

# Springmont School

ATLANTA'S FIRST MONTESSORI SCHOOL



ANNUAL REPORT

2021-2022  
ANCHORED IN SERVICE





Dear Springmont Community,



A hallmark of the Springmont experience has always been our strong sense of community. It is not just our pursuit of Montessori education but the shared commitment to our mission and core values, which I believe makes the Springmont community unique. Families who have chosen Springmont for their child(ren)'s education have intentionally sought a place of balance. Recognizing that personal success in life requires a fundamental level of knowledge, compassion for others, the ability to empathize with people from different backgrounds, confidence in one's own abilities, the courage to take risks, the ability to demonstrate patience, and the resilience that develops through hardships and setbacks. Springmont is a place that nurtures each of these characteristics throughout a student's educational journey with the understanding that over reliance on any one quality disrupts the balance.

Over the past few years, this strong sense of community has been greatly impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. The health and safety of our community understandably took priority, as we sought to protect each individual's well-being as best we could. Our community is also impacted by the incidents of racism, antisemitism, and violence occurring in our world – both the larger world and our local communities. Responding to these challenges has, at times, necessitated a disruption in the balance of the Springmont experience. But even when things are in flux, we at Springmont remain **anchored in service**, refocusing on the commitment to our mission and healthy, holistic development of our students.

During the 2021-22 school year we had record enrollment, supported by the addition of a third toddler classroom. The board and I practiced conservative expense management due to the uncertainty surrounding whether we would be able to sustain ancillary programming as we continued to rebound from COVID. We made intentional investments to support the social-emotional wellness of our students in the wake of the stress over the past year by adding a school counselor, continued to honor our commitment to adjust faculty compensation and began a rigorous search for a new Head of School whose strong leadership could help guide us forward.

There are growing pains ahead, no doubt, as our facilities will need to be upgraded and expanded to meet the needs of our community. But the future looks very bright at Springmont. We are in the strong place we are today thanks to a dedicated Board of Trustees, deeply committed Faculty and Staff, generous volunteers and donors, and a community of family and friends invested in student-centered education.

Thank you for your support of Springmont.

Megan Hakerem  
Interim Head of School



*“Our care of the child should be governed, not by the desire to make him learn things, but by the endeavor always to keep burning within him that light which is called intelligence.”*

Maria Montessori





Dear Springmont Community,

I am honored to contribute to the 2021-22 Annual Report as the Chair of the Board of Trustees. I have served on the board for three years and became Chair this past year while concurrently chairing the Head of School search. Prior to these roles I've been a committed parent, volunteer and donor to this wonderful community. I am glad I can contribute, in some small way, to the continued success of the school. Springmont is a very special place to my family as well, my daughter Julia is a student here and my wife Ann has been very involved with the Springmont Parent Association.

The 2021-22 school year was a year of transition, amending COVID restrictions as we tried to return to a more traditional school day but still maintaining the health and safety of our community. We resumed our Extended Day program, began offering enrichment once again, hosted classroom observations, staged the Upper Elementary Musical and introduced small community events at the class level. However, we continued to keep classrooms separate and postponed the revival of community events like the Montessori Mile and International Night. Given the uncertain times we also remained sensitive to the needs of our community and took a much more passive approach to raising funds through the annual Springmont Fund and the Georgia Tax Credit Scholarship Program/Apogee. To all those who contributed despite this curbed approach – THANK YOU!

The school and the community thrived despite these restrictions. This is reflected in the success of our children, re-enrollment numbers, faculty retention and financial stability. I want to thank everyone for their hard work and dedication to the school through a challenging but successful year

As we moved into the 2022-23 school year, we made plans for the return of so many of our community-wide traditions, such as the Montessori Mile, Field Day, International Night, etc. Community has always been one of the special attributes of the Springmont family and we felt it important to resume this part of the school experience. The 2023-24 school year will mark our 60th year and bring even more cause to gather in celebration. As we look forward to the next 60 years, we are obligated to ensure that future generations will experience the community and the commitment to child-centered learning that make Springmont the special place it is today. All of us play an important role in planning for the future of Springmont.

I'd like to recognize the continued dedication of the Board of Trustees, who volunteer many hours of their personal time, to help support the needs of school. A big thank you to the faculty and staff for their dedication to the school and our children. My sincere appreciation to the donors, volunteers, and devoted community members who understand that the support they provide Springmont is not just to benefit students today, but for many years to come.

As we transition to our new Head of School, I would be remiss to not once again acknowledge and extend the deepest sense of appreciation to Megan Hakerem



for serving as our Interim Head of School for the past two years. Her wise and steady leadership has allowed Springmont to be successful and grow, while we searched and found the right, permanent leader in Elizabeth Lener. I would also like to acknowledge and thank Megan's husband, Jason and children, Samantha, Joshua and Katherine for their support of Megan in this role.

It's hard to believe that, before long, I'll watch my daughter Julia graduate. If you have not seen the 8th grade graduation, I encourage you to attend. Watching these amazing young people speak to how Springmont has prepared them for what's next is, perhaps, the greatest advertising for the benefits of a Montessori-based education. Together, we can continue to produce generations of thoughtful, compassionate and knowledgeable Springmont Alumni who will leave their time on campus to go out and make the world a better place.

Joe Colonna



*“The teacher must be the servant of nature. The highest thing she can do is to serve... to show respect and care, and be humble.”*

Maria Montessori



# Thank You to All of Our Donors

## LEADERSHIP CIRCLE

### Legacy Circle

Megan & Jason Hakerem  
Robin & Gabe Steagall

### Cornerstone Circle

Sheryl & Jeff Clark  
Ann & Joe Colonna  
Johanna & Greg Lamps  
Rosie & Rudy Rojas

### 1963 Circle

Samantha Zoey Borchardt & David Borchardt  
Kimberly & Brian Burns  
Ashley & Brandyn Chapman  
Will Johnson  
Melissa & Stephen Martin  
Kristen & Hamilton Williams  
Michelle & Matt Wolfersberger  
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## ANNUAL FUND

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Brooke Correa Watt & Mike Watt

### Friends

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Nathalie Blanchard  
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Meghan & Thomson Chuites

Anna Thomas-Ingram & William Cliett  
Rosanne Tricoles & Glenn Colville  
Chris Cone  
Midge & John Culos  
Shelly & Joe Dursun  
Pamela Eskew  
Zaiba Farooqui  
Marsha & Sonny Fleming  
Joyce & David Frasure  
Kelcy Gatson  
Sandra & Jim Gibson  
Linda & Jay Hakerem  
Shurti & Ranojoy Hazra  
April & David Johnson  
Muse & Patricia Jordan  
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Kaleigh & Evan Landrum  
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Leslie & Fred Wachter  
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Deva Wijewickrema

## APOGEE

Jennifer & Frank Blake  
Whitney & Jeffrey Bolle  
Natalie & Gregg Codelli  
Ann & Joe Colonna  
Galina & Biff Courson  
Ann & Hody Crouch  
Megan & Jason Hakerem  
Shruti & Ranojoy Hazra  
Page Wu & JJ Hsieh  
John Huber  
Will Johnson  
Elizabeth & Angelos Keromytis  
Johanna & Greg Lamps  
Sarah Griffiths & Bryan Langbord  
Paula Larson  
Shannon & Baruch Levy  
Melissa & Stephen Martin  
Catherine Fahidin & Amit Nayak  
Amanda & John Panessa  
Rosie & Rudy Rojas  
Maryam Haddad & Paul Sanders  
Wendy & Christopher Sandvi  
George Soba  
Robin & Gabe Steagall  
Leslie & Fred Wachter  
Kristen & Hamilton Williams  
Michelle & Matt Wolfersberger  
Amanda & David Zeigler

## MATCHING GIFTS

Aaron's Foundation  
Chubb  
Coca Cola Foundation  
GlobalFoundries  
State Farm  
The Home Depot  
Wells Fargo







*"We can only better humanity  
through the child."*

Maria Montessori



## REVENUE & SUPPORT

Net Tuition .....	\$5,393,925
Contributions/Fundraising .....	\$88,272
Ancillary Programs .....	\$158,187
Paycheck Protection Program* .....	\$562,800
Other** .....	\$109,836
<b>Total Revenue &amp; Support .....</b>	<b>\$6,313,020</b>

## EXPENSES

Instructional Program .....	\$3,367,005
Facilities .....	\$270,121
General & Administration .....	\$1,181,820
<b>Total Expenses .....</b>	<b>\$4,818,946</b>

\*Springmont's Payroll Protection Plan loan was forgiven by the Small Business Administration in October 2021.

\*\*Includes government grants for expenses related to the control of COVID-19 and well being of students.



### 2021-22 Board of Trustees

Megan Hakerem, Head of School

Greg Lamps, Chair

MySha Whorley, Vice-Chair

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Sheryl Clark

Joe Colonna

Will Johnson

Brian Livesay

Rudy Rojas

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Gabe Steagall

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### 2021-22 Development Committee

Gabe Steagall, Chair

Sheryl Clark

Joe Colonna

Will Johnson

Rudy Rojas

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Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS)

Southern Association of Independent Schools (SAIS)

### Memberships

Atlanta Area Association of Independent Schools (AAAIS)

Georgia Independent School Association (GISA)

National Association of Independent Schools (NAIS)

North American Montessori Teachers' Association (NAMTA)

Recognized by The Association Montessori Internationale (AMI)

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