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VIRGINIA'S LOSS IS TENNESSEE'S GAIN

(Blackstone, Virginia – November 12, 2016)

Blackstone will soon be losing a resident who has been very active in the community, and Virginia's loss will be Tennessee's gain.

You might recognize Grace McDonald on the street, or you may be familiar with her name. It's possible, too, that you are familiar with her work, even though you do not realize it.

McDonald has worked for the Nottoway County Public Library System since 2011, and for the past two years, she has held the position of Assistant Director. During her time with the library, hundreds of Blackstone's first grade students have spent time with her, visiting the branch to become familiar with the library and enjoy some story-telling while learning about topics chosen by the teachers. Innumerable others have enjoyed McDonald's efforts with both the Nottoway Reads program and the System's Summer Reading Program.

Grace's work with the library began well before her employment there. She has been a member of The Friends of the Library, Blackstone for more than a decade, and Friends President Tilly Conley states that McDonald was instrumental in the establishment of The Book End, the used book store run by the Friends. Just a few weeks ago at the Friends annual Treats in the Park event, children lined up to see McDonald, and they listened avidly as she spun a scary tale about the unfortunate Mr. Brown. For this event and for others like it, Grace has always worked hard to ensure that the Friends have enough books to give away to every child wanting one.

McDonald's interest in the Blackstone Community is not limited to the library, however. Executive Director Jane Barnes says, "Grace was a driving force with the Blackstone Chamber of Commerce!" As a member of the Chamber of Commerce, McDonald served on the Board of Directors as well as on multiple committees. Barnes credits the past Chair with having started the upcoming Holiday Open House and states that in 2012, Grace was chosen as the Volunteer of the Year.

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