

2025



Green & Grey Gratitude

THE MERRIE-WOODE FOUNDATION, INC. ANNUAL REPORT

Our Mission

Merrie-Woode is a sanctuary of rarest beauty which inspires a lasting awareness of God's presence. The Mission of Camp Merrie-Woode is to use that setting to nurture the physical, intellectual and spiritual growth of girls and young women through traditional camp activities and outdoor adventures. In this friendly, non-competitive community of simplified living, each individual is valued for who she is and who she will become.





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Dear Friends,

Merrie-Woode has always been more than a summer home and beloved mountain retreat. Camp is where girls form life-long friendships built upon mutual understanding and shared experience. In this Place of Rarest Beauty, we often reflect on how meaningful it is to be in community with those who know us as our true selves. Even when the world feels uncertain, there is steadiness in our Camp family. While this summer was a season filled with joy and laughter, it also invited reflection on how precious our time together really is. Merrie-Woode is not only defined by what we do at Camp, but how we all care for each other.

The summer of 2025 stood out for the many ways that campers and staff supported each other. From the silly moments on the Castle stage to the quiet victory of finishing a hike that felt impossible, there was always someone to laugh with or lean on. Adventure, play, challenge, and friendship will always remain at the heart of the Merrie-Woode experience, but what makes our values even more impactful is that no camper is left to seek them out alone. Campers thrive at Merrie-Woode because they know they are seen and valued for who they truly are and who they will become.

Like every summer, Merrie-Woode traditions formed the threads of our collective story. Sunday Campfires at the Council Ring and *Follow the Gleam*, to just name a few, felt especially meaningful this year. These traditions grounded us and reminded us that Camp was and has always been a place of belonging and community. By honoring the experiences that have been passed down from generation to generation, we are reminded that, though seasons of life may change, the heart of Merrie-Woode continues.

As we reflect on the summer of 2026, we do so with gratitude for this extraordinary community and for your steadfast support. Your generosity sustains a place where girls are valued, supported, and encouraged to grow into their best selves. Thank you for helping ensure that Merrie-Woode remains a place where connection, care, and belonging continue to shine.

Robin and Frost Walker

Robin and Frost Walker
Executive Directors

Tweed Cline Eckhard

Tweed Cline Eckhard
Chair, Board of Trustees

Our Philosophy

Merrie-Woode is a traditional wilderness summer camp devoted to nurturing the physical, intellectual, and spiritual growth of girls and young women in a beautiful, natural setting. The values of simplified living, warm personal relationships and a love of nature bind our large community of campers, staff, and alumnae.

Living in rustic quarters, campers explore their interests and build their skills in areas of their choice. Our programming focuses on self-discovery, offering an array of outdoor and indoor activities in a non-competitive setting. Campers are encouraged to set goals and may, over time, achieve a high level of competence, gaining self-confidence in the process.

We strive to attract campers, staff and camp families from varied backgrounds who value youthful time spent in nature. Merrie-Woode is a place where every girl is supported as an individual while acquiring a deepened awareness of God's creation and an expanded awareness of the world around her. Merrie-Woode's campers have gone on to contribute to their communities in meaningful ways throughout their lifetimes, in part because of the rich network of friendships and core values of fair play, sustained effort and respect for others that they gained while at Camp Merrie-Woode.

Our Values

Wilderness and the outdoors. Spending time in undisturbed natural settings helps girls develop a sense of awe for God's creation, of discovery, and of their own potential.

Simplified living. We believe in making do with less in a rustic and low-tech environment.

Challenge. Camp is a place where girls have opportunities to reach outside of their comfort zone, building responsibility, confidence, resilience, and skills.

Play. Joy, laughter, and fun are each valuable in their own right and as a basis of positive learning and development.

Spirituality. Camp Merrie-Woode is a place of reverence and is based in the Christian faith.

Integrity. We believe in honesty and fair play.

Community. Living in a friendly, inclusive, and mutually supportive community makes it possible for girls and young women to grow into their best selves.

The individual. We respect and value each member of the community for who she is and who she will become.

Friendship. We believe in the power of lifelong relationships formed at camp.

Our history. We believe in creating a future based on the best of the past, including honoring those who have loved it and given it their best.

Service. We believe in service in the camp community and service to the world beyond.



the Annual Fund





Because of donors like you...

In 2025, the Merrie-Woode community once again showed their incredible generosity through gifts to the Annual Fund. We received gifts totaling \$410,264. Because of donors like you, we are assured that the Spirit of Merrie-Woode will continue to thrive for generations to come. We are deeply grateful for your support.

*We are honored to recognize gifts to the Annual Fund from
January 1 to December 31, 2025.*

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Adventure Trips

The Mountaineering and Boating Programs at Camp offered both single and multi-day trips designed to help campers connect with the outdoors in meaningful ways. The Mountaineering Program led a wide range out-of-Camp trips, from a half day to five days, including various outdoor adventures such as hiking, caving, backpacking, and climbing. Simultaneously, the Boating Program maintained its longstanding tradition of paddling Class I-III rivers, including the French Broad, Tuckasegee Gorge, Nantahala, and Chattooga. A consistent favorite is the Lake Jocassee canoeing and camping trip, giving campers the chance to paddle, hike and camp all in one trip.



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On the Castle Stage...

Theatrical performance has been a foundation of the Merrie-Woode experience since the early days of Camp, thanks to the vision of Dammie Day. Originally starting with just the reenactment of *Follow the Gleam*, the Drama Program has expanded to include a June Session Play, Main Session Musical, and August Session Play. This summer, our June Session campers took the stage with *No Good Deed Goes Unpunished*, a story about a girl tangled in a world of fairy tale mishaps while searching for her own happily ever after. The enchantment continued into Main Session as campers brought *Into the Woods* to life, weaving together classic fairy tales in a journey full of twists and meaningful lessons about finding what truly matters. Our August Session campers charmed the crowd in *Tacky the Penguin*, bringing laughter and fun to Final Shows. We are incredibly proud of the cast and crew who made each of these productions unforgettable.



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The Merrie-Woode Gift Acceptance Policy will govern the acceptance of any and all gifts to the Merrie-Woode Foundation, Inc. Special conditions may apply to gifts other than cash or publicly traded securities. Please contact Mary Ann Daniel at maryann@merriewoode.com for more information.



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**Our family legacy campers and
counselors, Missy, Katherine,
Maggie, Alexandra, Stewart,
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McDavid, and our patriarch,
Frank Troutman Jr.**
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**All former campers under
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Adventure Program Training
Doug and Ann Cameron

**Jaye and
Mary Jane Scott Trimble**
Stirling Cassidy Smith
Palmer Smith

**Robin and Forst Walker, who
are working tirelessly to keep
the Spirit of CMW alive and
well**
Bill Northen

Peyton Maddox
Clint and Krista Garner Maddox

Wilderness First Aid
Doug and Ann Cameron

Connor Willingham
William and
Linda Brown Roseberry

In Memory Of:

Claudia Hantman Arko
Chase and Holly Pierce
Ambler

Polly Orr Bates
Thomas and Lisa Bates

**William Robinson "Rob"
Cook Beard**
Geoffry and
Evelyn Day Butler
Elizabeth Owen

Nancy Bland
Henry and Sally Bland
Fielding

Mary Ann Broughton
Hunter Broughton
Annie Thomas

Hugh Caldwell
Catherine Porter
Stirling Cassidy Smith
and Palmer Smith

Doug Cameron
Lelee Frank Hazard
Mark and Walker Freeman
Jones

Frances Purnell Cameron
Elise Barksdale

Deborah Bennett
Meredith Forshaw
Cathia Friou
Melissa Gustafson
Jane Hunter
Terry Jones
Caroline Purnell
David Tobeson

**Frances Purnell Cameron,
who held so much love for
Merrie-Woode**
June Cameron

Janie McMullen Cline
Sykes Eckhard

**Elizabeth “Bunch” Sanders
Griffin**
Eleanor Griffin
Louise R. Wall

Ginger Hallock
Louise R. Wall

Ellen Hardison
Henry and Sally Bland Fielding

Pete Hendricks
Sarah and Jim Kennedy

Susan Fitz Hugh
G. Slaughter Fitz-Hugh Jr.

Peachy Kohler
Louise R. Wall

Scott Lacy
Elizabeth S. Dowd

Abby Shaw Nalty
Jill Nalty

Ashley Sullivan
AdventHealth Foundation
West Florida

Helen Tarbutton
Ella Janvier

Dorothy Metcalf Thomas
Dean and Lauren Thomas
Flores

Catherine Margaret Wright
Thomas and Judith Boyd





the
Fall Alumnae Challenge



Merrie-Woode gratefully acknowledges the following individuals who gave to this year's Fall Alumnae Challenge. We raised \$23,141 which covers one June, one Main, and two August Session camperships. Because of your generosity, more girls and young women will get to experience the magic of Merrie-Woode.

Anonymous (2)	Andrew and Anne Buckman Calder	Sallie Glover
Alicia Alford	Caroline Carnahan Campbell	Anna Gordillo
Crighton and Laughlin Kane Allen	Laura Mosby Carlson	Hattie Gruber
Elisabeth Foster Alston	Libby Carter	Timothy and Elizabeth Burck Guiza
Frank and Natalie Wertymmer Altman	Charlie and Mary Coleman Rogers Clark	Neel Gupta
Emmie Amason	Landon Cobbs	Alice Hallock
Kate Ambler	CeCe Cook	Megan Harold
Parker and Caroline Reeves Anderson	William and Elizabeth Eades Coughlin	Robby and Betsy Duckett Harris
Robert and Lyda Larkins Astrove	Jason and Scootie Lambert Dabbs	Ashley Helmick
Adam and Elly Straske Bacigalupo	Robert and Mary Ann Broughton Daniel	Ann Higgins
Madeline Baird and German Aguirre	Elizabeth Mitchener Daniel	Hester Hodde
Catherine Ballard	Sydney Davidson	Harriet Broughton Holliday
Sarah Merrill Barringer	Elizabeth Davis	Lily and Margaret Horsley
Jon and Caroline Gablehouse Berryman	Kimberly Davis	Martha House
Lizzie Bickerstaff	Carolyn Duckett	Cooper and Campbell Bowers Jackson
Mary Ann Borden	Denice and Jim Dunn	Ann Janvier
Evie Bories	Caroline Newlin Ellington	Ella Janvier
Mary Kent Bowen	Kyle and Mary Hayward Spotswood Eudailey	Bowen Johnson
Mary Ellis Bratcher	Annie Feeley	Emily Johnson
Bess Broughton	Dean and Lauren Thomas Flores	Hastings Crockard Jones
Grace and James Broughton	Courtney Foster	Mark and Walker Freeman Jones
Gracie Broughton	Alice Gash	Shelby Lopez and Ben Kamisar
Hunter Broughton	Lucy Gash	Elizabeth Kennedy and Ryan Lucia
Mel Broughton	Kendall Gibson	Anne Knock
Caroline Brown	Mary Gletner	Michael Lanham

Andrew and
Sarah Josey Lyon

Marguerite King
Marschner

Elizabeth McEldowney

John and
Elizabeth Dempsy Merritt

Kathryn Meyer

Elizabeth Moore

Jeremy and
Madeleine Davis Moore

Marguerite M. Moss

Carol Murray

Narcissa Murray

Layne Nalty

Morgan Nalty

Anna
November

Annie Obrecht

Comer Crockard Prospere

Parker King
and Dowling King

Lily Simpson

Sam and
Maggie Hill Ratliff

Cole Reifsnider

Lolly Cunningham Rivas

Ravenel Rushton

Ellie Schmidt

Olivia Seidensticker

Richard and
Beth Woods Sessums

Jack and Eliza Sheldon

Sallie Simpson

Abigail G. Smith

Blake and
Tyler Anderson Spencer

Janie Branch Sterling

Davis Straske

Mary Stephen Straske

Sarah Hagenbunch Syed

Jett Taylor

Knox and
Amanda Allen Thompson

Brendan Shanahan
and Lindsey von Thron

Frost and
Robin McKinney Walker

Talbot Waters

Lane Westerlund

Alyssa Wincker

Clayton and
Mary Peterkin Worthington





Thank you for your Support!

The Merrie-Woode Foundation, Inc. relies on the Annual Fund to support Camp's operations, including programming, staffing, and facilities. The Annual Fund also provides resources for camperships, which are tuition scholarships that provide financial assistance to many Camp families and to girls and young women who would not otherwise have the opportunity to attend summer camp.

Contributions to the Merrie-Woode Foundation, Inc. are tax deductible for individuals, corporations, and foundations within the limits of section 501(c)3 of the IRS code.



the Endowment Funds





Thank you for your Support!

Merrie-Woode's Endowment was established in 2018 through the gifts of many generous donors to the Centennial Campaign. The Endowment serves as a permanent, income-generating asset that supports Camp Merrie-Woode.

Within the larger Endowment are general funds supporting operations, as well as restricted funds supporting camperships, programming, building preservation, and conservation. Individual donors and groups of donors may create named endowments with gifts of \$100,000 or more.

Since the Centennial Campaign, new named funds have been established, affirming the importance of endowment giving to Merrie-Woode's overall financial position.

GENERAL OPERATIONS ENDOWMENT FUND

The Merrie-Woode Endowment Honoring Former Board Chairs

Established in 2018 as an unrestricted endowment resource to support Camp Merrie-Woode's operational budget.

In Honor Of:

John Kinnett (in memoriam)
Pete Hendricks (in memoriam)
Bill Kemp (in memoriam)
Beanie Lohmeyer Stout (in memoriam)
Carla Hulsey Simmons
Bill Pippin (in memoriam)
Nancy Conkle Swann
Mary Jane Scott Trimble
Liz Counce Irwin
Elizabeth Keenan Thompson
Clair Freeman Marshall

**New Donors from January 1
to December 31, 2025.**



Jim and Jayne Honey Chapman	Anne Honey	Allen and Clair Freeman Marshall
Andres and Julie Harrower Diaz	Elizabeth Honey Langford	Elizabeth MacDonell
Rick and Tweed Cline Eckhard	Genie Lyman	Mrs. Hebe Dowling Murphy

CAMPERSHIP ENDOWMENT FUNDS

General Campership Endowment

Established in 2016 to provide need-based full and partial tuition camperships to make the Merrie-Woode experience available to a broader socio-economic range of families for whom tuition is out of reach.

New Donors from January 1 to December 31, 2025.

Dillien Cameron

Jewel Ann Cameron

Hannah Manos

The Casscells Family Endowment

Established in 2018 to support need-based full and partial tuition camperships and provide resources for the continuation of the high caliber activities and programming that campers enjoy each summer.

The Betty and John Kinnett Endowment

Established in 2018 to honor our founding Board Chairman and his wife to provide camperships, enabling Merrie-Woode to serve families, including many alumnae families, for whom tuition is out of reach.

The Fritz and Augusta Orr Endowment

Established in 2017 to honor the legacy of Fritz and Augusta Orr and the Orr Family to provide camperships and support the ongoing maintenance of the beautiful Fritz and Augusta Memorial next to Merrie-Woode's outdoor chapel.

New Donors from January 1 to December 31, 2025.

Bill and Betsy Hamilton Verner

The Harriet Matthews Jackson Endowment

Established in 2021 in memory of alumna Harriet Matthews Jackson to support need-based full and partial tuition camperships that will make the Merrie-Woode experience available to more girls and young women who might not otherwise be able to afford Camp.



PROGRAMMING ENDOWMENT FUNDS

General Programming Endowment

Established in 2016 to underwrite the costs of providing the high-caliber programs for which Merrie-Woode has come to be known.

New Donors from January 1 to December 31, 2025.

The Chris Sullivan Foundation

Sarabeth Gump

Jimmy and Liz Counce Irwin

Gabrey Croft Means

Robert and Robin Naylor

Molly du Pont Schaffer

Frances Schapperle

Alexander and
Carter Coker Simpson

Lynn Stichter Pearce Tate

Elizabeth Thompson

Kathryn Thompson

Patrick and
Catherine Avery Warfield

Chris and
Kimberly Tuthill White

The Dameron Family Foundation Endowment

Established in 2018 to ensure the highest level of staff training is always in place. Merrie-Woode intends to maintain its reputation as a leader in high adventure programming and expert horsemanship, with a sharp focus on safety where campers and staff are concerned.

The Ginger Somerville Hallock Endowment

Established in 2021 in honor of Ginger Somerville Hallock to support programming, staffing, camperships, and other initiatives advancing diversity, equity, and inclusion at Merrie-Woode.

New Donors from January 1 to December 31, 2025.

Malcolm and Elizabeth Hallock Andrews

Harold Hallock

Hilton Hallock

Bill and Betsy Hamilton Verner

The Hugh Caldwell Chamber Music Endowment

Established in 2017 through a trust created by Hugh Caldwell ensuring that Merrie-Woode summers will always include classical chamber music.



CONSERVATION ENDOWMENT FUNDS

Conservation and Sustainability Endowment

Established in 2016 to fund conservation projects that will continue to preserve Camp's natural environment.

New Donors from January 1 to December 31, 2025.

Chase and Holly Pierce Ambler

Elizabeth Townsend

Bill and Betsy Hamilton Verner

Sherwood and Eve Smith Family Endowment

Established in 2025 to fund preservation projects that will continue to support Camp's natural environment.

New Donors from January 1 to December 31, 2025.

Sherwood and Eve Smith

BUILDING PRESERVATION ENDOWMENT FUND

The Denice and Jim Dunn Building Preservation Endowment

Established in 2018 to help Merrie-Woode maintain and preserve its treasured rustic buildings.

New Donors from January 1 to December 31, 2024.

Rupert C. Thompson Fund



ENDOWMENT HONORARY AND MEMORIAL GIFTS

In Honor Of:

Denice and Jim Dunn

Elizabeth Keenan
Thompson

Elly Lane

Allen and Clair Freeman
Marshall

J.R. Hanks

Allen and Clair Freeman
Marshall

Stephanie Blessey Lilley

Allen and Clair Freeman
Marshall

In Memory Of:

Doug Cameron

Chase and Holly Pierce
Ambler

Jimmy and Liz Counce Irwin

Robert and Robin Maylor

George and Rudi Pillow

Elizabeth Keenan Thompson

Edward Daugherty

Bill and Betsy Hamilton Verner

Ginger Somerville Hallock

Malcolm and Elizabeth

Hallock Andrews

Harold Hallock

Bill and Betsy Hamilton Verner

Ellen Ansley Hardison

Bill and Betsy Hamilton
Verner

**Pete Hendricks, with gratitude
for his leadership and love of
Merrie-Woode**

Rick and Tweed Cline
Eckhard

**Scott Lacy, with gratitude for
his leadership and love of
Merrie-Woode**

Rick and Tweed Cline
Eckhard

Ashley Sullivan

The Chris Sullivan
Foundation

Laura Northen Manos

Hannah Manos

**Barry “Beanie” Lohmeyer
Stout**

Chapman, Honey, and
Langford Families

Genie Lyman

Elizabeth MacDonell

Bill and Betsy Hamilton
Verner





Policy to Establish Named Endowments

The Merrie-Woode Foundation, Inc. invites donors or groups of donors who make endowment gifts of \$100,000 or more to establish a named endowment fund, which will be recognized permanently as part of Merrie-Woode's endowment. This opportunity allows for the charitable gifts of Merrie-Woode supporters to directly fund their specific interests at Camp while honoring their leadership in an enduring manner. The minimum level of \$100,000 for a named fund ensures that the funds generate sufficient income for their designated purposes. If you have any questions, please reach out to Mary Ann Daniel at maryann@merriewoode.com.

THE MERRIE-WOODE FOUNDATION, INC.



2025 Fundraising Summary

How Your Gifts Impact Merrie-Woode

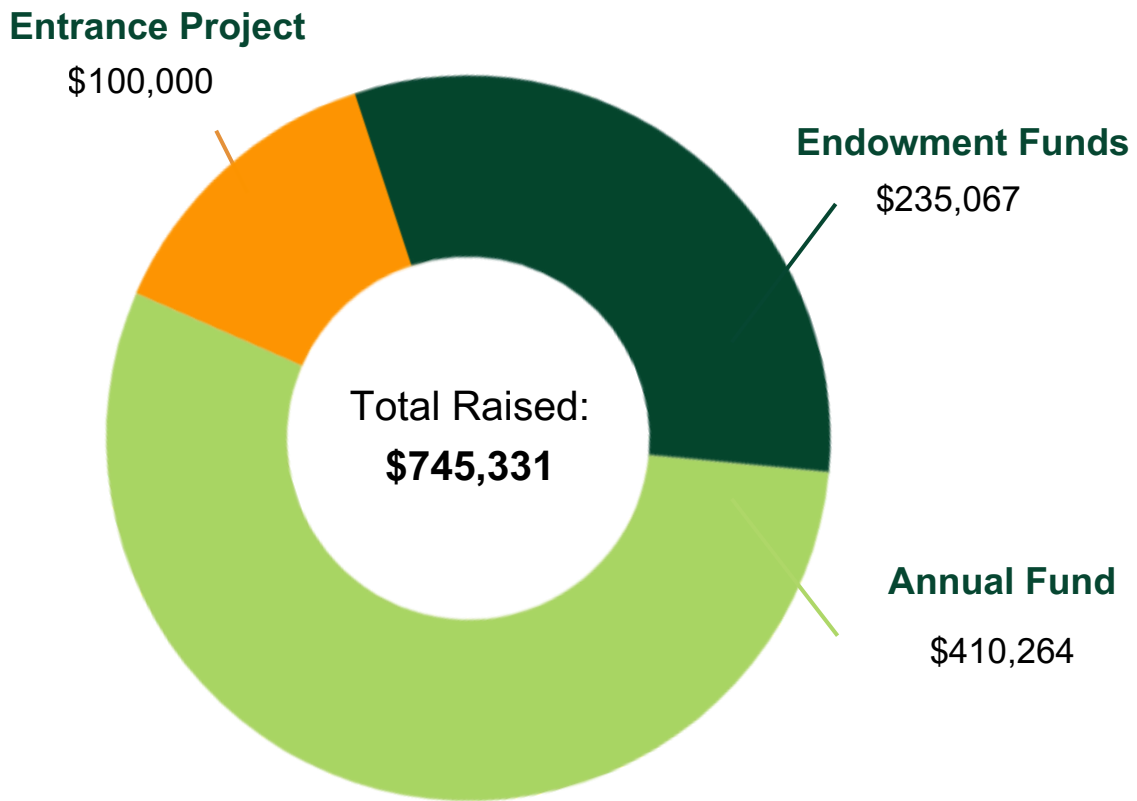
In 2025, 12% of Merrie-Woode's operating budget was given by our generous donors, and the remaining 88% came from tuition.

Your gifts to Merrie-Woode help to cover the full cost of Camp for today's campers.

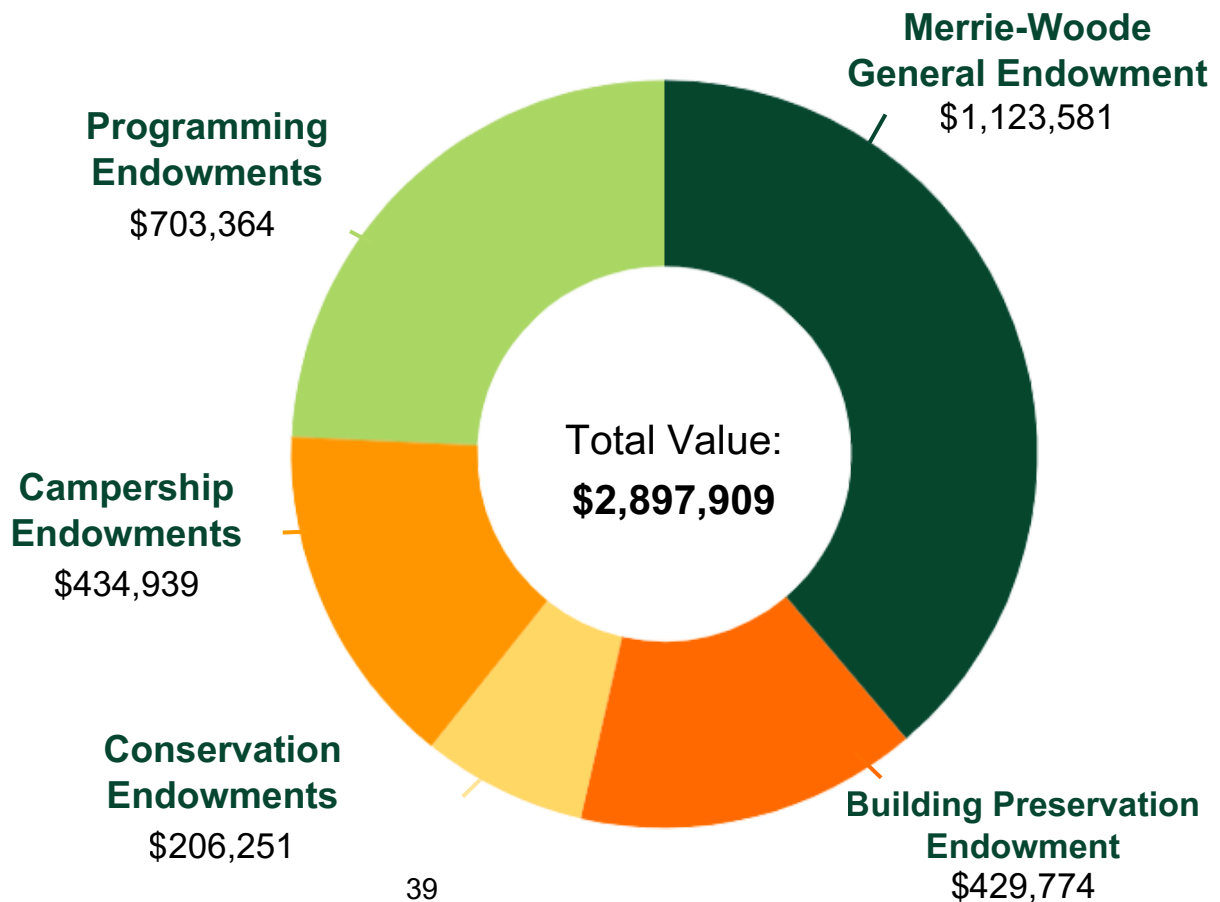


Tuition 
Donor Gifts 

2025 Fundraising Overview



2025 Endowment Overview



the
Kindred Spirit Society



Merrie-Woode gratefully acknowledges the following individuals who have made commitments to include the Merrie-Woode Foundation, Inc. in their estate plans:

Anonymous	Julie Harrower Diaz	Lynn Stichter Tate
Gay O'Neal Abbott	Denice and Jim Dunn	John and Barbie Jones Sabo
Holly Pierce Ambler	Jeremy and Mary Kent Harrison Ellis	Linda Siefried
Jody Shartle Anderson	Robert and Beth Hassinger	Sherwood and Eve Smith
Mark and Nancy Beveridge	Tommy and Elizabeth Holder	Stephen Smith
Catherine Boardman	Nan Andrews Hopkins	David and Nancy Conkle Swann
Terrell and Deane Valentine Bowers	James and Barry Stout Kaminer	James and Ann von Thron
Margy Dortch Brooks	Martha Ann Keels	Elizabeth Keenan Thompson
Royall and Henrietta Dibrell Brown	Donna Dismuke Lenaghan	Mary Ruffin Brown Waldron
Steven and Anna Ferguson Duff	Margaret Disharoon Maruri	Kelly McCaleb Wesley
Beverly Bailey Chinnis	Deedle McKenrick	Catherine Cranston Whitham
Dockery Clark	Kent and Whitney Dunlap McLeod	Stuart and Carol Graham Wyllie
Rob and Anne Emack Couch	Anne-Worley Bauknight Moelter	Mary Woodward
Francis and Winn Wiltshire Crockard	Stephanie and Peter November	
Chesley Johnson Dale-Arnurius	William Pippin	



Merrie-Woode will continue to welcome new commitments to the Kindred Spirit Society and will be glad to provide additional information regarding a variety of options available through our Gift Acceptance Policy. In addition, if you see any updates needed to our donor or Kindred Spirit listings, please contact Mary Ann Daniel by email at maryann@merriewood.com

the
Entrance Project



Merrie-Woode is proud to recognize the generosity of former board members and parents, **Elly and Merritt Lane**, whose leadership gift brings our Entrance Project to life. The Entrance Project is the next phase of Merrie-Woode's Conservation and Sustainability Plan. Combining stormwater resilience and environmental stewardship, the Entrance Project will allow for increased water flow under the entrance road while continuing landscape restoration efforts through the introduction of more native plants.

The Lane family's investment reflects both environmental stewardship and ensures an attractive first impression for families and alumnae driving through the gates. Because of the Lane's generosity, this important project is well on its way to a new and improved entrance into Merrie-Woode.



Merrie-Woode will welcome new commitments to the Entrance Project. Please contact Mary Ann Daniel by email at maryann@merriewoode.com if you would like more information.



Board of Trustees

- Tweed Cline Eckhard, Chair
- Donyal Andrews
- Liz Getten Atwood**
- Thomas Bates
- Jimmy Broughton
- Mary Coleman Rogers Clark
- Jeremy Ellis**
- J.R. Hanks*
- Campbell Bowers Jackson
- Elly Lane*
- Stewart Lathan
- Stephanie Blessey Lilley*
- Elizabeth Dempsey Merritt
- G. Ruffner Page
- Alexander T. Simpson**
- Elizabeth Crane Swent
- Susan O’Neal Thompson
- Kim Tuthill White
- Dan Wilbanks

*Completed term in 2025
**Elected in 2025



Leadership Team

Robin and Frost Walker,
Executive Directors

Megan Harold,
Staff Director

Tara Tecce,
Program Director

Celia Parr,
Adventure Program Coordinator
Catherine Ballard,
Communications Coordinator

Annual Report Credits

Catherine Ballard,
Graphic Designer







Merrie-Woode Foundation, Inc.

100 Merrie-Woode Road

Sapphire, NC 28774

(828) 743-3300

www.merriewood.com

Tax ID Number: 62-1055955