



May 5, 2017

Dear Claude Moore Charitable Foundation Leadership:

My name is Abigail Fine, and I am honored to serve as the Director of Development for Fairfax Library Foundation. **Fairfax Library Foundation raises supplementary support for Fairfax County Public Library.** With recurring budget cuts at the County level, Fairfax Library Foundation plays a vital role in enhancing our library. We are specifically seeking support for our *Ready to Read* program, to launch a new initiative to deliver literacy bags to children in homeless shelters.

The strategic goal of *Ready to Read* is to ensure every child in Fairfax County is prepared to read by the time of entry into elementary school. There are three specific goals of the program: 1) Bring storytime experiences directly to groups of preschool children in non-library settings, targeting those children who cannot or do not visit the library, and giving the students books to take home, 2) Model appropriate early literacy behaviors and techniques for child care providers to enable them to support success for the children in their care, and 3) Promote awareness of the free public library resources available to all preschool children, their families and child care providers. **This year *Ready to Read* will distribute nearly 30,000 picture books for children to take home and keep, often representing the only books in the home.**

*Ready to Read* targets the children who are unable to or do not visit library branches with their families and may not have books at home. We currently host monthly storytimes at 72 Head Start programs (preschools for low-income families), 41 child care centers, and 11 family child care homes. Last year we expanded the program with additional instructor training workshops and a family night—aiming to deepen our connections with the families and educators. **Next year we plan to expand our reach by providing literacy kits to children in homeless shelters, at an additional cost of \$12,875.**

According to Fairfax County's Office to Prevent and End Homelessness, from October 1, 2015 to September 30, 2016, there were 293 children ages birth to five in homeless family shelters in Fairfax County. Based on this number, we will create 300 literacy bags for families who seek shelter at one of the four family emergency shelters. The Fairfax County Public Schools' Homeless Liaison's Office has agreed to be a partner, and to store and distribute the literacy bags to local shelters.

We would love to partner with the Claude Moore Charitable Foundation, based on our shared mission to support disadvantaged youth in our community. We respectfully request the opportunity to submit a grant application for the purchase of supplies for the shelter literacy bags. As Director of Development, I would be the main point of contact. I can be reached at 703-324-8346 or [Abigail.Fine@FairfaxLibraryFoundation.org](mailto:Abigail.Fine@FairfaxLibraryFoundation.org).

Thank you for your consideration and for your work supporting the underserved in our community. We hope Fairfax Library Foundation and the Claude Moore Charitable Foundation can form a partnership to have a positive impact on our community's literacy.

Sincerely,

Abigail Fine  
Director of Development

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