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For Immediate Release:

Cat in the Hat Goes to Newton Schools to Encourage Reading

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Newton, NC – Every March, in celebration of Dr. Seuss' birthday, The Rotary Club of Newton-Conover goes to area schools to read books to elementary kids. This year, the event expanded through a collaboration with The Green Room Community Theatre of Newton and the Catawba County Library System.

The group began the morning at South Newton Elementary with Rotarians dispatched to classrooms to read their favorite Dr. Seuss book. Making it extra fun this year, the Green Room joined in with library staff and two actors dressed up as Dr. Seuss and the Cat in the Hat, who went into classrooms to get silly and get the kids excited. However, it wasn't just about making kids laugh. With every group of kids, the jokes and slapstick eventually brought them to the same bottom line – reading is important.

South Newton Elementary, like most schools across the region, have been celebrating Dr. Seuss and reading all week. Principle Amber Humphrey said, "The kids are so excited! It's just been a great ending to the week. We're really thankful to have people from the community come in and read to the kids."

The fun continued as the doctor, cat, and librarian went on to North Newton Elementary and Shuford Elementary to meet more kids and promote the power of reading. The Library provided bags of resources and goodies for nearly 700 kids in Kindergarten through 2nd grade at the three schools.

Sherry Butler, Director of The Green Room, was on hand saying, "We're delighted that we can partner again with the Catawba County Library System. It's our privilege to help promote reading and our library system, and what it can do for the citizens of Catawba County, especially our young people."

As a Rotarian, and Director of the Catawba County Library, Suzanne White was at South Newton to read as well. "We're glad to partner with the Newton Conover Rotary and the Green Room Community Theatre's amazing *Cat in the Hat* team to get students energized about reading and visiting the library for powerful learning resources and programs."

You can learn more about the Rotary Club of Newton-Conover at newtonconoverrotary.org. And for more information about The Green Room Community Theatre, check out their site at thegreenroomtheatre.org.

For the latest in library news, visit librarynews.catawbacountync.gov or stop by your local branch.

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About: *The Catawba County Library is our community's place to connect, explore, and grow. We empower lives and build our community by bringing people, information, and ideas together. The library, headquartered in Newton, serves the community with seven locations throughout the county and is a year-round, integral provider of early literacy and lifelong learning resources and programming. The library also provides a full complement of computer and digital services, classes, and support to bridge the digital divide, empower job seekers, and enhance community quality of life and economic health.*

