

## Fallin' Into Fun at Greensboro Housing Authority

This year's Housing America event took place on October 30, 2017. The event, "Fallin' into Fun" was for Greensboro Housing Authority (GHA) residents, to celebrate the season with food and activities focused around literacy and provided information to parents about a new program funded through an AmeriCorps grant, called Project R.E.A.D (Reading Early Advances Development).

This grant will enable GHA to begin Project R.E.A.D. literacy programs in nine communities with the focus of increasing the number of Guilford County children reading by third grade. Studies show that reading by third grade is an important milestone. Until third grade, children are learning to read; however, once a child enters fourth grade, they must apply their reading skills in order to solve problems and think critically about their subjects. Combined with low socio-economic status, the achievement gap is widening and can be seen even before a child reaches kindergarten. Project R.E.A.D AmeriCorps aims to lessen these roadblocks with programming for specific age groups.



The goal of the "Fallin' into Fun" event was to get the word out about this new program and how GHA can partner with parents to help their child become better readers and perform better in school. Partnering agencies such as United Way's "Raising a Reader" program and American Reading Company were represented to give parents information about the programs and materials used in the curriculum. Representatives were also present from other GHA programs aimed at strengthening families, such

as Project LENA and the Family Self-Sufficiency Program (FSS). Parents could tour the tables, learning about these great programs, ask questions and sign up for more information. In addition to being informational, we also wanted attendees to have fun! Children were treated to stories in the reading corner and were able to do some coloring and crafts as well as enjoy some treats! One of the most beloved characters from children's literature, Cat in the Hat, made an appearance and posed for pictures with the excited children. GHA took up a book donation

agency-wide and each child was able to leave with a book to begin putting their reading skills into practice. We expect to see a great number of children signed up for this upcoming program and increase their literacy in the coming year.

