

Dear Friend of Stokes County's Young Children (and Bluegrass):

BBQ for Books with a Side of Bluegrass is an annual fundraiser to benefit early literacy. This event has seen tremendous growth over the past 10 years and has become a countywide favorite. Unfortunately, like so many other events, it was not held in 2020. For 2021, we'll be taking a hybrid approach. On Thursday, September 30 2021, we'll be broadcasting live from Big Creek Lodge Restaurant, a part of Luna's Trail Farm and Event Center in Westfield, NC. This virtual event will feature musicians from Stokes County and the surrounding region and will be broadcast live over social media. In addition, we will hold an online auction event so that you can still enjoy what has been affectionately coined our *World Famous Silent Auction*.

All proceeds from *BBQ for Books with a Side of Bluegrass* are used to purchase new books and to fund early literacy programs for over 2,000 young children in Stokes County. Did you know strong early reading skills form the basis for learning in all subjects? Your donation will help to support early literacy programs such as:

- Dolly Parton's Imagination Library - **EVERY** child under 5 years of age in Stokes County receives a FREE book **EVERY** month! We launched this program in early 2015 as a direct result of past proceeds from BBQ for Books. Currently, 1,200+ children are enrolled! Dolly makes it easier for us by keeping our portion of the cost as low as possible, but our portion can add up. On the average our cost is \$25 to \$30 per child, per year.
- Reach Out and Read – Is an evidence-based program that promotes early literacy and school readiness in pediatric exam rooms by giving new books to children and advice to parents about the importance of reading aloud. Currently, we are providing this program at LifeBrite Pediatric Clinic of Danbury and were able to add Novant Pediatrics in King due to the event's success.
- We purchase books to be available for check out by the public through the KidSource Child Care Resource and Referral Library, which includes books specifically for young children, parenting books for parents/caregivers and field specific books for early childhood professionals.
- Books are given away at community events like our Little Folks Festival (alternates annually between schools in Walnut Cove and King). Young children participate in fun school readiness activities, including visiting a real school classroom and get to take a book home for free!

Please accept this as a formal request for a donation of an auction item. Would you consider donating something special to our event? We really do appreciate it!

You can find out more information by visiting our website at www.stokespfc.com, by visiting our Facebook page or by giving us a call at 336-985-2676. Thank you for supporting early literacy in Stokes County!

Sincerely,



Cindy S. Tuttle
Executive Director