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Couple donates **Amazon** Kindles to PLC

DURHAM - Christmas came a little early for the Durham Performance Learning Center, as the owners of two Bull City hair salons recently donated 10 **Amazon** Kindles for use at the nontraditional high school.

PLC serves students at risk of dropping out of school. Part of the Durham Public Schools system, it is run in partnership with education organization Communities In Schools of Durham.

After learning of CIS of Durham's partnership on a literacy program with the Junior League of Orange and Durham Counties, Gail and Tommy McNeill - owners of Gail's Hair Salon and Pampering Women - were moved to act as well. They donated 10 **Kindle** e-readers, which will be used as teaching tools in PLC's English department.

"Gail's Hair Salon is committed to excellence in hair care and passionate about supporting our community and establishing a partnership with Communities In Schools and The Junior League of Durham and Orange Counties in support of this literacy program," the McNeills said in a press release.

The McNeills' donation is the largest e-reader donation that the PLC has received that will be dedicated to literacy inside the classroom, said Tracie

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Miller, development director with CIS of Durham. The Kindles will complement Verizon's \$20,000 grant in October that allowed for the purchase of iPads to help develop students' STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) skills.

"The donation from the McNeills is a great addition to the school, which has a limited number of books," Miller said in a press release. "The addition of e-readers will be a fun and interactive way to promote reading and technology in the classroom."

PLC, housed in the Holton Career and Resource Center, typically serves up to 120 students each year who haven't found success in a traditional school setting. At their own pace, students take the courses they need to graduate online with one-on-one guidance from classroom instructors. Last year, the school graduated 93 percent of its eligible seniors.

To contribute to PLC's efforts, perhaps by purchasing **Amazon** gift cards to fill the donated Kindles with books, visit <http://www.cisdurham.org/donate.html>.

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