



Connecting You

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ATMC Awards \$25,000 in Education Grants

ATMC has awarded \$25,000 in grant funds to 14 educators serving Brunswick County students and residents. The cooperative recently honored the recipients with a reception at ATMC's corporate headquarters in Shallotte. Representatives from each school talked about the programs for which the grant funds are earmarked and how these grants will positively impact area students.

Those receiving funding were:

Belville Elementary School (David Everett): The Outdoor Classroom

Bolivia Elementary School (Sally Lewis & Lucy Ganfield): Come Grow With Us

Southport Elementary School (Christine Pratt): eXcited about eReading

Supply Elementary School (Hollie Pritchard): Snuggle Up With a Nook

Town Creek Elementary School (Rebecca Brown): iPad Learning Labs

Union Elementary School (Dawn Long-Miller): Coming to a Book Near You

Cedar Grove Middle School (Mary Zeigler): Laptops for Science

Leland Middle School (Meggen Calderwood): Painless Vocabulary

Waccamaw School (Ben Chapman): Discovering Dimensions Through Drafting

Waccamaw Elementary School (Barbara Evans): Using Nooks to Look at Books and Other Cyberspace Things

Brunswick County Academy (Kenneth White): Fitness is Key!

South Brunswick High School (Charles Patton): SmartMusic Learning Studio



West Brunswick High School (Veronica Edge): AVID/ Destination College

West Brunswick High School (Crystal Karwacki): Digital Photography / The Eye of the Future

Allen Russ, ATMC CEO/General Manager, lauded the recipients on their creative programs and willingness to think outside the box. He added, "The programs unveiled here exhibit a wonderful balance of the old and the new – from simple things like growing a garden and learning in the great outdoors to technology that is changing the world and the way we live. You are planting these seeds in our students, and we hope that these grant funds help you to help them cultivate success. Thank you for going that extra mile and making a difference."

ATMC began awarding community and education grants in 2006. To date, over 170 local community and education grants have been awarded totaling \$270,000. ATMC will begin accepting applications for its Community Connections grants in early 2012. ●

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I was told recently that when you look out into the future, what you see is what you want your future to be. That resonated with me because I've never really given much thought as to how I see tomorrow. While I am definitely not a pessimist, I hadn't considered myself a wide-eyed optimist, either.

In looking back at some of my past comments in this publication, I came across something I wrote in January of 2009. I'm sure you remember that 2008 was the year when we stopped enjoying double-digit growth and began to really feel the impact of the national recession here locally. I

wrote that I thought 2009 would begin slowly, but I believed things would turnaround by year's end. In hindsight, I guess I was more of an optimist than I thought.

As we close out 2011, we all know that things haven't gotten much better. For every step forward, we end up taking two steps back. This recession has taken a toll on everyone. Individuals, families, small businesses - the people who make our community what it is, are all struggling. I imagine we all know someone who has lost a job because of a cut-back or closing.

Despite it all, I still believe that better days are just beyond the horizon. Call me an optimist, but we've been through bad times before, and we've persevered. This time will be no different. My hope is for each of you to have a very successful new year. ●

ATMC Accepting 2012 Grant Applications

ATMC is now accepting applications for its 2012 community grant program, Community Connections. This program addresses the needs of Brunswick County residents in emergency and disaster relief, arts and culture, civic service, and health and human services.

In 2012 ATMC will be awarding \$25,000 in Community Connections grant funds. Grants are open to any charitable or nonprofit organization in Brunswick County or one in another county which offers a program specifically targeted at and benefiting only Brunswick County residents.

Applications will be due at ATMC offices no later than 6:00 PM on April 5, 2012. Funds will be disbursed in June.

Details regarding eligibility rules and exclusions are available on ATMC's website at www.atmc.net. For more information, contact ATMC's Public Relations Department at (910) 755-1755. ●

ATMC Holds Successful United Way Campaign

ATMC recently completed its annual United Way Campaign and raised over \$ 26,500 to help local residents in need. Fundraising activities included an employee giving campaign, a silent auction and a reserved parking space raffle. Many local merchants were generous in contributing merchandise and gift certificates for the silent auction.

"This is a record for ATMC and we are proud of the generosity shown by our employees. At a time when so many need so much, our staff stepped forward to answer the call. This is a testament to their dedication to this community," said Allen Russ, ATMC CEO/General Manager.



Pictured (left to right): Front row – Phemie Alderson, Carlos Bass, Allen Russ, CEO/General Manager; Second Row – Tony Hall, KaRisha Stephens, Wayne Branch and Brandon Hankins

Money raised during the 2011 campaign will be used for funds dispersed in 2012 for a wide scope of community, health and human services, and educational needs in our region. ATMC has contributed over \$225,000 to United Way in the last ten years. ●