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**DUKE ENERGY MAKES GRANT TO SUPPORT**  
**SUMMER LEARNING FOR ELEMENTARY SCHOOL STUDENTS**  
**IN DURHAM PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

**Durham, NC** - Duke Energy Foundation announced that it will make a grant of \$30,000 to Durham Public Schools, to enable it to collaborate with Book Harvest to expand the *Books on Break* program to all 30 Durham Public Schools elementary schools this year.

*Books on Break*, a cornerstone program of Book Harvest, invites participating children to select books to take home to keep in time for summer. Research shows that access to books combats summer learning loss and help participating children return to school in the fall ready to learn. Book Harvest kicked off its sixth year of *Books on Break* in Durham elementary schools this spring.

"Summer reading is vital to helping students maintain their academic gains," said Amy E. Davis of Durham Public Schools. "Access to books helps students maintain reading skills through the summer and to push back against summer learning loss. We are delighted by and grateful for this investment by Duke Energy in our students' academic success at all 30 of our elementary schools."

Indira Everett, District Manager of Government and Community Relations at Duke Energy, added, "Providing books to local students in grades K-5 will reap vast benefits for our community and help bolster the academic skills of our future workforce. We are delighted to help Durham's children thrive with the nourishment of books."

Forest View Elementary School ESL teacher Catriona Moore has shared the boundless joy – and measurable success–of *Books on Break* since the program launched. "*Books on Break* prevents summer reading loss-it is that simple and that miraculous," she said. This book-based response to the threat of summer learning loss is informed by rigorous research. According to Dr. Susan Neuman, Professor and Chair of the Teaching and Learning Department at NYU, "Access to books and educational material is the single biggest barrier to literacy development in the United States and beyond. If we can solve the problem of access, we will be well on the road to realizing educational parity—a goal which has eluded this country for generations."

The Duke Energy Foundation provides philanthropic support to address the needs of the communities where its customers live and work. The foundation provides more than \$30 million annually in charitable gifts. The foundation's education focus spans kindergarten to career, particularly science, technology, engineering and math (STEM), early childhood literacy, and workforce development.

For more about Book Harvest and its Books on Break program, visit Book Harvest at [www.bookharvestnc.org](http://www.bookharvestnc.org)