



2023 Grant Results (as of September 2024)

In 2023, the Tellico Community Foundation awarded \$34,718 in grants to Loudon and Monroe County nonprofits for projects to improve Childhood Development and provide Support for Seniors. A year after the award, each grantee provides a summary of the results achieved. The following is a summary of those results. Your generosity is making a lasting difference.

CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT - \$18,718 (54%)

Boys and Girls Club of Tennessee Valley (Loudon County) - \$5,000

- The Rookie Readers Program runs for 18 weeks (three six-week sessions in fall, spring, & summer). Participating youth (grades K-2) read a "Book of the Week" as a group, individually, and with Reading Buddies, completing phonetics, arts & crafts, and games to improve literacy skills and reading comprehension. Youth take the Book of the Week home to build a personal library, practicing reading skills with friends and family.
- As a result of the generosity of the Tellico Foundation, the Rookie Readers program has been implemented in the Boys & Girls Clubs within Loudon County. 37 club members participated in the program. Throughout the duration of the program, club members focused on a "Book of the Week". This book focused on literary components to include character, setting, plot, comprehension, vocabulary and fluency. In addition, club members also participated in activities such as drama, dance, and games to reinforce comprehension and literary skills with movement and physical action. Arts and crafts activities as well as educational software were also included in the Rookie Readers program. Incentives were also included as part of the program. Rookie Readers participants received books to develop individual at-home libraries. Club members were encouraged to read to their parent and guardians outside of the club and school settings. These efforts have been implemented to support and enhance the literary experience at the club setting while supporting the academic successes of the classroom.
- Club members were assessed utilizing DIBELS (Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills) for pre and post testing instruments. The evaluation of the student assessments indicated that 79% of the Rookie Readers participants demonstrated growth and / or maintained levels of literary components focusing on sound / letter recognition (for kindergarten students) and oral reading fluency (for students in Grades 1 and 2).

Second Harvest Food Bank - \$5,000

- In Fiscal Year 2024, Second Harvest Food Bank's Food for Kids program served 1,201 students a total of 72,715 pounds of supplementary weekend food. We were able to achieve this feat by collaborating with 27 schools in Loudon and Monroe Counties.

- Food for Kids coordinators at our partnering schools share that students participating in the Food for Kids program have higher attendance, better ability to concentrate, and in some cases higher reading levels after consistently getting their basic needs met. "It's like you can visibly see (them) switch out of survival mode to thriving. They just needed to have their daily food needs met."

Madisonville Public Library - \$4,000

- The Children's Literacy Outreach Program circulates 2,892 books to 6 different facilities and reaches 800 children, mostly preschool age. With the TCF grant, 200 books were added to the program.
- Each of the 200 books purchased with this grant were circulated at least twice to each outreach partner facility. In addition, they were read numerous times at the daycares as well as at our in-house story times and programs. Since we put a special sticker on the spine of each of these grant books, it was easy to select them to read at our partners facilities, as well as at our in-house story times and programs.
- At one zoo themed story time held in the library, we read a grant funded book "The Great Fuzz Frenzy" to the children in attendance. They had a lot of fun and really enjoyed the story. Then we surprised them with the opportunity to meet a real prairie dog and they were absolutely thrilled. It was a wonderful experience for the children, their caregivers and our staff as well.

Boys and Girls Club of Ocoee Region (Monroe County) - \$3,000

- The Great Futures program serves 972 youth across multiple counties. The TCF grant contributed to the Monroe County program funding.
- Monroe County's at-risk youth benefit from the Great Futures program, which offers evidence-based enrichment programs to develop caring, productive, and responsible citizens. The program has a holistic approach, focusing on three priority areas: Academic Success, Good Character and Leadership, and Healthy Lifestyles. The goal is for every child participating in this program to discover their passion and achieve a clear direction for their future, enabling them to thrive.
- Third grade participants who initially struggled with basic spelling in the standard reading and writing programs have progressed to the point of reading chapter books. This advancement has not only enhanced their academic performance but has also positively impacted their daily lives. Our students now enthusiastically apply their new skills across various aspects of life, transforming reading from a previously perceived chore into a valued privilege.

Adopt-a-Class TN - \$1,000

- In this Adopt-a-Class program, teachers apply for funds to buy Mathematics, Sciences and STEP educational support materials for their classrooms. This was the first year of the program. Adopt-a-Class provided approx. \$5,700 in materials to 3 public elementary schools in Loudon and Monroe counties. Funding was sufficient to support all qualified requests, and the program will be expanded in 2024.

Tellico Prime Time Players - \$718

- The Prime Time Players, a nonprofit readers' theatre troupe affiliated with the Tellico Community Playhouse, provides books and reading experiences for 3rd and 4th graders in Loudon and Monroe County elementary schools. Founded in 2010, their objectives is to give back to the community by making reading fun and accessible. By performing the books, they introduce children to the arts in a fun way. They're not just telling stories. They are opening doors to new worlds and encouraging children to explore them.

SUPPORT FOR SENIORS – \$16,000 (46%)

Our Place - \$10,000

- Our Place reconfigured 250 sq feet to provide three distinct spaces: a rest area with soft seating, dining/activity, and an area for exercise. The newly designed space has also alleviated the burden of moving furniture continuously throughout the day. By providing the ability to move between soft seating and the newly purchased tables and chairs, volunteers have reported that they observe more engagement from all.
- One client's caregiver reports that her mother has shown remarkable improvement in her quality of life by attending "school" at Our Place twice a week. She looks forward to her days at Our Place. Getting ready, she makes her bed, wears perfume and jewelry and picks out clothes she hadn't cared about for years. Upon returning home, she proudly shares her crafts, stories about trivia questions she answered, songs she sang, and movies she watched. She believes the chair exercises are making her stronger.

Monroe County Council for the Arts (MACA) - \$3,500

- The Art at Our Place program delivers art activities for people of ages 55 years old and older to engage with various art mediums lead by local artists. MACA was able to coordinate seven (7) arts workshops with Our Place, serving 57 participants. Two local artists with extensive training from the state of TN specially working with seniors and the Arts (Creative Aging) led these workshops. These are the types of activities: European bracelet, Watercolor- Bubbles with wet on wet technique, Acrylic on canvas or canvas board, Dandelion, simple, elegant Acrylic on canvas or canvas board, String/chain pull abstract art technique, Clay/Air Dry Clay Mouse with fuzzy tail, Music/Movement.
- The TCF grant provided 50% of the project funding.

PPAW – People Promoting Animal Welfare - \$2,500

- The TCF grant provides funding for spay/neuter and medical care for animals owned by disadvantaged Seniors in Loudon and Monroe counties. The objective is to help the senior retain the companionship of their healthy pet. In many cases, the cherished pet is the primary companion for these seniors.
- This is a new program for PPAW, and the program implementation was delayed. Results are expected early in 2025. And will be included in the 2024/2025 grant result reporting.