



For Immediate Release

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Contact

Chris Ryan, 843-724-7763

Media Release

Keeping Charleston beautiful, one school at a time

James Simons Montessori School

Donald R. Kennedy, Sr.
Interim Superintendent of Schools

Karolyn Belcher
Chief Academic Officer

Michelle Simmons
Associate Superintendent of
Elementary Learning Community

Christine Ryan
Principal

Charleston, SC – More than 90 volunteers from over 20 James Simons Montessori School families gathered nearly 1,700 pounds of waste while cleaning up the area near the school on Saturday, February 26, 2022. The service project also doubled as a fundraiser for the Friends of James Simons (FOJS). Thanks to the school's business partners, they raised more than \$3,000.

James Simons families and staff partnered with [Keep Charleston Beautiful \(KCB\)](#) and worked in shifts throughout the day gathering trash and yard debris. The volunteers collected 1,548 pounds of trash (including yard debris, the overall total was 1,668 pounds – more than double the amount collected last year). KCB was extremely thankful for FOJS and James Simons families' group effort.

Since 1977, [Keep Charleston Beautiful \(KCB\)](#) has been working to maintain the beauty of the area through education, public awareness, and community involvement. The marriage of the two community-based organizations was a key recipe for a successful clean-up.

FOJS is a 501c3 non-profit organization with a board comprised of a diverse group of parents and staff from James Simons who work closely with the principal. Their goal is to raise funds to address the school's most relevant and crucial needs.

One of the tenets of the Montessori program is the prepared environment and members of the James Simons community extended that environment to outside of their school. Additionally another Montessori tenet is community service and citizenship. The neighborhood clean-up was a display of community pride, citizenship, fun, and a chance to put the Montessori philosophy into practice in the community.

FOJS and the school want to thank the following sponsors and partners of the fundraiser/cleanup project:

- Monoc Law Firm
- Charleston Harbor Tours & Events
- 26 Divine
- Park and Grove
- D'Allesandro's Pizza

- Huriyali
- Pluff Mud String Band
- Blue Bicycle Books
- Indigo and Cotton

For more information on FOJS, visit <https://www.friendsofjamessimons.org/>.

For more information on Keep Charleston Beautiful, visit <https://www.charleston-sc.gov/264/Keep-Charleston-Beautiful>.

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About the Charleston County School District

Charleston County School District (CCSD) is a nationally accredited school district committed to providing equitable and quality educational opportunities for all of its students. CCSD is the second-largest school system in South Carolina and represents a unique blend of urban, suburban, and rural schools spanning 1,300 square miles along the coast. CCSD serves approximately 49,000 students in 88 schools and specialized programs.

CCSD offers a diverse, expanding portfolio of options and specialized programs, delivered through neighborhood, magnet, IB (international baccalaureate), Montessori, and charter schools. Options include programs in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM); music and other creative and performing arts; career and technical preparation programs; and military.