

# OUR DONORS MAKE A DIFFERENCE



**Donor Report 2023-2024**

## Mission

The Howard School empowers students with language-based learning differences by addressing individual needs and leveraging strengths to develop a lifelong understanding of and advocacy for their own learning process.

## Values

PRACTICE KINDNESS

SEEK A SPIRIT OF PARTNERSHIP

HONOR HUMANITY




CELEBRATE OUR DIFFERENCES

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“ You are part of the legacy that lifts up children and empowers them to identify and live into their strengths.

Anna B. Moore, Ph.D.

## DEAR HOWARD FRIENDS AND FAMILY,

In 1950, Marian Howard had the audacious and, at the time, unique idea to open a school for children that the rest of the world wasn't sure even belonged in schools.

In a world of seemingly increasing strife, anger, and hostilities, our core values of practicing kindness and respect, seeking a spirit of partnership, honoring our humanity, and celebrating our differences feel more important than ever. When you support Howard with your financial gifts, you empower us to continue to live into those values.

In a world where ideals of artificially created images of beauty, success, and intelligence dominate our social media feeds, The Howard School is a place that students are invited to

show up just as they are. Through your philanthropic gifts to The Howard School, you are part of the force that keeps Marion Howard's work alive. You are part of the legacy that lifts up children and empowers them to identify and live into their strengths.

Through your philanthropic generosity, you allow us to ensure that our teachers have the most current professional development available, our classrooms are outfitted with the most appropriate tools and supplies, and our campus is safe, current, and designed to foster creativity, collaboration, and learning. From the day it opened, The Howard School has benefited from the kindness and foresight of others. Thank you for being part of our bold, audacious, relentless and brave vision.

With sincere thanks,

Anna B. Moore, Ph.D.  
Head of School



## DEAR HOWARD SCHOOL COMMUNITY,

I want to extend my deepest gratitude to each of you for your generous commitment and ongoing support of The Howard School. Your dedication enables us to provide an exceptional educational experience for our students.

As the Board Chair and as a parent of a Howard alum, I see the impact of your generosity and investments every day. When you contribute philanthropically to The Howard Fund, you support students who will leave our campus ready to take on their next challenges and the faculty who pour themselves into preparing these students to take on the world in their own ways.

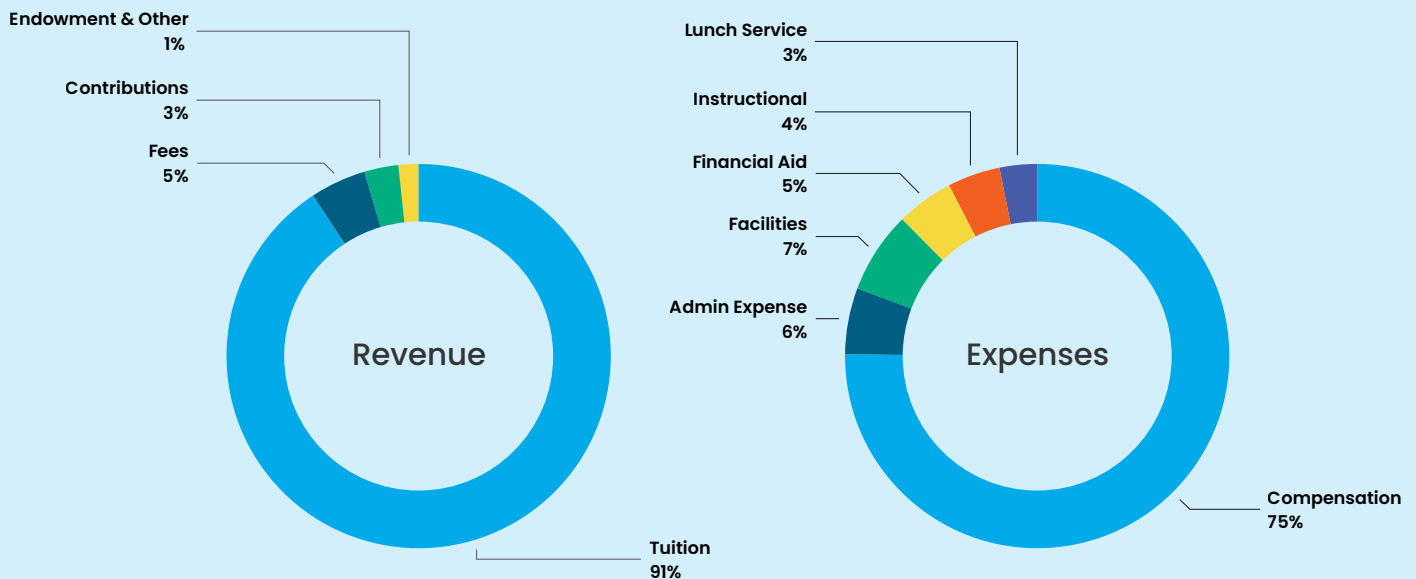
Additionally, contributions to the endowment fund continue to help sustain our priorities and carry forward our mission. For more than

74 years, The Howard School has educated children with language-based learning differences, and we are grateful to stand in a position of financial strength because of your continued investment. As we look to the future, we are actively working to increase our endowment to ensure that we can expand our programs and support even more students in their learning journeys.

We are grateful for the generosity of Howard’s donors, friends, and volunteers. On behalf of everyone at The Howard School, I offer my sincere gratitude. Thank you for inspiring and supporting us as we continue to change futures for generations to come.

**Jenny Ling**  
Alumni Parent and Board Chair

## The Howard School Numbers At-A-Glance





## Annual Giving

The Howard Fund makes exceptional student experiences possible through enhanced resources and programming. Your gifts make a difference, providing vital support to students.

### Visionary

**\$50,000 and above**

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**\$15,000 - \$24,999**

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*In honor of Benjamin Wortzel and thank you to everyone at The Howard School for all they do for students and families.*

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THE HOWARD FUND continues on next page

## WHY I GIVE



I contribute to The Howard Fund because I get to see how the mission impacts students in very real ways every single day. The passion and excitement that faculty and staff bring into The Howard School helps provide a safe educational environment for students to effectively learn how they learn so that they can be successful long after they leave our school.

### Erin Layton

College and Next Steps Counselor, The Howard School

# Empowering Readers with Learning Ally

By **Sona Changela**  
Lower School Faculty

At The Howard School, many students encounter the challenges of dyslexia, which interferes with their ability to decode text, despite their strong comprehension skills. This disconnect between understanding and reading fluency often creates barriers to accessing age-appropriate materials. To address this issue, The Howard School implemented a comprehensive solution for the school library. By placing QR codes on library books, students can instantly access Learning Ally, an assistive technology platform that converts text into audio while also providing an E-copy of the book.

Learning Ally offers a vast library of texts, catering to both recreational and academic needs. Students can explore a wide range of books for pleasure or delve into research materials to support their studies. This approach allows students to explore literature at their comprehension level, moving beyond the limitations of their decoding skills. By listening to the text while following along visually, students can develop their reading skills while fully engaging with the story.



QR codes on library books allow students to instantly access an app that converts text to audio.

While listening to parents or teachers read is beneficial, the use of assistive technology like Learning Ally fosters independence and boosts confidence. Students can access reading materials on demand, nurturing their curiosity and love for knowledge. This commitment to providing essential resources demonstrates The Howard School's dedication to cultivating a lifelong passion for learning and supporting our students' academic success. Your contributions are instrumental in making assistive technology like Learning Ally accessible and empowering our students to thrive.



By listening to text while following along visually, students can develop their reading skills while fully engaging with the story,

THE HOWARD FUND continued

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## WHY I GIVE



As a parent of a Howard School alum, I fully support the school because of the tremendous impact it had on my child's confidence, self-esteem, educational development, and success. The skilled and dedicated faculty didn't just recognize my child's strengths—they nurtured and developed them while teaching him to confidently advocate for himself. I am committed to giving back, not only to pay it forward, but to contribute to a community that excels at unlocking the potential in children who are often underestimated. By supporting The Howard School, I am investing in a community that enables these students to realize their fullest potential.

### Lisa Skinner

Trustee, Parent of Joseph Skinner '16

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THE HOWARD FUND continues on next page



## WHY I GIVE



I support our school through The Howard Fund because I see the impact that The Howard School has on my son daily. I know at The Howard School, my child is valued for his strengths and empowered by the dedicated faculty and staff to thrive and grow to his full potential. My contribution helps the School support every student and invests in strengthening our wonderful community of students, educators, and parents.

### Cathy Parlato

Parent of Robie, Middle School

#### THE HOWARD FUND continued

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## Consecutive Giving

to **The Howard Fund** ❤️

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Jenny Pittman Cantrell  
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Krista & Jason Ward  
Rosalyn Ward  
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## RESTRICTED GIFTS

The Howard Fund gratefully acknowledges the following donors who supported our efforts to develop students to their fullest potential.

RISE Scholarship Foundation, Inc.  
 Lindsey & Merek Shoob  
 Kerey & Matt Toms

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 Anne Weston  
 Jena & Steve Young

RESTRICTED GIFTS continues on page 9

# Stepping Up the Game:

## The Howard School Unveils New Gym Floor

This summer, The Howard School unveiled a stunning new addition to its athletic facilities—a beautiful wood gym floor, replacing the original Mondo flooring. This upgrade not only enhances the aesthetic of the space but significantly improves the athletic experience.

Athletics Director Jack Vangrofsky shared his excitement for the new surface, stating, “Wood floors offer superior playability and safety for our athletes. The natural give and responsiveness of the wood can really help in reducing injuries and improving performance.”

Assistant Head of School for Finance and Operations, Meredith Chase, emphasized the multifunctional role of the gym. “The gym is a central hub for our school, hosting all-student assemblies and numerous community



events such as Grandparents’ Day. It’s a showcase area where we welcome visitors for sports and special events. This beautiful space truly represents the spirit and community of The Howard School.”

The new floor is a significant enhancement to the school’s facilities, set to support many years of sports achievements and community gatherings. ■

## New Tennis and Enhanced Swimming Programs Launch at The Howard School, Thanks to Community Support



“For me, the most rewarding part of coaching is supporting student athletes and observing their ‘aha moments’—those instants when the light bulb clicks, and they connect the lessons and skills from sports to their lives,” says New Assistant Athletic Director Cat Stansbury.

Through the generous philanthropic contributions from our community, The Howard School is excited to launch our school’s new tennis program and enhance our swimming program. The Howard School has welcomed Assistant Athletic Director and Coach Cat Stansbury, a seasoned athletic leader with over 30 years of coaching experience. Coach Cat is spearheading our swimming program at Georgia Tech’s swimming facilities, where The Howard School will host five regular meets and the prestigious GIAA State meet.

Under Coach Cat’s direction, The Howard School is excited to introduce tennis as a new spring sport. Practices will take place at the Carl E. Sanders YMCA, offering middle and high school students the chance to participate and grow under the guidance of YMCA tennis professionals in addition to our dedicated athletics staff.

Contributions have been vital in helping us create these dynamic opportunities for our students. Together, we are fostering teamwork, skill development, and a passion for sports at The Howard School. ■



Coach Cat, photographed in the center, with team members of the 2024-25 Howard School Swim Team outside of Georgia Tech’s Aquatic Center.

### Endowment in Memory of Tom Asher

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## GEORGIA GOAL CONTRIBUTORS

Taxpayers to the State of Georgia can play a vital role in improving access to a Howard School education. Through the **Georgia Education Expense Credit Program**, participants can redirect a portion of their income tax dollars to support need-based financial aid for Howard School students. To participate in the 2025 program, which is now open, simply go to [goalscholarship.org](https://goalscholarship.org) for more information and to sign up.

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# Extending Our Mission Beyond Our Campus

## Partnership with the Boyce L. Ansley School

Since its founding in 2018, the Boyce L. Ansley School and The Howard School have joined forces to leverage their respective strengths and uplift the educators who serve their students. Although the missions of these two Atlanta-based independent institutions may seem disparate at first glance, their collaborative efforts underscore the common ground in educating young people, regardless of their unique circumstances.

The Howard School's focus on supporting students with language-based learning differences complements Boyce L. Ansley's vision of breaking the cycle of generational poverty for children

experiencing homelessness in Atlanta. Despite these seemingly different missions, both schools find common ground in their dedication to reframing conversations around "otherness" and instilling self-esteem, confidence, resilience, and a love of learning in students who face unique challenges.

The partnership thrives through monthly collaborative meetings where members from both schools exchange ideas, strategies, and resources—deepening their ability to champion all students.

While the Boyce L. Ansley School is a trauma-informed school, it also deeply prioritizes the training and support of



language and literacy skills among its staff. This intentional focus directly benefits the school's students. To support this effort, 14 Ansley educators underwent Orton-Gillingham training provided by The Howard School this past summer. In addition, during the last school year, The Howard School's Speech Language Pathologist Samara Kinard conducted hearing and speech language screenings for nearly 20 Ansley School students. "I envision a future where the partnership allows many more teachers at both schools to meet, share ideas, and learn from one another as well as for the students at both schools to be able to positively express how their specialized school supports them and their needs," says Kinard.

Through innovative partnerships like this one, The Howard School is expanding its impact and ensuring more faculty and students have access to the support they need to succeed. ■



The Howard School hosted 14 teachers from the Boyce L. Ansley School in July for an intensive two-week training in the Orton-Gillingham Approach.