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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: SUMMER BRINGS GRANT AWARDS AND FUNDRAISING EVENT NEWS AT CFLC**

*Cape Fear Literacy Council celebrates the receipt of six grants totaling over \$171,000 since January 2015. Over forty percent of CFLC's operating budget is funded through grants. Additionally, CFLC is enjoying the success of its 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Literacy Luncheon, an event that raised over \$30,000, and is looking forward to its popular annual Spelling Bee for Literacy in September.*

**Grant Awards**

2015 has been a banner year for grant funding for Cape Fear Literacy Council – having received over \$171,000 in awards in the first half of the year. The largest award, **of \$141,763 from the North Carolina Community College System**, came in the form of two grants for the two adult literacy programs CFLC operates – its Adult Literacy and English as a Second Language programs. Both grants provided operational support and program materials for these two departments. Additionally, CFLC received grant awards from five other grant awards:

- CFLC received **a \$1,000 grant award from Corning Incorporated and a \$17,500 commitment from United Way of the Cape Fear Area** to cover general operating expenses.
- In addition to the operational expense funding, CFLC received a **\$1,500 grant award from the Catherine Kennedy Home Foundation** for instructional materials material for CFLC's students who are 60+ years old.
- The Council received a **\$10,000 grant award from the Dollar General Literacy Foundation** for program materials, including textbooks and instructional journals, and staff professional development for its Adult Literacy Program.
- Lastly, CFLC received a **\$1,000 grant award from Aaron's Corporation** for outreach materials to recruit potential students and volunteers.

With a total annual budget of nearly \$500,000, grant funding accounts for over 41% of CFLC's annual income. The Literacy Council serves over 500 students each year – with the support of a staff of 8 employees (5 full-time, 3 part-time) and over 340 volunteers (191 tutors and 150 non-instructional volunteers).

Cape Fear Literacy Council's (CFLC) mission is: *To provide individualized literacy services so that adults and their families in the Cape Fear region can meet their goals and develop their potential.* To achieve this we provide educational opportunities so adult learners can build their basic literacy and language abilities, math competency, and skills related to computers and employment. As Executive Director, Yasmin Tomkinson, states, "For 30 years, CFLC has provided educational services by leveraging the talents of dedicated volunteers; we train community members to serve as one-on-one tutors and instructors of small classes. As adult learners' skills improve, their new confidence and abilities have a positive impact on their families and this community. By attacking the generational cycle of illiteracy, our adult learners become more involved in their children's education and help to change attitudes about the importance and value of literacy."

**Fundraising Event News – A Successful Literacy Luncheon and the 28<sup>th</sup> Annual Spelling Bee for Literacy is Announced**

In addition to receiving numerous grant awards, CFLC celebrates the success of its 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Literacy Luncheon on July 30<sup>th</sup> – an event that raised over \$30,000 for the organization while educating over 200 community members about the importance of the organization’s mission to eradicate illiteracy in the Cape Fear region. Continuing on the organization’s success of hosting fundraising events that are both educational and entertaining, Cape Fear Literacy Council proudly announces the 28th Annual Spelling Bee for Literacy on Thursday, September 17, 2015 at 7 PM at The Terraces on Sir Tyler (1826 Sir Tyler Drive – across from Mayfaire). CFLC invites the community to share in this fun evening devoted to words! Admission is FREE and all guests will enjoy light refreshments, a cash bar, and team and audience prizes.

Not the traditional spelling bee, this friendly competition fields teams of up to four adults who work together to spell words that are increasingly difficult in each round. The grand prize - in addition to bragging rights – is the coveted engraved, traveling Championship Trophy. Other team prizes include “Best Team Name,” “Best Costume” and “Best Cheering Section” prize. Businesses, civic groups and individuals are invited to register a team of up to 4 adult spellers for \$400 or become a sponsor at the \$500 or \$1,000 level. Friends of literacy can also “Adopt-a-Letter” for a \$50 donation per letter of the alphabet.

Bee Chairwoman, Amanda Coyne remarks, "We are so excited for this year's Bee. Our new location and some changes to the competition should make this the most fun Bee we've ever had. Don't worry, though, we are staying true to the elements of the Bee that the Cape Fear community has loved for nearly 30 years!"

Please join Cape Fear Literacy Council for the most popular Spelling Bee in the area by gathering your best spellers, your wildest supporters and your funniest costumes and call (910) 251-0911 or visit [www.cfliteracy.org](http://www.cfliteracy.org) to become a sponsor or register your team today.

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**JOIN IN ON THE FUN OF THE AREA’S MOST POPULAR BEE!**



**Celebrating its 28th year!**  
**Spelling Bee for Literacy**  
CFLC is a-buzz with excitement and we invite you to be a part of the fun!  
**SEPTEMBER 17, 2015 at 7 PM**  
THE TERRACES ON SIR TYLER  
**SPONSORSHIPS AVAILABLE!**  
(910)251-0911 or [info@cfliteracy.org](mailto:info@cfliteracy.org)  
**SPONSOR SPELL**  
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