

LENOIR CITY FAMILY LIFE RESOURCE CENTER GETS LATEST TCF GRANT

Susan Fox was pleased when she got the call from the Tellico Community Foundation informing her that the Lenoir City School System was the latest recipient of a grant from the TCF for the “Let’s TALK” early childhood literacy project. Fox is the Director of the Lenoir City Family Resource Center (LCFRC). “This grant will be a tremendous help to us and we are so pleased to be selected,” Fox said.

LCFRC is the school district’s link between the home, school, agencies, and community. Fox leads the core team behind the “Let’s TALK” project that also includes Lenoir City Elementary Principal Don Maloney, preschool lead teacher Melody Hobbs, parent educator Linda Tillery and LCFRC Assistant Wendy Stooksbury.

Early Childhood Literacy is one of the recently announced focus areas for the TCF. The foundation will concentrate its grantmaking on the literacy needs of Loudon and Monroe County communities, including both English and Spanish-speaking populations.

According to Fox, learning begins at birth and the brain develops more in the first five years than at any other time during a person’s life. Deficits in early literacy and math begin well before kindergarten with skill gaps widening along family income lines from as early as 9 months of age and growing exponentially by 24 months.

Principle Maloney further commented, “Research has demonstrated that early literacy and math skills at kindergarten entry predict future academic success. That’s why we are excited about the TCF grant. It will help in a critical area.” TCF’s initial grant will provide \$500 for the purchase of bilingual books for children in the 0-4 age group to facilitate school readiness.

A recent *Foundation Matters* program produced by Tellico Village Broadcasting provides more information about the “Let’s TALK” program and the importance of the Tellico Community Foundation’s grant. This episode can be found under “Videos” , and then “Vimeo” at www.TellicoVillageBroadcasting.org or by using the direct link <https://vimeo.com/290779934>

Further information about the Tellico Community Foundation and its activities can be found at www.etf.org/Tellico, on the organization’s TellicoLife page, or in the new TCF brochure available at the Tellico Village Welcome Center. Donations to TCF can be made online at www.etf.org/Tellico or by contacting Trudy Hughes of the East Tennessee Foundation at thughes@etf.org or at (877) 524-1223.

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