



Focus Area: Childhood Development in Loudon & Monroe Counties

September 2024

The Tellico Community Foundation (TCF) has chosen improvement in Childhood Development in Loudon and Monroe Counties as one of its focus areas for grantmaking. TCF believes that the future of our society relies on the education of the youth today.

It is our belief that, for children to thrive, they must be proficient in reading and math at a very early age. The prime time for learning these basic skills-- reading and math-- is between the ages of birth to about nine years old (fourth grade). Our education system is geared to teach those skills during that time; however, if those skills are not learned by then, most likely the child will struggle throughout the rest of his education and possibly never "catch up."

Data collected in May 2023 by the Annie E Casey Foundation for Loudon and Monroe Counties shows that approximately 70% of the children in grades third through eighth are not proficient in reading and math, meaning they cannot read at grade level. After fourth grade, those basic skills of reading and math are required to continue the education process. Literature, history, economics and other disciplines require literacy, and the teachers in the higher grades often do not have the time or resources to teach those basic skills required to succeed.

The TCF Advisory Board believes that focusing our resources with agencies and organizations that work with children between birth and fifth grade can alleviate some of the issues. By supporting outcome-focused programs operated by non-profit agencies and organizations, we believe we can positively impact, in a measurable way, children's reading and math abilities before they reach fifth grade.

Advisory board members from Tellico Community Foundation are available to discuss this important focus area with organizations who may need funding to address early childhood education, and to schedule individual meetings with potential donors to share our grantmaking goals and donation options.

About Tellico Community Foundation

The Tellico Community Foundation is an affiliate fund at the East Tennessee Foundation created to support the citizens and residents of Loudon and Monroe counties. It was established in 2017, to enrich the Loudon and Monroe County communities by funding programs and projects that provide support for seniors and promote healthy childhood development. Since inception, we have awarded grants of more than \$300,000 to organizations that serve our communities. Sixty percent of all funds donated to the TCF are allocated to our endowment, with the goal of building a long-term sustainable fund for grantmaking. To learn more or to become involved: www.tellicolife.org/tellico-community-foundation. To donate now, please visit: www.etf.org/Tellico.

AN AFFILIATE FUND OF



The East Tennessee Foundation (ETF) is a 501(c)(3) public charity and nationally accredited community foundation focused on serving a 25-county region in East Tennessee. As a community foundation, the ETF operates as a collection of hundreds of distinct charitable funds and supporting organizations established by individuals, families, businesses and other nonprofits. The ETF builds endowments, creating a permanent source of philanthropic funding for the East Tennessee region.

For more information, visit www.easttennesseefoundation.org.