

Retired teacher aids literacy

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SUN CITY CENTER - South Shore children will be much better read, thanks to the generosity of a former teacher.

During its February grant cycle, the **Community Foundation of Greater Sun City Center** awarded \$98,000 in literacy grants from the Hazel Bryson Literary Fund to 10 area elementary schools, Friends of the SouthShore Regional Library, Good Samaritan Mission and the Children's Board of Hillsborough County.

"Teachers work so hard, and they are so innovative," said Evelyn Lunsford, board chairwoman, adding this round of grants was especially gratifying. "Some of the grant requests just wowed us."

Lunsford said each of the grants had to be tied in some way to helping children read or write.

Gibson Elementary, for example, received \$7,700 for a grant called Have You Heard the Word and Can You Read It?

"We were so thrilled to hear we had received the grant from the Greater **Sun City Center** foundation," said Donna Marra, principal.

"The program has a **vocabulary development** piece to benefit our first-graders and a reading piece for our second-graders. We'll be purchasing additional computers for the second-grade classrooms to use with a Web-based, learning called **istation** that provides additional practice for struggling readers."

Reddick Elementary got \$6,650 for a grant called Bins, Books and Readers, which will supply materials to students with limited resources to help with their homework. The funds will also be used to buy a library of 55 books for every classroom and subscriptions for students to the Weekly Reader.

"We're very excited to be able to do these things," said Yolanda Guerra, assistant principal.

Other elementary schools receiving grants included Cypress Creek, Doby, [Boyette](#) and Ruskin; Apollo Beach, [RCMA Wimauma](#) Academy, Corr, and Wimauma, Collins, Summerfield and Sessums.

A \$14,000 grant was also awarded from the [Durwood](#) and Janet Seville Fund to the [Sun City Center Security Patrol](#) for a new patrol car.

"We had so much fun at the February board meeting," Lunsford said. "It was exciting to be able to help launch so many school programs and to honor the work teachers do by giving them what they need."

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