



\*\*\* FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE \*\*\*

## **QCV's Racquets for Reading!!! Counteracts COVID Challenges**

**Charlottesville, Virginia** (1/11/2021) – QuickStart Tennis of Central Virginia, Inc. (QCV) is pleased to report on the progress of its [Racquets for Reading!!!](#) initiative. Racquets for Reading!!! was originally intended for disadvantaged and at-risk preschoolers and kindergartners in Albemarle County as a response to COVID-19 and our resulting inability to work with those kids in-person. Last October, we decided to expand our scope and raise funds for books, [Go Bananas for QuickStart!](#) materials and FUN giveaways (reading rubber duckies, banana-scented bookmarks, etc.) to many more kids in our 27-county Service Area (total so far: 2,940 kids in 16 school systems).

Books grants and giveaways funded so far (765 kids):

- Albemarle County — 190 preschoolers and 90 kindergartners
- Appomattox — 70 preschoolers
- Cumberland — 70 preschoolers
- Greene — 30 preschoolers and 100 kindergartners
- Madison — 50 preschoolers
- Martinsville — 80 preschoolers
- Patrick — 85 preschoolers

Grant requests have been filed and are pending for (1,260 kids):

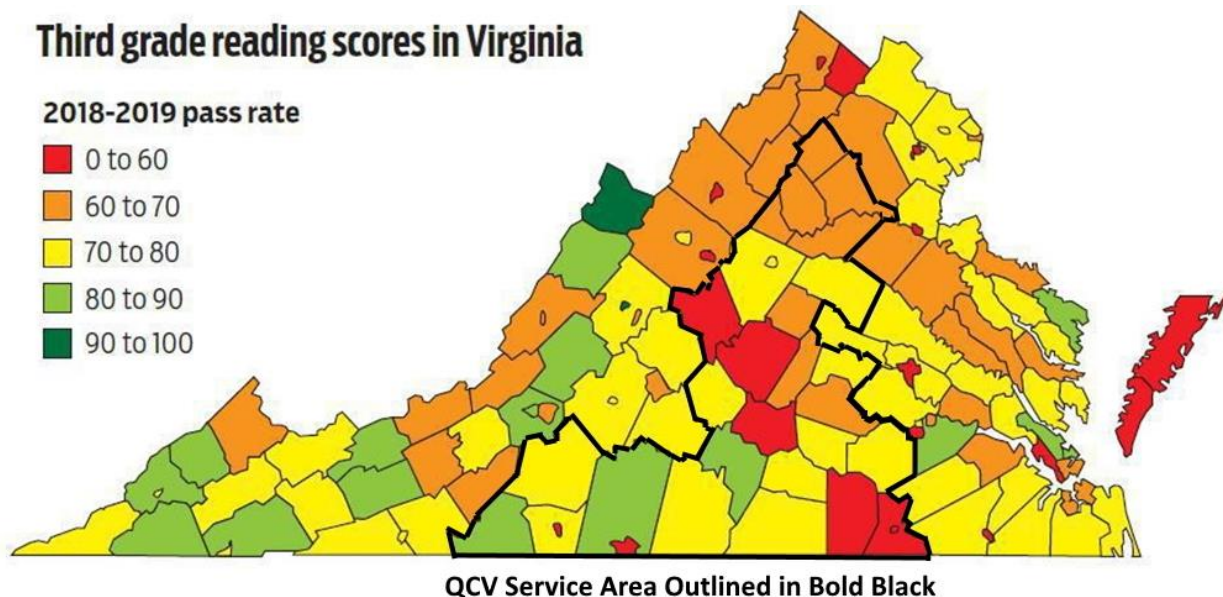
- Buckingham — 80 preschoolers
- Culpeper — 90 preschoolers and 250 kindergartners (in three Title I schools)
- Cumberland — 80 kindergartners
- Franklin — 260 preschoolers
- Greene — 80 kindergartners
- Louisa — 130 preschoolers
- Nelson — 20 preschoolers and 90 kindergartners
- Pittsylvania — 270 preschoolers

Grant requests in process to be filed (915 kids), with more to come:

- Brunswick — 40 preschoolers and 100 kindergartners
- Danville — 145 preschoolers and 420 kindergartners
- Greensville — 90 preschoolers and 120 kindergartners

QCV QuickStart Coordinator Lynda Harrill says, "It's been a crazy few months digging into the school readiness data and reading scores of elementary schools in our Service Area, talking to school administrators and teachers and writing grant requests at a pace I've never done before. Getting age-appropriate books in the hands of a disadvantaged and at-risk kids is a wonderful thing to do at any time, but it's especially important during this crisis.

“Here’s why we needed to step up (see map). Our Service Area has lots of red and orange (very low) counties and individual schools within yellow and light green (still too low) counties that could use a boost. **Research shows kids who don’t read at grade level at the end of third grade are going to struggle for the rest of their time in school and many will drop out.** We can help prevent that with early intervention, books for kids to keep and some Go Bananas for QuickStart! FUN.”



Please visit our website to learn more about what QCV is doing to promote early childhood literacy for preschoolers and kindergartners through our [Racquets for Reading!!!](#) initiative.

*Want to be a great adult?  
Play tennis! Read books! Eat healthy! Have FUN!!!  
Be a QuickStart kid!*

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QuickStart Tennis of Central Virginia is an all-volunteer, grassroots Community Tennis Association established in 2009 as a 501(c)(3) charitable organization to promote, develop and grow QuickStart Tennis in the heart of Virginia for all beginners, especially underserved youth, using the kid-sized QuickStart Tennis format.

QCV’s service area includes Albemarle, Amelia, Appomattox, Brunswick, Buckingham, Charlotte, Culpeper, Cumberland, Dinwiddie, Fluvanna, Franklin, Greene, Greenville, Halifax, Henry, Louisa, Lunenburg, Madison, Mecklenburg, Nelson, Nottoway, Orange, Patrick, Pittsylvania, Prince Edward, Powhatan and Rappahannock counties and the cities of Charlottesville, Danville and Martinsville, plus under a special arrangement, King George County. We currently serve 212 schools with 99,000 kids, 15 parks & recreation departments, three Boys & Girls Clubs and two YMCAs in 27 counties and three independent cities. We have also gotten tennis into PE classes in 37 additional schools with 16,000 students in communities outside our service area.

Visit QCV at [www.quickstartcentral.org](http://www.quickstartcentral.org) and on [Facebook](#).

For additional information, contact [quickstartcentral@comcast.net](mailto:quickstartcentral@comcast.net)



*A racquet in every hand! A smile on every face!*

