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Beech Acres, Blue Manatee collaborate to select \$2,000 in books for Glendale Elementary School

In a unique collaboration that will help students become more resilient by discovering their own unique character strengths, Beech Acres Parenting Center has worked closely with the Blue Manatee Literacy Project to select \$2,000 worth of books that will be provided to Glendale Elementary School.

Selection of the books is inspired by The Character Effect from Beech Acres, a social-emotional learning program that Princeton City Schools are using with students at Glendale Elementary, a pre-kindergarten through sixth grade school.

"We're thrilled that Glendale Elementary has found a new way to use The Character Effect to focus on children's strengths," said Corey Hatfield, Beech Acres team lead for The Character Effect. "The books we are selecting will build on those strengths to enhance children's emotional intelligence and make them better students, which will also help teachers to be in positions to better manage student behavior."

Books have been selected to highlight 24 individual character strengths that each student may have, such as perseverance, hope, love of learning, friendship, gratitude, kindness or many others.

"These incredible books give us another resource to magnify the strengths of the children in our classrooms and allow them to excel in every area of their lives," said Karen Harkness, principal of Glendale Elementary. "This focus on the strengths in each child has already had a positive impact in our school, which is why we're looking for opportunities to do even more with the program."

The Character Effect has been designated by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) as an effective approach to improve the learning environment for both teachers and students.

Purchase of the books was made possible by a grant



Corey Hatfield, from Beech Acres Parenting Center, with some of the books for Glendale Elementary School. PROVIDED

from the Greater Cincinnati Foundation. By teaming with Blue Manatee Literacy Project, 100 percent of the purchased books were matched 1-for-1 through its Buy A Book / Give A Book resourcing program. For every book

provided to Glendale Elementary through this initiative, Blue Manatee will donate an additional new book to an at-risk reader.

Peter Osborne



Anderson Township

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