

Steve Smith Family Foundation Provides Virtual Learning Center, Tutoring, Meals, and More for Homeless Children and Their Families

With the money from the COVID-19 Relief Fund, the Steve Smith Family Foundation was able to operate Virtual Learning Center operations for November and December - including the payroll of tutoring and operations staff, the transportation of housing-challenged kids who lack their own transportation, and rent for the facility.

The funding allowed the Foundation to provide a space for children who live in shelters, motels, in their cars, and on the streets to have a place where they could do their virtual learning, as well as receive breakfast and lunch meals they would otherwise get at school. The Foundation also provided them with tailored tutoring plans, social and emotional learning, and IT support and assistance with uploading homework into Canvas. Some holiday and fun efforts included having a Fall Festival with a COVID-safe trunk-or-treat experience, a Thanksgiving meal distribution for children and their parents, as well as an Angel Tree program that provided Christmas gifts for every child, and a holiday meal basket.

Since the Foundation's inception in August of 2020, they have achieved the following:

- Enrollment of 108 K-5 homeless children
- 40% of attending children had zero attendance since March 2020, and many of them had their first day of school since the pandemic onslaught once they attended our center on August 31
- 30% increase in math and ELA scores in nearly half of our students
- 90% homework completion rate
- Over 2,700 meals distributed in partnership with Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools
- Zero reported cases of COVID-19
- Creation of jobs for 12 people, in partnership with a minority-led nonprofit
- Distribution of weekend snacks and meals for every child via a partnership with Bags of Hope
- STEM activities with a partnership with DigiBridge

