



## All Media Inquiries

Suzanne Wilson  
Development Director  
(704) 392-6330  
suzanne.wilson@brookstoneschools.org  
www.brookstoneschools.org

## Testimonials ...

What students, parents, faculty, volunteers & donors are saying  
about Brookstone

**Sam Cornwell, Board Member and one of the original founders of Brookstone Schools:**

*"As students pursue academic excellence, develop their social skills and grow in faith, they will have started on a journey that will enable them to be our servant leaders of the future. I have had the privilege of being a partner to 3 different children since the school opened in 2001. This has blessed me more than I could possibly have imagined."*

---

**George Wise, Brookstone 5th grade parent:**

*"Just knowing that my son is being trained in a Christian school has been a blessing. So many kids in our neighborhood don't care about school. They don't want to face challenges. Brookstone motivates kids. What fires me up is when my son comes home from school excited about what he's learning, especially scripture. He is learning from the Book of Life the way ahead, the only sure path for the future."*

---

**Stacy Shembo, Brookstone graduate. Stacy is currently a 7<sup>th</sup> grade honor roll student at Charlotte Secondary Charter School and a member of the cross country running team:**

*"Brookstone really prepared me for middle school, especially with the Singapore math and learning how to work with others to figure things out. I love science and want to be a pediatrician one day. If you follow what's right, you get ahead."*

---

**Kwame Barrett, Brookstone graduate.** Kwame is currently a seventh grade honor roll student at Marie G. Davis Middle School in Charlotte:

*“Brookstone taught me that whatever I put my mind to, I can achieve. I love math and believe I’m pretty good at solving problems in different ways. Singapore Math at Brookstone really prepared me for middle school math. Students at Brookstone need to study and work hard. It pays off.”*

---

**Karen Mello, Volunteer.** Mello coordinates an active library program at the school. The library which began with one box of books now has over 5,000 titles.

*“I have enjoyed watching the children’s desire for books grow. Their enthusiasm is stimulating. They request books, read aloud together, eagerly exchange books and sometimes argue about who will read a book first! I have enjoyed working with them so much I stopped working in a paid position to devote more time to Brookstone.”*

---

**Lindsey Horne, Music teacher:** Horne is a professional musician who has had extensive experience teaching vocal and instrumental music to children from different socio-economic backgrounds and has built an outstanding vocal program at Brookstone:

*“Each time I come to the school, I leave feeling full of hope and thankfulness. I have yet to see a group of young children sing with such great conviction. They always seem to believe in what they sing. You can hear it in their voices and see it in their faces. I am thankful this school is a part of the children’s lives, and I am especially thankful the children are a part of mine. When they graduate from Brookstone, my hope is that these children will have at least one song in their heart- a song that will serve a purpose and stay with them throughout their lives.”*

---

**Elizabeth Orr, classroom teacher.** Orr joined the mission after teaching in Charlotte Mecklenburg Schools for twenty-five years.

*“Teaching is a ministry. My classroom is a place where I can model, coach and pass on the faith and values I’ve inherited from my family, especially my mother. It has been so rewarding to watch children’s faith grow, the way they respond to prayer and to our devotional time each morning. I love the Christian mission and also the fact that each child is challenged and motivated at Brookstone.”*

---

**Mary Fontana, drama director. Fontana has had years of experience working with inner city students. She has been instrumental in giving children ongoing opportunities to gain courage and confidence through stage productions performed at Brookstone.**

*“I believe a performing arts program is vital for inner city children. It peels away the barriers of insecurity, shyness, race, religion, socio-economic status and even language to give kids a platform for developing leadership, teamwork and healthy self-esteem. Most importantly, children are able to see themselves as valuable, worthy and capable of reaching goals.”*