

Meet the SAS Family: Donna Fulenwider

Senior Technical Support Manager's daughter is a classroom teacher who benefits from Donna's and SAS' generosity

When Donna Fulenwider's mother retired after 30 years of teaching in eastern North Carolina, she earned less than what Donna made in her first job.

"It was hard for me knowing how very little salary she was making when she retired," said Donna, a Technical Support Senior Manager, whose daughter, Lisa Fulenwider, is also a teacher.

Some 20 years later, teachers still usually don't earn high salaries which is all the more reason for Donna to turn to [DonorsChoose.org](https://www.donorschoose.org), an online charity that helps students in need across the United States.

With SAS matching employee contributions, Donna is able to make an impact in Lisa's classroom at Newell Elementary School, a high-need, urban school in the Charlotte-Mecklenburg (N.C.) school system.

Donna's daughter shares her grandmother's name and her love of teaching. Besides running a third-grade class full-time, she is pursuing a PhD in curriculum instruction at UNC Charlotte.

"My daughter has a desire to make a difference," Donna said. "So when I learned about the matching program at SAS, I encouraged her to submit projects. Now she is amazed at the donations she gets from people all across the United States."

Donna has been particularly attracted to Lisa's projects that help children learn to read. "I wanted to instill in children that lifelong love of reading that my teachers gave me," she said.

The first project Donna funded provided the third-graders with *Time For Kids* magazines to help them learn about current events.

"The kids are fascinated by world events," she said. "Some of them asked Lisa if they could read another article."

After using the magazines in the classroom, Lisa told Donna she could see the excitement in the children's faces. "They absolutely love nonfiction and still cannot believe these magazines are theirs and they have ownership of something that seemed so adult," said Donna.

Donna has money automatically credited each month into her Paypal account, so she can "bank the funds" and then look for projects to support. Besides Lisa's class, Donna also contributes to projects in Wilson County where she grew up.

“I wish more people knew about DonorsChoose,” Donna said. “Last year, my fiance’s Christmas present to Lisa was a contribution to one of her projects.”

For Donna, giving to [DonorsChoose](#) is a way to honor SAS and its strong foundation in education. “I share the same values with SAS in terms of a focus on education,” she said. “It’s nice to know that your own objectives and your company’s objectives are aligned. SAS has the right mindset.”