



## All Media Inquiries

Suzanne Wilson  
Development Director  
(704) 392-6330

[suzanne.wilson@brookstoneschools.org](mailto:suzanne.wilson@brookstoneschools.org)  
[www.brookstoneschools.org](http://www.brookstoneschools.org)

# Brookstone Schools celebrates its eighth year with a new location and vision for future expansion...

**Charlotte, NC, November 11, 2009** – Brookstone Schools is a K-5<sup>th</sup> grade faith-based school of excellence which is serving the needs of inner city children, and celebrating its eighth year with a move to a new location and future plans for expanding its program. The school, formerly located at the Urban Restoration Center on Remount Road has moved to Christ Presbyterian Church at 2461 Arty Avenue in Charlotte, NC. The new space provides better classrooms, a lunch room, auditorium, office space and a room for a school library. According to Headmaster of Brookstone Schools, Dr. Don Larson, future plans include an expansion of its program. “Brookstone is currently limited to 90 students in kindergarten through fifth grade; however, we envision a new building with facilities for over 300 students in pre-kindergarten through eighth grade.” The school currently owns land next to the YMCA on West Blvd. and has a handshake agreement with the YMCA to share facilities which will reduce the cost of a new building. “We hope to begin a capital campaign in three years that will allow us to be in the new building in five years. This capital campaign will also include the establishment of an endowment fund that will ensure the expansion and sustainability of the school in the future.”

Brookstone Schools was founded in 2001 under the direction of civic leaders in the community to holistically address the needs of inner city children. The school opened in two fragile neighborhoods: Jackson Park on the west side and Briarcreek in east central Charlotte. The total enrollment was 18 children in kindergarten and first grade. Over the past eight years, the school has grown to include K-5 grade levels, with an enrollment for 2009-2010 of approximately 80 students. The comprehensive college-bound program holds much promise as a model for transforming the lives of children and could be replicated throughout inner city neighborhoods. Suzanne Wilson, Director of Development said, “Our students are performing at or above grade level. Last year, Brookstone’s 4<sup>th</sup> graders performed almost three years above their grade level in math and reading on the Stanford 10 and 83% of our middle school graduates earned A/B Honor Roll or higher during the 2008-2009 academic year.”

Wilson said that another positive indicator of the mission’s success is the fact that community and parental involvement has grown over the years. “Parent attendance at student conferences has been 100%. The school is also having an impact on the wider community as donors, volunteers, and visitors see firsthand the good work that is being accomplished. Brookstone’s Partnership Program provides a forum for students to establish relationships with interested mentors and is creating new opportunities for understanding and cooperation across socio-economic and cultural boundaries.”

## About Brookstone Schools

Brookstone Schools is a K-5 faith-based school of excellence located in the economically depressed area of west Charlotte, NC. It was founded in 2001 under the direction of civic leaders in the community to holistically address the needs of inner city students. The school relies on the generosity of volunteers and contributors to advance the mission. Less than 8% of the budget is collected in student tuition and fees. The remainder comes from donations from individuals, foundations, and churches that support Brookstone's vision: to ensure that the lives of its students will be transformed with a desire for excellence and a heart for the future of their community. For more information about Brookstone, call Director of Development, Suzanne Wilson at 704-576-0411 or visit [www.brookstoneschools.org](http://www.brookstoneschools.org).

###