



Charleston County School District
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Media Release

Wish for Wheels Donates Bikes to Chicora **Second Graders**

Charleston, SC (September 23, 2026) – Second graders at **Chicora Elementary School** received a special surprise Tuesday when Wish for Wheels, a national 501(c)(3) nonprofit, partnered with Nakupuna to provide each student with a brand-new bicycle, helmet, and lock.

The partnership brought volunteers to Chicora Elementary to build the bicycles on-site and create an unforgettable experience for the students. Once the bikes were ready, volunteers matched each second grader with their new bike, helped students get properly fitted for their helmets, and encouraged them as they took their first rides.

Students then gathered in a designated safe riding area on school grounds to celebrate together and enjoy their new wheels.

“This was such a special day for our second graders,” said Principal Monica Smalls. “We are incredibly grateful to Wish for Wheels and Nakupuna for giving our students not only a new bicycle, but an experience filled with excitement, encouragement, and joy. These are the moments our students will remember.”

Wish for Wheels works to provide bicycles and the opportunity to experience the joy, freedom, and confidence that come with learning to ride. Through its partnership with Nakupuna, the organization brought that mission directly to Chicora, creating an opportunity for students to build confidence while enjoying an active, healthy experience with their classmates.

“Seeing the excitement on the students’ faces as they received their bikes was incredibly rewarding,” said Nick Leng, Build & Give Specialist, School & Partner Relations. “We’re proud to partner with organizations like Nakupuna and Chicora Elementary to create experiences that give students the opportunity to build confidence, try something new, and experience the joy of riding a bike.”

The Nakupuna Companies are a Native Hawaiian Organization (NHO), owned family of companies comprising large and 8small businesses dedicated to providing innovative and impactful solutions to their customers while supporting their Native Hawaiian community. Specializing in mission and business operations, IT, facilities & infrastructure, logistics, and environmental services, the company is headquartered in Hawai‘i, with offices in Charleston.

For the Chicora second graders, the day was about much more than receiving a new bike — it was about celebrating, creating memories, and discovering the joy of riding together.



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

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About the Charleston County School District

Charleston County School District (CCSD) is a nationally accredited school district dedicated to ensuring every student has access to a high-quality education and the support needed to thrive. As South Carolina's second-largest school system, CCSD serves more than 50,000 students across 91 schools and specialized programs throughout 1,300 square miles of coastal communities, representing a unique blend of urban, suburban, and rural schools.

Under the leadership of Superintendent Anita Huggins, CCSD is focused on accelerating student achievement, expanding opportunities, and preparing every student for success in college, career, and life. Recent district accomplishments include record-high academic performance on state assessments, increasing graduation rates, and significant gains in college and career readiness, reflecting the district's commitment to continuous improvement and educational excellence. Through the Peninsula Promise, CCSD is also expanding access to early learning, college and career pathways, arts, and family support services to create seamless opportunities for students living on the historic Charleston Peninsula.

CCSD offers a diverse and expanding portfolio of educational choices, including neighborhood, magnet, charter, Montessori, and International Baccalaureate (IB) schools and programs. Students have access to rich learning experiences in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM); visual and performing arts; world languages; military and leadership programs; career and technical education; dual enrollment and early college opportunities; and other innovative pathways designed to meet a wide range of interests and aspirations.

Working in partnership with families, community organizations, higher education institutions, and industry leaders, CCSD remains committed to creating equitable opportunities, fostering student success, and ensuring that every graduate is prepared to contribute and compete in an increasingly complex and interconnected world.