



## **For Immediate Release**

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# **The McKenzie Noelle Wilson Foundation Announces \$1 Million Commitment To Educate Local Youth**

*January 21, 2014 – Jacksonville, FL* – The McKenzie Noelle Wilson Foundation announced today that it will commit \$1 million over the next five years for after-school tutoring and mentoring, teen development and early learning programs for youth at McKenzie’s Academic Resource Centers (MARC) in Jacksonville. Through these free programs the Foundation hopes to increase the high school graduation rate among students in Duval County.

The Foundation currently operates two McKenzie’s Academic Resource Centers in Jacksonville - located in communities with large populations of at-risk learners. Open after school every weekday, and operated by volunteers, including teachers and teen mentors, each center provides opportunities for more than 300 students to grow and learn.

“Our mission is to help young people recognize their full potential, and one of the best ways to do that is to empower youth through education” said Blake Wilson, CEO of The McKenzie Noelle Wilson Foundation. “Students at McKenzie’s Academic Resource Centers are being provided the opportunity to receive extra academic support in an effort to get better grades, to graduate high school and to continue to excel through college.”

Funding will be distributed over the next five years and will be applied toward: resources for students such as teachers, support services, books, computers, graphic calculators and other needed technology; transportation for students to visit local colleges; a summer day camp to provide students with enriching activities; teen development programs; early learning programs to address the needs of our youngest students; and the potential opening of an additional McKenzie’s Academic Resource Center.

For more information about McKenzie's Academic Resource Centers, visit

[www.caregivegrow.org](http://www.caregivegrow.org)

### **About The McKenzie Noelle Wilson Foundation**

The McKenzie Noelle Wilson Foundation is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization established in memory of McKenzie Wilson who passed away in 2010. The Foundation's mission is to help young people, locally and globally, recognize their full potential by providing programs that encourage caring for others, giving to those-in-need, and growing in their own spirituality.

Locally, the Foundation operates McKenzie's Academic Resource Centers where free mentoring, tutoring and academic programs are provided to students living in two Jacksonville communities. Globally, the Foundation has funded the building of three orphanages in Uganda, Africa to house and care for over 60 children. The Foundation is funded through efforts such as the annual 5K McKenzie's Run ([www.mckenziesrun.org](http://www.mckenziesrun.org)), Liv-n-Grace bracelet donations and corporate and individual donations. For more information about the Foundation or to see how you can help, visit [www.caregivegrow.org](http://www.caregivegrow.org).