



The Lost Colony, 1409 National Park Drive, Manteo, NC 27954 [www.thelostcolony.org](http://www.thelostcolony.org)

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Raleigh Elementary School Donates to *Lost Colony* Fund**

(Manteo, N.C., May 19 2008) – Though the winds blew and the clouds prevailed, *The Lost Colony*, received a bit of sunshine from an elementary school gift on Monday, May 12. The Fourth Grade Players at Grace Christian School in Raleigh, NC, donated proceeds from their recent theatre performance to the outdoor drama's costume shop replacement fund.

Each year, fourth grade students at the school perform a play about North Carolina history. This year, parents and students created an original play about the lost colony of Roanoke. Their inspiration came upon attending the North Carolina History Museum's recent "Mysteries of the Lost Colony" exhibit in Raleigh this past fall.

Mike Dempsey, a parent of one of the school children, wrote *The Vanishing Village, the Story of the Lost Colony of Roanoke* for the school's spring performance. The production was fully costumed and presented by the students on April 25.

It seemed fitting to students and parents that proceeds from the play be given to *The Lost Colony* to assist with their costume shop replacement fund. According to Penny Shaefer, organizer of the project, "We had some extra money in our fourth grade fund, so we decided that proceeds would go to help restore the props and costumes down there [at *The Lost Colony*] since it is such an important part of our history."

Students from the school travelled to Manteo to present the check and see where the outdoor drama is performed. Schaefer's students were thrilled to go backstage, see the costume shop and visit where the summer production takes place.

Although national support and interest followed the fire, funds are still needed to replace the costumes. "In order to replace what was lost, we still need to raise \$250,000," says *The Lost Colony's* Executive Director/ Producer Carl Curnutte. "We are

thrilled that these young students took such an interest in their North Carolina history and thought so generously about us. They are the exact reason we keep telling the story of these brave colonists—so the story of America’s beginning will live on and inspire future generations.”

Donations for the Costume Fund are being accepted several ways: online at [www.thelostcolony.org](http://www.thelostcolony.org), by calling the business office at 252-473-2127, and through fundraising accounts at BB&T, ECB, RBC Centura, and Southern Bank. *The Lost Colony* is the longest-running symphonic drama in America and opens its 71<sup>st</sup> season May 30<sup>th</sup>, 2008.

PHOTO CUTLINE: Grace Christian School’s Fourth Grade class, accompanied by Sherri Durig (left) and Penny Schaefer (right) presented a \$550 check to Ken Keating, Development Director of *The Lost Colony*. Last month, the students presented their own original drama about the lost colonists of Roanoke. Organizers and students agreed that the extra earnings from the production should be donated to *The Lost Colony*. Students were thrilled to visit backstage and see the production’s Company members gearing up for opening night, May 30.



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