



Chicora Elementary School
Monica Smalls, Principal
 3100 Carner Avenue
 North Charleston, SC 29405
 (843) 746-2210

Media Release

Real Men Read to Scholars: Inspiring a Love of Reading at Chicora Elementary

North Charleston, SC (March 17, 2026) - On Friday, March 13, 2026, the multipurpose room of Chicora Elementary School was filled with the sounds of laughter, storytelling, and the turning of book pages as the Charleston (SC) Chapter of The Links, Incorporated, hosted its inspiring “Real Men Read to Scholars” event. The initiative was designed to spark a lifelong love of reading among students while strengthening the connection between community mentors and young scholars.

Male volunteers from across the community gathered with enthusiasm and purpose, ready to share one of the most powerful gifts they could offer: time and the joy of reading. Each volunteer was paired with a fourth or fifth grade scholar for a special one-on-one reading experience. Together, they explored favorite books, exchanged ideas, and discovered the magic that stories can bring.

To make the experience even more memorable, each reading pair enjoyed a complimentary bag of popcorn while reading together, adding a fun twist and giving scholars a real “POP” of excitement as they dove into their books. The relaxed, engaging environment helped create meaningful moments between volunteers and students, reinforcing that reading can be both educational and enjoyable.

The highlight of the day came at the end of each session, when every scholar received the very book they had read to take home and add to their personal library. For many students, this gift represented more than just a book—it symbolized encouragement, opportunity, and a reminder that their community believes in their potential.

Events like **Real Men Read to Scholars** play an important role in promoting literacy and academic success. Reading helps strengthen vocabulary, comprehension, and critical thinking skills, while building a home library supports continued learning beyond the classroom. By providing both mentorship and books, the program creates a foundation for long-term educational growth.

The Charleston (SC) Chapter of The Links, Incorporated continues to demonstrate its commitment to youth development through programs that uplift, empower, and inspire. Through the dedication of its volunteers and the enthusiasm of its scholars, **Real Men Read to Scholars** proved that when communities come together around education, the impact can be truly transformative.

Most importantly, the event reminded everyone involved that reading is more than a skill—it is a doorway to imagination, knowledge, and possibility. And sometimes, all it takes to open that door is a good book, a caring mentor, and a shared moment of storytelling. Special Thanks to CCSD Project Manager Lauren Crawford, Principal Monica Smalls, and the CCSD Staff and volunteers who helped make this event possible.

For more information, please contact the Office of Communications at (843) 937-6303.

###

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.