

*** FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE ***

Louisa Preschoolers Receive Books and Giveaways

Ivy, Virginia (4/24//2023) – QuickStart Tennis of Central Virginia, Inc. (QCV) is pleased to report 162 preschoolers in Louisa County Public Schools have received <u>Racquets for Reading!!!</u> books and giveaways thanks to the generosity of the Bama Works Fund in the Charlottesville Area Community Foundation. Some of the preschoolers participate in the <u>Little Lions Learning Lab</u> program, an early learning and daycare program established in 2019 to attract and retain employees for Louisa County Public Schools while giving high school students a hands-on teaching experience.



Melissa Pelloni, lead teacher for Little Lions Learning Lab, says, "Our Little Lions program is writing to tell you THANK YOU for this opportunity to place high quality books in the hands and homes of our preschoolers. We are so grateful, and our students are so excited at these wonderful books they can call their own!



"We have distributed *Inch by Inch* as part of our unit on the letter 'li' and our discussion of 'inchworms.' We read this book together as a team, and the preschoolers enjoyed following along! Students also each received a fairy tale book along with their rubber duck to

'read to' as a celebration item right before our Spring Break. The rubber ducks were

perfect timing for our program this year, as we actually incubated and then hatched baby ducks in our classroom in April!

"We plan to share the remaining titles as part of our butterfly unit when we hope to hatch live butterflies later this spring, and also will give the Sea Otter books out at the end of the year as part of our "fun in the sun" summer kick-off.

"Thank you again for this awesome opportunity! Not only is this a great reading experience for our preschoolers, but we are a preschool lab, so we also train future teachers. Each week high school students take classes to volunteer in our program gaining valuable real world teaching experience as they prepare to possibly be educators one day.

QCV Founder Lynda Harrill adds, "This email from Melissa put a big smile on my face! To think that those kids had our rubber duckie reading pals and real ducklings at the same time. What an awesome learning experience! That's the kind of FUN connection that can make a kid love learning to read. That's what Racquets for Reading!!! is all about. Many thanks to the Bama Works Fund for making this possible."

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

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, Campbell, Charlotte, Culpeper, Cumberland, Dinwiddie, Fluvanna, Franklin, Greene, Greensville, Halifax, Henry, Louisa, Lunenburg, Madison, Mecklenburg, Nelson, Nottoway, Orange, Patrick, Pittsylvania, Powhatan, Prince Edward, and Rappahannock counties and the cities of Charlottesville, Danville and Martinsville. Through tennis, we create happy, healthy, active and literate kids in the communities we serve.

Visit QCV at www.quickstartcentral.org and on Facebook.

For additional information, contact quickstartcentral@comcast.net.



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

