

**For Immediate Release**

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## Media Release



### **Sanders-Clyde families and surrounding community members benefit from Lowcountry Street Grocery: a mobile farmers' market**

**Sanders-Clyde Elementary School**

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Acting Superintendent of Schools

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**Janice Malone**  
Principal

**Charleston. S.C.** – Families and community members from Sanders Clyde Elementary School have been the recipients of free and easily accessible groceries thanks to a generous grant provided by Cummins Turbo Technologies of Charleston through their philanthropic arm called CARE (Cummins Advocating for Racial Equity). CARE is an initiative designed to tackle institutional racism through a community-based programmatic development designed to create equity and opportunity for the Black community

The CARE grant, secured in May 2023, has gone to assist Lowcountry Street Grocery in helping families in the community who experience food insecurity. The effort was organized through Willa McGirth-Singleton, a Master Reading Teacher at Sanders-Clyde, and her husband, Ron Singleton who works at Cummins. A suggestion from McGirth-Singleton resulted in Lowcountry Street Grocery making Sanders-Clyde a permanent stop.

Kristin Todd of Lowcountry Street Grocery said this mobile farmers market concept is one of many ways the organization serves the community to bolster the food economy.

"We go into lower-income lower-access areas with high demand and offer the same products you would find in a grocery store," said Todd. "Items are priced on a sliding scale, and most products are priced at a lower cost than what one would pay a typical store."

Lowcountry Street Grocery is a Community Supported Grocery (CSG), which is grassroots local food delivery with a mission to make the local food economy more equitable, convenient, and scalable. It is funded in part by grants from community partners like Cummins, which enables Lowcountry Street Grocery to serve more individuals and expand its impact.

"Many of our families lack the resources that can supply them with safe and nutritious foods," explained McGirth-Singleton. "We asked Lowcountry Street

Grocery to include Sanders Clyde as a stop on their weekly route and they gladly agreed. It has been such a meaningful venture for our families and the surrounding community.”

With only two grocery stores on the Charleston Peninsula, it is often hard to obtain nutritious food if you do not have transportation, McGirth-Singleton explained.

“This allows families to simply walk over to our campus once a week to obtain healthy food items needed to feed their families,” McGirth-Singleton said.

### **Cummins generosity**

“Since CARE launched, it has been Cummins’ goal to enrich the communities where the company resides, making sure to address the specific needs of each individual region,” said Shon Wright, Vice President of Cummin Engine Components (CEC). “This grant is a perfect example of our staff not only being good stewards of the community but also being active when they come across opportunities where Cummins’ funds can support Charleston.”

While at a family open house, hosted by Cummins, McGirth-Singleton and her husband learned of the grant that had recently been gifted to Lowcountry Street Grocery. After Wright presented this announcement, McGirth-Singleton inquired as to whether Lowcountry Street grocery could make a stop at Sanders Clyde. Wright jumped into action and contacted Lowcountry Street Grocery to coordinate the stop with Principal Janice Malone.

What began as a weekly stop using the actual Lowcountry Street Grocery bus has turned into a full-scale grocery experience for families and the community. Every Thursday, tents are erected just outside the school and as students are dismissed, parents with vouchers can shop for their weekly needs. Vouchers are dispersed among different groups of parents each week so that all families are served equitably. Others can use an EBT card or cash to purchase affordable fruits, vegetables, fresh eggs, and holiday favorites.

If a family spends \$5 using EBT, they get \$15 of healthy bonus bucks to use totaling \$20 worth of fresh produce for only \$5. Lowcountry Street Grocery has also partnered with Morrison Yard, and \$20 vouchers are given weekly to 25 different families so they can shop for free.

“We can't thank Lowcountry Street Grocery enough for all they are doing to provide healthy foods,” added McGirth-Singleton. “This, in turn, enables our scholars to have normal growth and development and an active and healthy life.”

McGirth-Singleton has been able to meet the elders of the community, and over time, they have come to make lasting connections.

"I believe the work with Lowcountry Street Grocery holds significant value and importance for the Eastside Community," said McGirth-Singleton.

Todd said it is great to see students requesting certain fruits that they love.

"Customers from Sanders-Clyde have expressed their gratitude and appreciate access to nutritious food," said Todd. "They are grateful and thankful. They have built a community among each other by getting to know each other from seeing each other at the market-."

To learn more, contact Principal Janice Malone at (843) 724-7783.

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#### **About the Charleston County School District**

Charleston County School District (CCSD) is a nationally accredited school district committed to providing equitable and quality educational opportunities for all its students. CCSD is the second-largest school system in South Carolina and represents a unique blend of urban, suburban, and rural schools spanning 1,300 square miles along the coast. CCSD serves approximately 50,000 students in 88 schools and specialized programs.

CCSD offers a diverse portfolio of educational options and specialized programs delivered to the students of CCSD through neighborhood, magnet, IB (international baccalaureate), Montessori, and charter schools and programs. Rich educational opportunities for students include programs in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM); music and other creative and performing arts; career and technical preparation programs; military; dual credit; and many more.