



The Journal

Quarterly Newsletter–February, 2022 - 11th Edition
The Stellie J. Jackson Enrichment Center

PO Box 81-322 Mobley Street

Clover, SC 29710

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THE JOY OF MUSIC



Although our public performances have been limited due to the virus, the joy of music is still with us! The students have been thoroughly enjoying the xylophones and other percussion instruments we have at the Center.

Before the Covid outbreak, we used to perform two major programs per year: one at Christmas and one at the end-of-school year event. We also enjoyed performing for churches and other organizations. Yes, we do miss the live performances but we remain engaged in the joy of music each day at SJJEC. Until we are able to perform live again, pictures and videos of our musical activities can be viewed on our Facebook page (Stellie J Jackson Enrichment Center) and/or on our website (www.sjjec.org).

Our Christmas video summarized our newly gained knowledge of music fundamentals and we are now looking forward to learning stringed instruments: ukuleles! A huge thank you goes to Park Pointe Village, a community of very generous senior citizens in Rock Hill, SC who contributed the money for the purchase of 10 brand new ukuleles. - Liz Johnson, Executive Director



A Tree That Will Never Shed!

During our fund raising campaign for the construction of the Stellie Jackson Center, the Board of Directors decided that a “Donors Tree” painted in our lobby would be a cool way to recognize our donors.

Thanks to very talented Kathy White, visitors can now admire a large painted tree whose leaves bear the names of our wonderful donors.

Once we moved into our new facility, it became obvious that we would need a strong base of people supporting us on a yearly basis to be able to sustain our programs, our staff and expenses associated with running an after school and summer program.

Ann Alexander and Monique Boekhout came up with the idea of a “Circle of Friends” project. A monetary donation to the Center would make you one of the special friends of the children and your name would be permanently displayed in the Great Room. Right from the start, this project was a smashing success. A mailing campaign was complemented by our board members contacting their friends and the friends of their friends and donations started pouring in.

To remain consistent with donor recognition but to come up with a different “Donors Tree”, Monique asked a fellow resident at Park Pointe Village, Don Hessler, who is an extremely talented wood worker, to come up with a tree that could be permanently displayed in the great room at the center. Don immediately agreed and came up with this beautiful tree that displays 170 leaves, each one of them to bear the name of a donor.

This past December 2021, not only did we see returning donors fulfilling their pledge to support the Center, but many new donors came on board to join our Circle of Friends.

It is heartwarming to see this gorgeous wooden tree, with a full canopy of leaves, knowing that each leaf represents a friend of the Stellie Jackson Center.

But... as we already have several donors awaiting their leaves, it is the dream of the Fundraising Team to populate the Center with a forest of donor trees!

All it will take is a donation to the Stellie Jackson Center – Circle of Friends - and hopefully Mr. Don Hessler willing create another beautiful tree!

We are extremely grateful for your support. May God bless you.
-Monique Boekhout



New To The Center - 2022

"Strengthening The Mind Through Healthy Living"

It is our goal at the Stellie J. Jackson Center to minister to the whole child (spirit, soul, and body). To achieve this goal, fitness classes are now provided weekly by our own Carmen Alexander.



Carmen joined our staff last year as a Supervising Teacher. Having a special interest in helping children get physically fit, Carmen introduced physical activities to the children. The students immediately embraced that physical activity and will be happy to show you any time their newly acquired "getting fit motions".

Carmen also teaches the children how to eat healthy by switching sugar loaded snacks in favor of fruits such as grapes, strawberries, apples, etc.

It is a blessing to watch our children getting fit in spirit, soul and body!

- Carmen Alexander, Supervising Teacher



"Excuses don't kill the fat, exercises do."
- Author Unknown



WHO DOESN'T LOVE A PARADE?

Count the children of Stellie J. Jackson Enrichment Center as those that LOVE a parade! The children and staff had a great time as they participated in the Clover Christmas Parade! Dressed in their newly purchased Stellie J. Jackson Enrichment Center shirts (and some that even wore Christmas hats) the children shouted with excitement, "Merry Christmas" and waved to all those along the parade route! Special thanks to our dedicated volunteer Larry Arnold for providing and driving our

"precious cargo" in a beautifully decorated truck that included our "Stellie J. Jackson Enrichment Center" car magnet! It was the perfect event to get everyone in the Christmas spirit! -Carmen Alexander, Supervising Teacher

NARROWAY PRODUCTION

The children and staff had a WONDERFUL time at the NarroWay Production of "The Real Christmas Story!" The children and staff enjoyed a delicious traditional Christmas dinner and a scrumptious dessert before the show began. Then they all enjoyed their favorite Christmas songs and scenes of both the fictional Christmas characters (i.e. Rudolph the Red Nose Reindeer, Mr. and Mrs. Santa Claus, and the elves) and the traditional biblical characters of Jesus' birth (i.e. Mary, Joseph, angels, shepherds, the Wise Men, etc.) And who could forget the REAL-LIFE animals (i.e. a camel, horse, donkey, pig, goats, dog, etc.)! It truly was an AWESOME time of celebrating "The Real Christmas Story!" Special thanks to all those that made this field trip possible!

-Carmen Alexander



SPECIAL RECOGNITION TO REV. REGGIE KEE

Rev. Kee has been with us for a year and a half working so faithfully with the children on spiritual values. These values are extremely important in the building of a child's self-worth. He attends each Tuesday on a weekly basis with topics of faith, love, courage, determination, self-worth, confidence... you name it, it's all included to give them guidance, that they may grow to be the kind of person the Lord will have them be. Thank you Rev. Kee for your diligence and dedication in working with our students in helping them to develop a future that is beneficial to them that they may be a positive impact within our modern society.

-Liz Johnson

