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*Read Together 20 Minutes Every Day™*

## **The Children's Reading Foundation of Georgia Established** ***Children to Benefit From Increased Focus on Early Literacy and School Readiness***

**Kennewick, Wash.** The Children's Reading Foundation national headquarters today announces the formation of The Children's Reading Foundation of Georgia, a new affiliate serving Glynn County.

The Children's Reading Foundation of Georgia's vision is to ensure that 90% of Glynn County students are reading on grade level by the end of third grade by 2025 and that 90% of Glynn County children are beginning kindergarten with essential school readiness skills by 2023.

"For nearly 25 years, we have been honored to work with local champions like The Children's Reading Foundation of Georgia to encourage parents and caregivers, support schools, and facilitate community involvement," said Kristin Norell, national foundation chief executive officer. "We believe the collective efforts of the Georgia chapter and local partners will greatly improve the futures of all Glynn County children."

The Georgia-based affiliate will bring the national nonprofit's early literacy and learning resources, such as the **READY! for Kindergarten®** school readiness program and the **READ Up<sup>SM</sup>** summertime reading program, to Glynn County. It will spread the *Read Together 20 Minutes Every Day™* message to encourage all to get involved.

"To make sure that children are ready for kindergarten, we will collaborate with others in the community who share our vision to engage with Glynn County parents and caregivers and the community at large to encourage them to read with children and assist them in learning early literacy skills in the years before they begin kindergarten," said Linda Muir, chief executive officer and board chair of the new affiliate. "If children are ready when they start kindergarten, they have a much better chance of reading on grade level by the end of third grade. Research shows that third grade reading proficiency is one of the most important predictors that a child will go on to graduate from high school and enjoy better life outcomes."

The Children's Reading Foundation of Georgia will form the Lit 3 Alliance with strategic partners, Glynn County Schools and United Way of Coastal Georgia, to combine forces to increase awareness throughout the community about the vital importance of reading with children every day beginning at birth to ensure early literacy. The Lit 3 Alliance will also focus on reaching the Glynn County Schools' Lit 3, Ask Me goals announced earlier by Assistant Superintendent Sung Hui Lewis for students to read on grade level by the end of third grade.

Dr. Virgil Cole, Superintendent of Glynn County Schools, said, "A special thanks to Mrs. Lewis and her team for creating this impactful initiative that highlights the absolutely critical need of making sure that all of our children are reading well by the end of third grade. What a worthy issue to focus our work around as a system and community."

"Working together through the Lit 3 Alliance toward achieving these common goals will benefit the children of Glynn County who are the future of our community," said Virginia Brown, President & CEO of United Way of Coastal Georgia.

The Children's Reading Foundation of Georgia will officially launch on January 20, 2020, to showcase its slogan and to celebrate the initiation of its programs as well as the formation of the Lit 3 Alliance. Additional details will be announced soon. The entire community will be invited to join in the commitment to be sure that every child receives the lifelong advantage of literacy. To find out how you can get involved and contribute to the success of The Children's Reading Foundation of Georgia, please contact Linda Muir at [linda@read20georgia.org](mailto:linda@read20georgia.org).

**About The Children's Reading Foundation National Headquarters:** The national nonprofit was founded in 1996 in Kennewick, Washington. The Children's Reading Foundation's vision is that every child learns to read on grade level by the end of third grade, thereby reaching his or her full potential in school and life. The foundation helps establish local affiliates in communities across the country and offers national programs focused on literacy and school readiness skills for children birth to age 8. Learn more at [ReadingFoundation.org](http://ReadingFoundation.org).

**About The Children's Reading Foundation of Georgia:** The Glynn County-based nonprofit aims to increase reading and school readiness skills by promoting the *Read Together 20 Minutes Every Day*<sup>™</sup> message and providing early literacy and school readiness programs to local families and children. The nonprofit's board officers include Linda Muir, president, CEO and board chair; Sung Hui Lewis, vice president; Dr. Markisha Butler, secretary; Geri Lynn Mullis, treasurer, and Melinda Ennis Roughton, chief communications & marketing officer. Learn more at [Read20Georgia.org](http://Read20Georgia.org) – coming soon.

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**Editor/Producer Note:** The Children's Reading Foundation national headquarters that is issuing this news release is often confused with the Mid-Columbia Chapter of The Children's Reading Foundation (also based in Kennewick). The Mid-Columbia Chapter was the first affiliate of The Children's Reading Foundation national organization.