



For Immediate Release

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Blue Grass Community Foundation awards \$100,000 to organizations focusing on literacy and early childhood education

Blue Grass Community Foundation awarded \$100,000 to 21 nonprofit organizations serving Central Kentucky. Nonprofits applied for funding through a competitive grant-making program made possible by the Early Childhood Education and Literacy Fund at the Community Foundation. Awards funded programs that focus on early childhood education and/or literacy.

Below is a complete list of 2016 Early Childhood Education & Literacy grant recipients:

Bluegrass Council of the Blind – to provide BCB clients with a free reader app on their phones

Carnegie Center for Literacy & Learning – to support Authors & Books for Kids, a project offered free to elementary-aged children that includes reading and writing group, as well as special author visits and interactions

Child Development Center of the Bluegrass – to support the purchase of infant-friendly books for lending library

Chrysalis House – to support Chrysalis Childcare Program which provides an after-school program and education summer day camp for at-risk children

Community Action Council – to support Head Start Smart, a project in which families enrolled in the Council's early childhood education program collaborate to create an original book series

Down Syndrome Association of Central Kentucky – to support monthly instructional sessions for parents and children on a range of educational topics

Fayette County Public Schools – to expand the Lexington Reach Out and Read™ project by providing the book, *I Love You like Sunshine*, to parents and their infant's two-week check-up

The Foster Care Council of Lexington – to support one-on-one tutoring services for at-risk foster children

International Book Project - to provide at-home libraries to 52 at-risk families

Lexington Children's Theatre – to support a literacy and theatre arts program at William Wells Brown Elementary and a Fayette County middle school

Lexington Fayette Urban County Government – to support Story Walks at McConnell Springs for childcare centers, preschools, and kindergarten classes

Lexington Hearing and Speech Center – to purchase teaching tools, materials, and equipment to help young children with sensory issues prepare for kindergarten and first grade

Mentors & Meals – to support family literacy programs including “Infinite Campus Night for Students and Parents,” “Winter Lock-In at Life Adventure Center,” and “Spring Book Club and Overnight”

The Nest Center for Women, Children & Families – to support the Literacy-Rich Respite Childcare Program at The Nest

Paris Elementary School – to purchase books for early readers in kindergarten and first grade

Race for Education – to support an after-school literacy/STEM program for girls at Crawford and Leestown Middle Schools

Reading Camp – to support Irvine Reading Camp, a free literacy-focused summer camp that serves students who are at least one level below grade level

The Salvation Army – to enrich the classrooms at the Salvation Army Early Learning Center with literacy-focused curriculum, supplies, and instruction

Visually Impaired Preschool Services – to support the Early Intervention Program which provides visually impaired children age 0 to 3 with regular hour-long home visits to help children become preschool ready

YMCA of Central Kentucky – to support Y Readers, a free summer reading and enrichment program for rising 1st-3rd grade students to mitigate summer learning loss

About Blue Grass Community Foundation

Blue Grass Community Foundation was founded in 1967 and serves as a philanthropic partner to individuals, families, nonprofit agencies and businesses, helping them to invest in the causes they care about. One of nearly 700 community foundations nationwide, Blue Grass Community Foundation holds assets of approximately \$71 million in over 450 charitable funds serving central and eastern Kentucky.

All charitable funds at Blue Grass Community Foundation are available to accept contributions at any time. To establish your own charitable fund or to learn more about Blue Grass Community Foundation, please call Allison Lankford at 859-225-3343 or visit our website at www.bgcf.org.