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SUPERINTENDENT

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Camden Teachers celebrate DonorsChoose.org #BestSchoolDay Surprise

150 Camden classroom project requests were fully funded in one day, totally over \$100,000 in new funding

March 28, 2018, Camden, New Jersey — 95 Camden City School District teachers got a special surprise today when they learned they were part of a classroom project request “flash funding” on the nonprofit website DonorsChoose.org. Ripple, a San Francisco-based technology company, and its executives announced that they donated \$29 million to fund every classroom project request on the site. As part of that surprise funding, 150 projects from Camden City School District teachers were funded, totaling \$107,293. Combined with citizen and corporate donations already given, \$107,510 in classroom supplies and resources were supported yesterday.

With 32 projects fully funded today, Woodrow Wilson High School was the biggest Camden winner in the DonorsChoose.org Best Day Ever fundraiser. WWHS teachers received funding for new technology, classroom libraries, and resources for students to stay motivated and adjust to their new home after coming to Camden from islands ravaged by Hurricane Maria. Schools like Catto, Davis, and Brimm Medical Arts also benefitted with multiple projects fully funded during the #BestSchoolDay.

“Because of the generosity of Ripple and countless individual DonorsChoose donors, 150 Camden classrooms are now equipped with new technology, resources, and project-based learning opportunities to help our students achieve. I applaud the thousands of Camden teachers who use DonorsChoose to find creative ways to bring innovative instruction in their classrooms and give their students the best possible education, day in and day out,” said Deputy Superintendent Katrina McCombs.

This is the first time in the 18-year history of DonorsChoose.org that a donor has funded every project on the site. Stephen Colbert revealed the news on Tuesday’s Late Show with Stephen Colbert, and the organization celebrated all of the funded teachers on social media using the hashtag #BestSchoolDay.

Now that the projects have been funded, the team at DonorsChoose.org will purchase the requested materials and ship them to Camden City School District schools. Among the projects funded in Camden were:

- Technology for displaced students in Mrs. Osborne’s class at Woodrow Wilson High School
- An iPad for an Oral History Project in Mr. Varquez’s class at Davis Elementary School
- Access to study island online math resources in Mrs. Sadler’s class at Catto Family School

“At Ripple, we care about giving back to our community, and we collectively value the importance of quality education in developing the next generation of leaders,” said Monica Long, SVP of Marketing at Ripple. “We’re proud to work with DonorsChoose.org to support classroom needs across the country.”

“We are awestruck by the generosity of the Ripple team,” said Charles Best, founder of DonorsChoose.org. “Our country’s teachers and school leaders work so hard to give their students the best education possible, and we’re excited to recognize and reward their efforts with #BestSchoolDay.”

As new projects appear on DonorsChoose.org, donors can search for projects from Camden City School District by visiting www.donorschoose.org, clicking “Find a classroom to support,” and typing in the local school or teacher name. Teachers can create a new project by visiting www.donorschoose.org/teachers.

Interviews are available with the Deputy Superintendent, teachers with fully funded classroom projects, and Camden students who benefit from DonorsChoose projects. Interviews will be available in English and Spanish. Contact Maita Soukup at msoukup@camden.k12.nj.us or call 856-375-4737.