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Barksdale backs initiative with \$100K donation

Special to The Clarion-Ledger

The Barksdale Reading Institute has donated \$100,000 to DonorsChoose.org, a nonprofit connecting donors and teachers via the Internet.

The grant will raise awareness of DonorsChoose.org among Mississippi's public schoolteachers as well as encourage philanthropists across the state and nation to support projects in Mississippi classrooms.

"We are extremely grateful to the Barksdale Reading Institute for their generous contribution," said Charles Best, founder and chief executive officer of DonorsChoose.org. "This grant will help give over 8,000 Mississippi students the resources they need to learn that would otherwise not be possible."

To introduce Mississippians to the DonorsChoose.org program, the Barksdale Reading Institute's donation will be used to partially fund projects across the state at 50 percent of the project's total cost. This will allow citizen philanthropists to fund any Mississippi project for much-needed classroom resources at a 50 percent discount.

"The Barksdale Reading Institute is proud to sponsor such an innovative organization that is making a difference for Mississippi schools," said Claiborne Barksdale, chief executive officer of the institute. "We hope this donation will inspire Mississippi residents to get involved directly in local education and donate to teachers' projects posted on DonorsChoose.org."

Mississippi public school teachers are encouraged to submit proposals for the funding of supplies, books and technology.

Prospective donors can view these projects by visiting the institute's DonorsChoose.org Challenge Page at www.donorschoose.org/brichallenge.

DonorsChoose.org has facilitated the donation of \$17 million to classrooms benefiting more than 860,000 students across the United States. It's had 34,000 teachers in 10,300 public schools to submit 77,000 proposals for their students.
