

First-Ever Virtual Book Fair & Auction

OPELIKA, **Ala.** (Oct. 7, 2021) – The Lee County Literacy Coalition will host a virtual book fair and auction to raise funds for their at-home Legacy Learning Project from Oct. 7th – Oct. 10th.

The Lee County Literacy Coalition hosts its book fair fundraiser every year. However, amid the COVID-19 Pandemic, many events had no choice but to be transformed into virtual events, and the LCLC Book Fair is no different. "With less than 40% of the county being vaccinated", said Patricia Butts, the executive director of the LCLC, "this the best way to hold their event safely is to have it completely virtual." The book fair is also an auction where people can log into Air Auctioneer and bid on their favorite books from their own homes.

The book fair event is easier to attend this year than ever before. The LCLC is not required to have it in only one location; people from all over the county can attend from the safety and comfort of their own homes. People also save time and money due to not needing to allot time for travel.

All proceeds from the LCLC Book Fair will go to help give resources to those participating in their Legacy Learning Project. It, too, is done at home to keep everyone safe.

"To some, these books are donated as the first additions to their at-home library. And to others, they are new books they can use to grow their skills, said Butts."

Studies have shown that having an at-home library increases a child's academic confidence and success, helps develop their vocabulary and increases their ability to get a job when the time comes. A parent's confidence in their reading is important now more than ever given that, during this pandemic, parents are now teachers to their children. As the weather gets colder, she can imagine all the families staying warm and inside while reading a story aloud to pass the time and spark new, insightful conversations.

The LCLC's book fair is the non-profits largest fundraiser of the year. "In order to have a prosperous year, we must host this event," said Beck Stallworth, program coordinator for LCLC. After suffering setbacks during the pandemic, the LCLC is in desperate need of funds in order to continue its good work in our community. Through their many programs, including the Legacy Learning Project, the LCLC's work is vital for increasing literacy rates in Lee County.

The bidding will open at 10:00 a.m. CST on Thursday, Oct. 7^{th,} on www.airauctioneer.com/virtual-book-fair2021, and will close on Sunday, Oct. 10th. For more information, visit leecountyliteracy.org or call 334-705-0001.

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