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FEATURED

Literacy Council Receives Grant for Summer Program

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The Moore County Literacy Council (MCLC), based in The Read Moore Center in Southern Pines, also conducts Motherhead programs across the county.

Summer is about having fun. It can also be a challenging time for children from low income families to stay on track with their reading achievement skills.

The Moore County Literacy Council (MCLC) announced this week the receipt of a \$15,000 grant from the Duke Energy Foundation to support their summer program, The Read Moore Academy for summer.

“Last summer, working with the Northern Moore Family Resource Center, we helped 45 children from low income families have a fabulous summer and improve their reading,” said Stuart Mills, MCLC executive director. “Duke Energy Foundation's support will enable us to continue this important work in 2020.”

On average, students may experience up to two months loss of reading achievement in the summer. In many cases, this can become a cumulative problem meaning children who fall behind particularly in the early grades, stay behind.

Duke Energy Foundation extended a total of \$810,00 in grant funding to support North Carolina K-12 programs focused on summer reading loss, STEM and experiential learning.

Given the COVID-19 crisis, the Foundation also provided each organization with the option to use the funds to address unforeseen operational challenges.

“The nonprofit community is essential to the well-being and success of our state,” said Stephen De May, Duke Energy North Carolina president. “We are grateful for the work they do to serve our communities and want them to have some measure of flexibility during this time of uncertainty – it’s the right thing to do.”

According to a survey by the North Carolina Center for Nonprofits, 70% of the state’s nonprofits that responded believe the financial burden of COVID-19 could affect the sustainability of their organization.

“As this pandemic spreads in our local communities, the demand for services provided by the nonprofit sector is growing at a rapid pace,” said Jeanne Tedrow, president and CEO of North Carolina Center for Nonprofits. “The need for flexible funds from both corporate and private foundations is paramount, and maintaining a safety net is critical

not only for today’s response, but for the viability of our communities as we recover and rebuild.”

Some nonprofits across the state are already feeling the impact and have indicated plans to use the funds for COVID-19 response.

The Moore County Literacy Council (MCLC) provides free basic literacy education and English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL). Instruction areas include life skills, citizenship, GED preparation, career readiness, computer skills and family literacy.

The majority of MCLC's adult students enter at a third grade level or less.

Through grant programs and partnerships with Moore County Schools and other local nonprofits, including the United Way of Moore County, MCLC has grown its outreach programming to serve more families and children's literacy needs.

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