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Encouraging. Educating. Transforming Lives.

THE neighbor NEWS

ISSUE NO. 4
SUMMER
2018

Wise Up is changing mindsets in our classrooms

“Year after year students have consistently indicated that they would make financial changes based on information learned during Wise Up.”



Wise Up Money Skills for Teens is no stranger to positive feedback from students.

Since **Wise Up's** beginnings in Fall of 2012, students have been recommending the financial literacy program to their peers to learn about budgeting, investing, and understanding the rules of banking. Year after year students have consistently indicated that they would make financial changes based on information learned during **Wise Up**.

Because of donors like you, **Wise Up** has now served over 5000 students since it's inception. This past school year we heard how your dollars are impacting their spending and saving behaviors. We thought you'd like to hear how your support is making a difference through one student's life.

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PLAN ON IT! Upcoming Events

Lunch with the Link
Every Friday at Noon
on **Praise 97.9 FM**

Monthly Community Meal
4th Thursday of each month

Lunch and Learn
August 10, 2018
Call Leslie at 256-775-0028 to register

Renew U
Begins September 17, 2018

Links for Literacy Golf Tournament
4-Man Shamble
Terri Pines County Club
Monday, October 1st

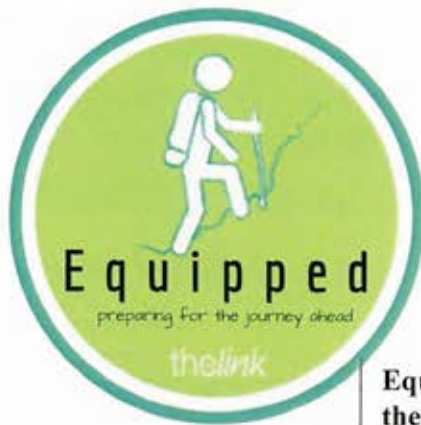
Tristen "Tree" Howell recently completed the **Wise Up** program at Vinemont High School where Don Warnke was the volunteer classroom facilitator. Tree listened intently to the information Mr. Warnke taught about savings and budgeting. She learned about financial emergencies and the importance of saving to

“Tree made the DECISION to immediately activate changes based on what she had learned.”

protecting one's self if an emergency should happen during the class. Tree made the decision to immediately activate changes based on what she had learned.

The positive changes Tree made to her budget became real during an afternoon shopping with her mom and friends. It was Tree's behavior to check her account before heading out for a day of shopping. When Tree checked her account balance, panic hit because she thought a bill had not been paid due to her higher than normal checking balance. It did not take long for Tree to laugh at herself for forgetting that she was a whole month ahead on her bills because she had saved enough for emergencies!

Tree said that the day of shopping was one of the best she had ever experience. Was it because of the great sales or finding that perfect outfit? No, Tree shared knowing how much she could spend and that the shopping day was not going to put her in a financial bind gave her the freedom to say yes to some items, but no to others. She learned a valuable lesson: nothing fits as good as a great budget feels!



More than 23,000 children age out of the U.S. foster care system every year. In Cullman, we recognized there was a disconnect between the children who were in foster care and their ability to be successful when they aged out. In order to fill that gap, we birthed a program to help them gain the tools they needed for the future.

Equipped: Preparing for the Journey Ahead, offers teenagers in foster care independent living skills to prepare them for life beyond foster care.

There are basic skills that every individual should know by the time they are living on their own and unfortunately not everyone has the opportunity to be taught these skills.

Equipped is designed to teach teenagers how to cook,

clean, maintain finances, make tough decisions, and understand their self-worth.

In order to continue to provide the classes and they need we need your help! If you feel that you have skills or insight that these teenagers could benefit from, we would love to have you volunteer with us!

*Please contact
Aubrey Moore at
aubreymoore@linkingcullman.org
for more information!*

Equipping for a better future

What happens when a Foster care youth turns 18?

Hero FACES

The Link of Cullman Volunteer and Staff Updates



2018 Board of Directors

We would like to take this opportunity to THANK our Board of Directors and their tireless dedication to the cause of The Link of Cullman County. Without each and every one of these VOLUNTEERS, our organization would not be what it is today.

L to R Front: Julie Grimes, Nancy McKenzie, Dawn Owens (Founder), Sherri Henry, Dr. Jeb Hornsby, Nathan Graves (Board Chair)

L to R Back Row: Caris Snider, Yvonne Krenkel, Amy Smith (Secretary), Trae Norrell (Vice Chair), Lyndsey Todd, and Eddie Canaday (Treasurer)

Not pictured: Dr. Clancy Johnson Nassetta



4-Man Shamble

Golf

Tournament

Monday, October 1st
TP Country Club • Noon

Links for Literacy

Proceeds to benefit



Academic and
Financial Literacy
Programs



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Third Annual Links for Literacy



Four Man Shamble supports local kids!

The Link of Cullman County will host our **THIRD Annual Links for Literacy 4-Man Shamble Golf Tournament** on Monday, October 1st at TP County Club.

A 4-Man Shamble (NOT SCRAMBLE) is a unique game where each team member hits his or her tee shot and then the 4 people pick the best one. From there, everyone plays their own ball for the rest of the hole and has their own score. Golfers will all have different amount of strokes that they can reduce their score based on a percent of their handicap. The team score for each hole is determined by taking the total of the 2 lowest net scores.

Are you interested in having a team?

Visit us online at www.linkincullman.org/linksforliteracy

To find out more ways you can be a part of **life transformation** in the Cullman area, contact The Link of Cullman County at **256.775.0028** or visit our website at www.linkincullman.org

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KINDERGARTEN READINESS CAMPS CELEBRATE SUCCESS

Learning how to read can be a challenge for any child. Add into the struggle of not being well-equipped to attend school and the result can be disastrous. That's why we are so excited to celebrate the success of the second grade Accelerated Reading (AR) class at Fairview Elementary. Many of the children in the picture (right) attended **Kindergarten Readiness Camp** when they were headed into Kindergarten. Their success proves their ability to triumph over adversity. None of this would be possible without your support.

Kindergarten Readiness Camp came to be because teachers all across our county were telling us that many children were entering kindergarten totally unprepared. Basic skills were needed in order for these children to start their academic life on a level playing field with their peers. With this knowledge in hand, we piloted a program in 2015 in Fairview. Twenty-four children attended that first year. Parents and educators felt it was a rousing success. Because of your on-going financial support it has grown to four locations. Over hundred children are expected to attend this year and two of our sites are currently maxed out with a waiting list.

Your continued support of this program is making it possible for children all over our county to be prepared for success in the classroom.



2018 Fairview 2nd Grade AR Students
Many of these students attended 2015 Kindergarten Readiness Camp.



Students from the
2015 Fairview Kindergarten Readiness Camp

Thank you to those who sponsored a student this summer. We want to give a special thanks to Wells Fargo, Walmart Store #670, Walmart Store #7280, Cullman County Commission, and an anonymous donor who made it possible to get matching donations for this year's camp.

*To these children
YOU are a super hero!*

The Link

of Cullman County

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