



SOUTH CAROLINA CENTER
FOR FATHERS AND FAMILIES

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SC Center for Fathers and Families Celebrates 20th Anniversary with Literacy Project
Initiative promotes importance of fathers' role in their children's education

COLUMBIA, SC – March 2, 2022 – Few things spark a child's imagination better than books, and few memories are sweeter for adults than reading with their parents.

At 9:15a.m. a new Free Little Library at Pinehurst Park near downtown Columbia aims to give those opportunities to more local children and fathers. Sponsored by the South Carolina Center for Fathers and Families (SCCFF), the library honors "Read Across America Day" and SCCFF's 20th anniversary.

The celebration continues with reading sessions for Carver Lyon Elementary School students. Gadev school books were read and prerecorded for the children by staff members from SCCFF and its Midlands Fatherhood Coalition.

"Children with engaged fathers are twice as likely to succeed in school than children whose fathers are absent," said SCCFF President Pat Littlejohn. "Reading is not only foundational for educational success, but also a great way for fathers to spend time with their children."

Providing fathers with the means to be great dads has been SCCFF's focus since its inception in 2002. Through the last 20 years, SCCFF has become the voice for fathers all across the state and a national fatherhood initiative model. More than 25,000 South Carolina fathers and 56,000 children have been positively impacted. These literacy projects were chosen to help mark SCCFF's 20th anniversary by putting building blocks in place for the future.

"We are excited to positively impact the next generation by supporting father-child engagement," Littlejohn continued. "The importance of fathers in the lives of their children and families, as well as our communities, cannot be overstated."

A 501(c)3 non-profit, SCCFF welcomes community members to donate children's books so it can continuously replenish the library. Books may be dropped off during business hours at its office at 2711 Middleburg Drive, Suite 111. Financial donations to help ensure no child grows up without a present father may be made at www.scfathersandfamilies.com/donate

About the South Carolina Center for Fathers and Families

The South Carolina Center for Fathers and Families is a ministry of the Sisters of Charity Health System.

Its mission is based on the conviction that children thrive when an engaged, responsible father is active in their lives. In South Carolina, many children live in a father-absent home, and the



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consequences are dire. To address this problem, The Center supports six regional fatherhood organizations, including the Midlands Fatherhood Coalition, to provide services to every county of the state while promoting father-friendly policies and practices and helping to erase society's negative stereotypes of non-custodial, low-income dads.

Learn more at www.scfathersandfamilies.com