



Greenville Women Giving Awards \$97,759 to Augustine Literacy Project to Expand Early Literacy Support for Young Readers

Greenville, S.C. — May 20, 2026 — The Augustine Literacy Project® of the Upstate is honored to announce that **Greenville Women Giving** has awarded a \$97,759 grant to fund a Program Coordinator, a critical position that will allow the organization to expand its reach as it celebrates **20 years of service** to children across the Upstate. Augustine tutors serve students in grades K–3 who are living in poverty and are at least a year behind their peers in reading ability, providing the intensive, individualized support needed to change their academic trajectory. This increased capacity to serve struggling young readers who are at risk of reading failure is made possible by the Greenville Women Giving grant that funds the new Program Coordinator role.

Since its founding in 2006, the Augustine Literacy Project of the Upstate has trained more than **245 volunteer tutors**, delivered over **19,000 hours of free, one-on-one literacy instruction**, and provided more than **\$1 million in high-quality tutoring services** to local schools, after school programs and families. Augustine tutors currently serve striving readers in 20 locations, using an evidence-based, Orton-Gillingham informed approach proven to strengthen foundational reading skills.

“This grant from Greenville Women Giving will significantly elevate our capacity to serve more students,” said Denise Ruby, Board Chair. “The Program Coordinator role will allow us to train more tutors, support more schools and education partners, and reach more children who are at risk of reading failure, especially those experiencing poverty and significant reading delays. We are deeply grateful for this investment in early literacy and in the future of our community's children.”

Demand for Augustine tutors has grown significantly as schools continue to face pandemic-related learning loss and rising literacy needs. Requests for tutors now exceed the organization's current capacity. The new Program Coordinator will support tutor recruitment, training, placement and ongoing support, strengthening program operations and enabling the organization to grow sustainably.

About Augustine Literacy Project® of the Upstate

Augustine Literacy Project of the Upstate provides free, one-on-one, evidence-based literacy tutoring to striving K–3 readers who are experiencing poverty and are significantly behind grade level. Trained volunteer tutors partner with schools and community programs across the Upstate to strengthen foundational reading skills using a structured, systematic, phonics based approach.

About Greenville Women Giving

Created in 2006 as a special initiative of the Community Foundation, Greenville Women Giving is a philanthropic women's collective giving organization supporting nonprofit organizations serving Greenville County, South Carolina. Since its founding, GWG has awarded 166 grants totaling over \$9.5 million and has more than 500 members.

Membership in Greenville Women Giving is open to all women who commit to the annual contribution. For information about membership, upcoming events and grants, please visit greenvillewomengiving.org or follow GWG on Facebook (@GreenvilleWomen).

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