



News Release (December 14, 2015)

Childhood Literacy Gets a Boost from Iredell County Community Foundation with Record-Setting Grant

Efforts to improve childhood literacy in Iredell County have received a boost from the Iredell County Community Foundation, which recently awarded an \$80,000 grant to the Boys and Girls Club of the Piedmont to fund a literacy enrichment program for 170 second graders at eight Iredell-Statesville schools.

The grant is the largest the foundation has ever awarded. It will support the “Read, Lead, Succeed!” program -- a partnership between the Boys and Girls Club of the Piedmont and Iredell-Statesville Schools.

“Our vision for 2015 was to identify a real, genuine need and see if we could devote substantial funding to it,” Iredell County Community Foundation Board of Trustees Chair Jim Ashburn explained.

The Read, Lead, Succeed! program uses games, interactive technologies and parent involvement to make reading fun and relevant. A partnership with Iredell County-based Global Scribes, Inc., will connect the students with children around the world through an interactive story sharing website.

The program will run four days a week during the 2015-2016 school year and serve second graders reading below grade level. During the summer, a program with the Boys and Girls Club will help sustain student learning with continued literacy activities.

Struck by conversations with educators in the community and research that indicates a child’s reading proficiency in the third grade is an important predictor of high school graduation and lifelong potential, the Iredell County Community Foundation decided to focus its grantmaking on improving childhood literacy in the community.

Targeting second graders to close learning gaps before these students reach the third grade highlights the community foundation’s commitment to improve people’s lives, not just help them get by.

“If you don’t know how to read, you can’t succeed,” said Grants Committee Chair Jim Staples. “We want to help our young people succeed.”

The next Iredell County Community Foundation grant cycle for eligible Iredell County nonprofit organizations opens July 1, 2016 and closes on August 5, 2016.

Additional Grant Awards

In addition to supporting the Read, Lead, Succeed! program, the Iredell County Community Foundation awarded a \$10,000 grant to Hospice & Palliative Care of Iredell County for a program that helps children cope with grief and deal with crisis while remaining academically engaged.

The foundation also awarded a \$7,500 grant to Power Cross for a peer mentoring and tutoring program for young men.

About the Iredell County Community Foundation

The Iredell County Community Foundation was established in 1989 to increase the charitable giving resources in Iredell County. The Foundation's grantmaking program started in 1998 as a result of a \$1.6 million bequest from Katherine Nooe Knox. From its first contribution to create a community endowment, the Iredell County Community Foundation has grown into a philanthropic organization managing 36 funds with total charitable assets of more than \$10.2 million. Since beginning its grantmaking program, the Foundation board has awarded more than \$1 million in grants to local area nonprofits.

The Foundation assists donors in making charitable contributions to the community, provides services for nonprofit organizations to create new or manage existing endowments and awards grants to organizations serving the Iredell community. It is an affiliate of Charlotte-based Foundation For The Carolinas. For more information about the Iredell County Community Foundation and how to apply for grants visit www.iredellcounty-cf.org.

#

Media Contact: Candice T. Abinanti, Board & Grants Specialist, Foundation For The Carolinas, 704.973.4559 or cabinanti@fftc.org.