

Se7enth Swan Publishing Group

2nd Annual Fundraiser Enhances Reading Experience for Kindergartners!

About DonorsChoose.org

DonorsChoose.org is a simple way to provide students in need with resources that our public schools often lack. At this not-for-profit web site, teachers submit project proposals for materials or experiences their students need to learn. These ideas become classroom reality when concerned individuals, whom they call Citizen Philanthropists, choose projects to fund.

DonorsChoose.org is dedicated to addressing the scarcity and inequitable distribution of learning materials and experiences in our public schools. They believe this inequity is rooted in the following factors:

- Shortages of learning materials prevent thorough, engaging instruction;
- Top-down distribution of materials stifles our best teachers and discourages them from developing targeted solutions for their students; and
- Small, directed contributions have gone un-tapped as a source of funding.

DonorsChoose.org will improve public education by engaging citizens in an online marketplace where teachers describe and individuals can fund specific student projects. They envision a nation where students in every community have the resources they need to learn. Visit www.donorschoose.org for more info.

About the Project—“We Hear Excellence”

Mrs. Raynard, a K-2nd grade teacher at Williford Elementary School (located in Rocky Mount, NC) developed a proposal to secure brand new, durable headphones for nearly 30 students. See the proposal below.

“Here at our school, we really take our race toward excellence seriously. We truly want each and every one of our students to succeed. From reading to math to writing, we use computers as the great equalizing tool. As you can see, our school faces extreme challenges, with currently 99.29% of our students receiving free or reduced lunch. In spite of all of these challenges, we continue to keep high expectations.

Unfortunately, even with the great tools we possess, simple wear and tear often limits the effectiveness of these tools. We try to divide students into small groups to maximize the effectiveness of our computers. Two students will work together on a computer, using various literacy software and websites, such as starfall.com to increase their phonemic awareness and letter recognition. You should see our students' faces when they hear the websites or software congratulate them on a job well done. Sadly, we now limit each pair's time on the computers. Our headphone cables are beginning to show their age, the cords are fraying, and they are breaking.

So--what's our plan? We're looking to revitalize our computer centers with brand-new, durable headphones. We need to refocus our students and provide them with uninterrupted time on the computers. Please consider helping us help our children! I know you hear the success possible!”

Feedback from Teacher and Students

Dear Se7enth Swan Publishing Group,

“These headphones have assisted in enhancing their reading experiences and made it possible for them excel in this are. Many of my Kindergartners were having trouble beginning to read and now to your generosity they all can sound out words and recognize sounds with ease.” ~Mrs. Raynard

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“Thank you for the headphones you sent us. They feel really good on my head. I can hear the ABC’s better.”
~Javon

“I would like to thank you for the headphones. They are very pretty to me. They felt very good on my head. I will do my best to take care of them.” ~Shauniece

“I can hear well on the computer. Now we don’t have to argue over the headphones.” ~Areuna

“The headphones are nice to hear with on the computer. They are soft on my ears and not as big as the old ones.” ~Jalen

“I can hear more of the software we use. When we use them I will try not to break them.” ~Tinicha

“Thank you for the headphones. We are able to hear well. They are so nice at school.” ~Amere

“I would like to thank you for the headphones. They felt ‘GREAT’”. ~Devin

About Se7enth Swan

Se7enth Swan Publishing Group, LLC is an emerging leader in the children’s book sector of the publishing industry. The company produces educational and historical books, CDs, and DVDs, highlighting multicultural characters and themes, for children ages 3-10. To learn more about the company, visit: www.se7enthswan.com. To learn more about products and purchasing, visit: www.lulu.com/se7enthswan.