

# Press Release

The highlight of my first year as Executive Director of the Darlington County Education Foundation (DCEF) was the immensely gratifying experience of awarding grants to teachers that work so hard each day. Seeing the excitement and joy expressed by the Teachers and Principals at the schools awarded the grants provided a visible example of their passion for the wellbeing of students in the Darlington County School District.

This year, the DCEF awarded 12 grants to 11 schools totaling \$15,220. Grants were awarded to Southside Elementary, 6 Elementary schools in Hartsville, Darlington and Lamar, both middle and high schools in Darlington and Hartsville. The grants awarded ranged from playground equipment to library books and periodicals, technology, innovative seating, life skills training, tutoring and healthy living.

“We were very pleased to be able to provide financial support for projects that help motivate teachers and enrich the educational experience of our students” said Jerry Cheatham, President of DCEF.

The DCEF received funding from Sponsors for the **Go Big Hartsville** Event which was held on April 29<sup>th</sup> in Hartsville. This event was a reunion for the town and provided a platform to highlight the work of the DCEF. We would like to thank all of our generous sponsors that made it possible to award the many grants to our schools.

## 2017 Grants

-\$2982.95 for “A “Special” Kind of Play” which will provide outdoor play equipment for all of the exceptional education classes at **Southside Early Childhood Center**. This will allow these students their own playground to meet their needs more effectively.

-\$1239.00 for “There CAN Be More to Digital Learning Than Just Swiping” which uses OSMO Technology to encourage creative thinking in a small group setting. With OSMO technology, the screen is connected to tangible, holistic manipulatives that takes gaming beyond the screen and into the physical world for 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> graders at **Carolina Elementary**.

-\$1500.00 for “Growing Independent Skills” which will provide Middle School Exceptional Students at **Hartsville Middle School**, the means and skills to start and maintain a garden, and jobs related to gardening and farming.

\$1000.00 for “Life Begins At The Library” which will purchase new Library Books for 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> graders at **Spaulding Elementary**.

\$1500.00 for “The Reading Roost” which will update the Media Center at **North Hartsville Elementary** that will rejuvenate learners and inspire personal creativity.

-\$253.33 for “Chute, We Love the Outdoors” which will purchase materials for indoor and outdoor fun for 4K students at **Southside Early Childhood Center**.

-\$1000.00 for “Oh, How I Love Informational Text!” which will create an informational text classroom library of magazines, newspapers, non-fiction texts, and audio correspondence for 6<sup>th</sup> graders at **Darlington Middle School**.

-\$323.59 for “Café Connect-Experiencing Life One Cup At A Time” which will provide an opportunity for students in 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade at **Darlington High School, Moderate Intellectual Disabilities Self Contained Program**, to experience and gain a variety of work and social skills to help them become successful and participating members of their local community.

-\$1000.00 for Academic Football Coach (AFC) which is a program that is designed to encourage and motivate high academic standards with in the **Hartsville Football program**. All athletes are tagged in power school for tracking their grades on a weekly basis. When there are signs of trouble, these young men are sent to receive extra help through the AFC.

-\$750.00 for “Pate is Walking Across America” which will incorporate daily walking into a fun adventure that will lead 2<sup>nd</sup> graders across a virtual America. Pedometers will be given to children where they will develop a healthy habit of walking, nutrition and geography at **Pate Elementary**.

-\$750.00 for “Dump the Desks, Find Your Best Learning Spot!” which will bring flexible seating into the classroom so students can learn while being comfortable all while meeting the student’s unique learning needs in a student-centered classroom environment at **St. John’s Elementary**.

-\$2920.73 for “Can’t We All Get Along” will focus on Lego Therapy during small group counseling sessions and the Lego Education Curriculum during classroom guidance at **St. John’s Elementary**. The Lego curriculum will help inspire the students to get along and grow creatively and academically.