

★ STAR BUSINESS BUZZ

SPIRIT MOUNTAIN ROLLS DICE ON SHADOW PROJECT

The Shadow Project, a 15-year-old nonprofit headquartered in Sullivan's Gulch, has received a one-year, \$35,000 grant from the Spirit Mountain Community Fund to help its teachers to close the achievement gap for students in special education. The nonprofit's stated mission is to help children with disabilities like dyslexia and autism thrive and achieve their true potential.

"The strength of our local partnerships is something we take pride in," said Mychal Cherry, Spirit Mountain Community Fund's executive director. "It's an honor and a privilege to support an organization like The Shadow Project that makes it possible for children with



learning disabilities to meet and exceed their full academic potential."

The majority of the children in The

Shadow Project are from low-income homes and communities of color. The Spirit Mountain grant gives them personalized

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learning experiences such as reading mentors who use a specialized audio-visual library to make books come alive, sensory spaces where children can find calm and focus, and a goal-setting program that motivates discouraged learners.

"Because of Spirit Mountain's generosity, our children have tools tailored to the way they learn, teachers equipped to support them, and a sense of belonging in school that sets them on a path of pride and accomplishment," said Shadow Founder and Executive Director Christy Scattarella. "Many of the students we serve have been ready to give up – on school and on themselves – and their perseverance and determination inspire me daily."

For more information, call 971-373-3457 or visit www.shadow-project.org. ★