



April 2, 2019

Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond  
P.O. Box 27622  
Richmond, VA 23261

Dear Sir/Madam:

The Life Enrichment Center of Norfolk (LEC) and the SunTrust Foundation have been working collaboratively in the Hampton Roads community since 2014. The Center's mission is to ensure that children who are reading below their grade level are reading proficiently by the third grade. Students who are proficient in reading by grade 3, are 4X more likely to graduate from high school and become productive citizens. The LEC trains individuals from the corporate community, universities and colleges, law enforcement and the faith based community to help children excel in the area of literacy.

The literacy tutors support one child, one hour a week for one academic year. In addition to providing volunteer tutors to help children in Title I elementary schools, the Center also partners with businesses to help fund Technology and Literacy Labs in Title I elementary schools. The SunTrust Foundation has been a significant partner in this important endeavor. Over the past several years, the SunTrust Foundation provided the needed funding to purchase technology and other equipment needed for several Technology & Literacy Labs. The Center is currently serving in 24 Title I elementary schools in Hampton Roads, and at the start of 2019, we launched 2 new labs in the Richmond, VA. In Hampton Roads, the SunTrust Foundation funded 4 Technology and Literacy Labs and provided the financial support for the 2 new labs in Richmond. Over 5000 children have been impacted by the labs that are used daily by the schools. Additionally, the labs are accessible to the community during the evenings for various training, in particular, financial literacy workshops provided by SunTrust Bank employees.

Last year, the Life Enrichment Center was one of 36 nonprofit organizations to receive the SunTrust Foundation's "Lighting the Way Award" which was given to organizations who were actively involved in community outreach in their cities. The generous award allowed the Life Enrichment Center to significantly expand its literacy enrichment efforts in all of the Norfolk elementary schools. A special initiative which provided literacy support to over 25,000 elementary students in Norfolk Public Schools was supported by the grant from the SunTrust Foundation.

Mark Johnson, Community Development Manager of the Hampton Roads region, has been our primary contact and has been instrumental in our growing partnership with the Bank as well as the entire Hampton Roads community. His hand-on approach, professionalism and real passion for impacting the community through a plethora of initiatives has been outstanding. Through his efforts, we have not only been able to utilize resources from the SunTrust Foundation to advance the Center's mission, but he has also connected us with other organizations to support our joint efforts to make a difference in the lives of children and the communities and cities where they reside.

It is my earnest hope that the merger between SunTrust Bank and BB&T will expand its outreach to the various communities and cities that both banks currently serve. Cities and communities are being changed as individuals from underserved communities are receiving programs and initiatives which provide the support and equipping that leads to transformation, empowerment, and success.

I look forward to continued opportunities to partner with an expanded financial institution to transform communities and cities through the equipping of its citizens. Thank you for this invitation to share about the partnership with SunTrust and the work that we have been able to achieve through a viable partnership with SunTrust Bank and Mark Johnson, the Bank's Community Development Manager.

To learn more about the Life Enrichment Center, please refer to the website: [www.leclitereacy.org](http://www.leclitereacy.org). You may also contact me at [kturpin@leclitereacy.org](mailto:kturpin@leclitereacy.org) or at 757-513-0902.

Sincerely,  
Kevin H. Turpin  
President