

May 29, 2023

Emma Hall, Esq.  
Research/Budget Analyst  
Ways & Means Committee  
South Carolina House of Representative

To Whom it May Concern,

The Extra Mile Club of the Lowcountry (EMC), a 501c3 organization, is a mentoring program that provides supplemental access to necessary services (both academic and recreational) directly to youth, ages 5-18, in Northern Beaufort County. EMC provides underserved youth with safe structured afterschool time and the chance to bond with a team of supportive mentors and like-minded peers. EMC's youth are surrounded by positive adult role models who focus on each individual child's interests and aspirations encouraging them to create a plan to achieve their goals. Once the plan is in place, coaches, mentors and teachers check progress and offer supportive guidance until a specific goal is achieved, (e.g., improved reading and math proficiency, enhanced self-esteem, confidence, etc.)

EMC's afterschool activities include homework support, mentoring, youth sports, strength & conditioning training, community service projects, college visits, yoga, kayaking, biking, etc. Older students, ages 13-18, have the opportunity to visit college campuses, attend conferences specifically designed for young men of color, participate in presentation skills workshops, football camps and combines, as well as mentoring opportunities that explore post-secondary career and college academic programs. Voluntary religious education is also available to anyone who chooses to attend. EMC's comprehensive program approach seeks to address the intellectual, emotional, social, physical, moral, ethical and spiritual needs of the whole child.

The Extra Mile Club of the Lowcountry is seeking funds to assist with the program's general operating costs and the introduction of several new initiatives to provide targeted remedies to issues created by the Covid-19 Pandemic. More specifically, EMC wants to address mental health as well as educational and social equity. Over 100 youth participating in our program are living in northern Beaufort County. These neighborhoods in particular have experienced profound academic and economic disparities that have been exacerbated as a result of the Covid-19 Pandemic.

EMC's desire is to light the path so that our youth can discover their own wisdom and self-reliance. Our program is designed to not only expand our youth's interest but encourage them to have a plan to achieve their goals so that they can create the future that they want.

Thanks in advance for your consideration to fund EMC. If you have any questions or need additional information, please give us a call at (843) 812-2056.

Sincerely,

Gaynelle J. Dantzler, MPH  
Executive Director, Emeritus

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