

For Immediate Release

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Media Release

Jackson National Life Insurance Meets E.B. Ellington Students

E.B. Ellington Elementary School

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Deputy Superintendent of Learning Services

Michelle Simmons
Executive Director of Elementary School Learning Committee

Wanda Hughes
Principal

Charleston, SC – Jackson National Life Insurance Company (Jackson®) based in Tennessee, convened its leadership team on Kiawah Island recently for a strategy and planning session. The company also wanted to use this time to serve the local community. Lucky for Charleston County School District, the company chose a local elementary school.

Working with The Leader's Institute®, Jackson conducted a teambuilding exercise one afternoon during their retreat, assembling bikes for students at E.B. Ellington Elementary School.

The Build-A-Bike® Team Building Workshop and charity event is a brainy, challenging, program where participants are divided into smaller groups to solve specific challenges in order to build bicycles for young children, which are then donated.

When the Ellington students arrived to receive their new bikes, the team from Jackson was impressed. The students were polite, gracious, and excited.

The experience was meaningful for the Jackson executives. Upon returning home, many wanted to do more for E.B. Ellington. Through DonorsChoose.org, the company and its associates donated more than \$13,000 to purchase requested resources for E.B. Ellington classrooms.

Ellington Principal Wanda Hughes said it was an awesome opportunity to be chosen as part of the bike giveaway.

"We were surprised to be contacted about the Build-A-Bike giveaway," said Hughes. "We were ecstatic to receive the bikes but even more so now that Jackson has continued to support our school with additional donations."

DonorsChoose.org is a non-profit crowdfunding platform in which educators can request resources for their classroom. Donors contribute toward purchasing the resources which are then mailed to the school. Most of the Ellington educators' requests were related to literacy, STEM, and wellness.

"Jackson is proud to support E.B. Ellington Elementary School and their students," said Danielle Robinson, Assistant Vice President of Corporate Philanthropy, for Jackson. "At Jackson, we are passionate about investing in community and partnerships with non-profits like DonorsChoose.org allow us to further our philanthropic goals to strengthen families and create economic opportunities for everyone."

Hughes described the donations as a windfall for the school's teachers.

"We know that 'Students are the heart of our work'," said Hughes. "Jackson's donation to these innovative projects will have a lasting and positive effect on our students and our school. We are so thankful for the donations."

Jackson has a culture of giving back to the communities they serve.

"We are delighted by the commitment of the E.B. Ellington educators and staff to create a learning environment where students thrive," said Robinson. "I'm certain our investment will impact these young people for years to come."

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About the Charleston County School District

Charleston County School District (CCSD) is the second largest school system in South Carolina representing a unique blend of urban, suburban, and rural schools that span 1,000 square miles along the coast. CCSD serves more than 50,000 students in 86 schools and specialized programs. With approximately 6,100 employees district-wide, CCSD is the fourth largest employer in the region.

CCSD offers a diverse, expanding portfolio of options and specialized programs, delivered through neighborhood, charter, magnet, IB (international baccalaureate), and Montessori schools, and is divided into three Learning Communities. Options include specialized programs in science, engineering and mathematics; liberal arts; music and other creative and performing arts; career and technical preparation programs; and military and other public service enterprises.