

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

We are happy to announce the 2023, *BBQ for Books with a Side of Bluegrass* fundraiser to benefit early literacy programs in Stokes County, hosted by Stokes Partnership for Children, your local non-profit Smart Start agency. This year the event will be held on Friday, October 6, 2023 from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. at Nana Mac Meadows in Pinnacle, NC. Doors open at 5:00 p.m. We are so excited to announce our musical line-up this year! You can look forward to *An Evening of All-Star Bluegrass* featuring Darren Nicholson, Mark Pruet, Audie Blaylock and Reed Jones. You can also look forward to great food, our "World Famous" silent auction, all the games and the tremendous fun that has put this event on the map. 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 2,500 young children in Stokes County. Did you know strong early reading skills form the basis for learning in all subjects? Your support will help to fund 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. 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, Novant Pediatrics in King and at the Stokes County Health Department.
- 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 also given away at multiple community events throughout the year.
- **NEW!** With proceeds from past BBQ for Books, we are installing a professional Book Walk exhibit at King Central Park to be open by this spring. We are optimistically looking forward to branching out to other parks in the county in the near future!. Stay tuned! Plus, we have opened a new Little Free Library at our office! Come by and take a book and leave a book.

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!

We hope that you will also consider attending the event. You can find out more information by visiting our website at [www.stokespfc.com](http://www.stokespfc.com), by visiting our Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/stokespartnershipforchildren](https://www.facebook.com/stokespartnershipforchildren) 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