Events and Development

Over the last three years, MSC held a variety of fundraising and social events, including our annual Montessori Mile walkathon, Annual Auction, Grandparents and Special Friends Day, and Book Fair. We are grateful for the time, energy and commitment of the many volunteers who ensure the success of these events, especially while coping with the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic.

2020 - 2021 Fiscal Year Financial Results

INCOME	%
Tuition and Fees	59
Development	34
Summer Camp	4
Aftercare	3
TOTAL	100%

EXPENSES	%
Payroll	67
Equipment and Supplies	10
Building and Grounds	6
Insurance	5
Contractual Services	4
Utilities	3
Professional Development	3
Mortgage	2
TOTAL	100%

2021 - 2022 Fiscal Year Financial Results

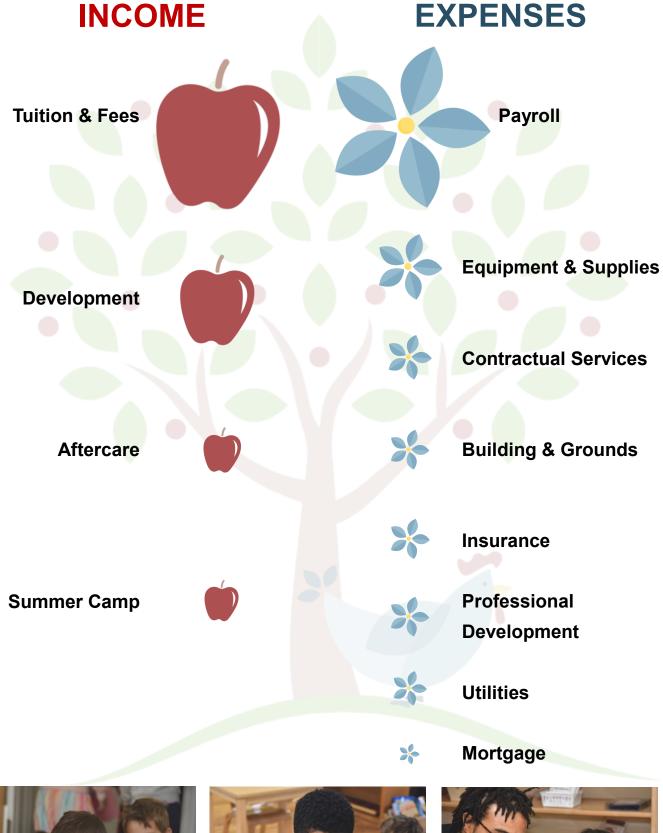
%
66
24
6
4
00%

EXPENSES	%
Payroll	68
Equipment and Supplies	13
Contractual Services	5
Insurance	4
Professional Development	4
Utilities	3
Building and Grounds	2
Mortgage	1
TOTAL	100%

2022 - 2023 Fiscal Year Financial Results

INCOME	%
Tuition and Fees	75
Development	10
Aftercare	10
Summer Camp	5
TOTAL	100%

%
65
11
7
5
4
4
3
1
100%















STAFF 2022-2023

Karen Kuse, Head of School

Leslie Greene, Assistant Head of School (July - December 2022)

Brittney Green, Chief Financial Officer (April 2023 -)

Becky Carter, Director of Development (August 2022 - April 2023)

Joanna Derrick, *Director of Development* (June 2022 - December 2022)

Rebecca Jacobson, Director of Development (April - May 2023)

Virginia Postic, Administrative Assistant and Photographer

Bridgett Shealey, Administrative Assistant (October 2022- June 2023)

Erin Knox-Boyd, *Upper Elementary Teacher*

Stuart Stoner, Upper Elementary Teacher

Jessica Gibbons, Upper Elementary Asst. Teacher (July 2022 - March 2023)

Misty Dickson, Lower Elementary Magnolia Teacher

Sidney Little, Lower Elementary Magnolia Teacher

Kathy Young, Lower Elementary Palmetto Teacher

Michael Thigpen, Lower Elementary Palmetto Teacher

Sunshine Gallahar, Primary One Lead Teacher

Garet Fryar Hedlund, Primary One Asst. Teacher (July 2022 - January 2023)

Odile Postic, Primary One Assistant Teacher (January - May 2023)

Angela Carter, Primary Two Lead Teacher (July 2022 - December 2022)

Leslie Greene, Primary Two Lead Teacher (January - May 2023)

Janeta Radieva, Primary Two Assistant Teacher

Corey Jungclaus, Primary Three Lead Teacher

Sarah McCants, Primary Three Assistant Teacher

Vera Kirkwood, Extended Day Teacher

Jennifer Roche, Music Instructor (August 2022 - April 2023)

Jessica Smith, Art Teacher

Catherine Wiskes, Upper Elementary Spanish Teacher

Nitzia Pinacho-Gutierrez, Primary & Lower Elementary Spanish Teacher

Elliot Chadwell, Physical Education Teacher

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Emmet Maas

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Karen Kuse, ex officio



MONTESSORI SCHOOL OF COLUMBIA

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SERVING &
ACCREDITING
INDEPENDENT

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

The Montessori School of Columbia offers an authentic Montessori education that challenges students academically and fosters each child's social, emotional, and intellectual growth in order to prepare them to serve as responsible citizens of the greater community.

MSC NON-DISCRIMINATION POLICY

At MSC, we strive to cultivate an inclusive environment that is open, welcoming, and supportive of all individuals. We recognize diversity at our school is essential to providing academic excellence and critical to our sustainability. The Montessori School of Columbia is committed to eliminating barriers created by institutional discrimination through accountability and continuous improvement. The school does not discriminate on the basis of race, gender, sexual orientation, creed, disability, national origin, ethnicity, age or any other basis protected by federal or state law. We celebrate the diverse voices, perspectives, and experiences of our community, employees, and families.

This report is accurate to the best of our knowledge. Contact the MSC office with any questions. Printed June 30, 2024.