



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE...

January 23, 2017

## WEEKEND SNACK PROGRAM RECEIVES GENEROUS DONATION

### Atlantic Coast Conservancy Helps Feed Pickens County Students

[pickenscountyschools.org](http://pickenscountyschools.org)

Jasper, GA – The Weekend Snack Program wishes to thank the Atlantic Coast Conservancy for their generous donation to help provide food to Pickens County students. Over half of the students in Pickens County qualify for either free or reduced meals – and some of these students get sufficient food only when they eat in the school cafeteria. To ensure students' nutritional needs are met when not in school, the Weekend Snack Program sends food home with students each weekend. Currently, the program serves 580 students each week in grades Pre-K through 12<sup>th</sup>.

Robert Keller, Founder and Executive Director, along with the staff of ACC, Kathie Gilbert Keller, Cheyenne Steptoe, David White, Montavious Bridges, Mandy Cantrell, and Patrick Honan donated \$5000.00 to the Weekend Snack Program. This donation enables the program to support students for 2 ½ months.

"This community has been generous in helping us with our mission to feed students, and we are extremely grateful to the Atlantic Coast Conservancy for this donation," stated Fran Bishop, Volunteer Director of the Weekend Snack Program. "Each week, we add children to the program. We will continue to work to raise funds to purchase enough food for the entire year."

Shelley Cantrell, Attendance Officer for the Pickens County School District, sees first-hand how hungry students have difficulty concentrating. "Poor nutrition is linked to dropout rates and behavioral problems in schools. Our entire district works so hard to support our students, but if children are hungry, they have difficulty in class."

For more information about the Weekend Snack Program, contact Fran Bishop, Volunteer Director at (770) 735-1434 or Shelley Cantrell, Attendance Officer for the Pickens County School District at (706) 253-1700. If you would like to donate to the Weekend Snack Program, simply mail a check to CARES (marked for Weekend Snack Program), PO Box 1342, Jasper, GA 30143.

### Media Contact

Beth Moore

Communications and Public Affairs

Pickens County School District | [pickenscountyschools.org](http://pickenscountyschools.org)

[bethmoore@pickenscountyschools.org](mailto:bethmoore@pickenscountyschools.org) | 706.253.1700



### File

Tate Elementary students and staff accept a donation for the Weekend Snack Program from Atlantic Coast Conservancy.