

A message from CRO...

The 2015 – 2016 school year is well under way, and CRO Glassy is proud to bring you our progress “report card”.

Our year began in August, following our 2015 fundraiser. Thanks to the generosity of Glassy neighbors and supporters, we have almost reached our goal of \$75,000 in cash donations and pledges. Here is how we are putting your money to work, to support our two schools, Tigerville Elementary and Heritage Elementary.

CRO Glassy has two core initiatives for our schools – education and human services. We work closely with the school principals to define objectives which best fit each schools’ needs and the most prudent way to spend our money. Our budget is allocated more heavily toward education initiatives. This school year we will continue to support the Fountas & Pinnell (F&P) early grades reading programs which began three years ago in collaboration with Public Education Partners of Greenville. We are in year two of our three-year strategic goal to have every child read at grade level by the third grade. We have asked our schools to provide data to support the progress being made.

We know that all of the reading scores for both schools have improved from one year ago. And Tigerville Elementary is proud to tell us that their overall testing scores, as measured by the State of SC, and the U.S. Dept. of Education, were so improved that Tigerville has accelerated their State ranking, from 215th to 80th – out of a total of 628 Elementary Schools in the State of SC! And Tigerville is ranked 16th out of the 51 Elementary Schools in Greenville County. Our Glassy classroom volunteers should be very proud of these statistics and seeing the fruits of their labor in the classrooms at Tigerville.

CRO kicked off the funding for additional technology devices by providing \$25,460 to Tigerville for the purchase of iPad minis and Chromebooks; and \$20,000 was given to Heritage for Chromebooks, reading comprehension and leveled literacy programs. The PTA at Heritage is also purchasing Chromebooks for their third, fourth, and fifth grade classrooms. This type of “sharing the responsibility” by parents, for their children’s education, is so wonderful to see.

Once again a portion of our education budget is being used to fund the arts. We are funding a field trip for the first grade classes at Tigerville to go to the Peace Center to see a live children’s performance; and the travelling Little Theatre Troupe will bring the same performance to Heritage. These kids would unlikely ever have this experience without the direct support of CRO.

The human services part of what we do consists of providing approximately \$15,000 to fund healthy lunches to children in need during the school day (this replaced our former backpacking program), healthy snacks to younger children; holiday vouchers for healthy foods and turkeys for select families in need, as identified by school counselors; hygiene kits, and eyeglasses, hearing aids, shoes and clothing to children identified as needy by the school counselors.

Our “giving” continues in the classroom at Tigerville Elementary. Over 20 Glassy residents have committed to diligently giving their time to support the teachers, and to provide valuable one-on-one time with students to help them learn to read and sharpen their math skills. This extraordinary dedication by adults, who want to “give back” to the community, will yield measurable results.

CRO has become a familiar name in our local schools, and the greater Greenville School District. The Superintendent of Schools has commented that we are a model for other communities to follow. I am proud, as I know you are, of what we have accomplished together. It is not too late to support our continued efforts at our schools. You may write a check, make a pledge, and volunteer at our schools. For more information please contact Marietta at 895-9477.

Thank you for all you do for CRO.

Marietta Castellano, CRO President