

# *TUTORS FOR KIDS, INC.*

## *Annual Report - 2014*





**Changing our World by Educating Kids**  
Helping Kids Move Forward

**TUTORS FOR KIDS, INC.**  
Volunteers in our community schools

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**Mission** - Tutors for Kids, Inc. is a 501(c) (3) nonprofit community-based organization of volunteers who support the local educational process through direct classroom tutoring in reading, math, writing, and science as well as family support and activities that enhance the educational environment leading to scholastic achievement.

**Background** – The program originated in the 2009-2010 school year as a group of dedicated volunteer tutors. During 2012, the program adopted the name - Tutors for Kids, Inc. - and was officially formed as a corporation in the state of Florida in March, 2012. Tutors for Kids, Inc. became an official 501(c)(3) nonprofit public charity with a determination letter dated May 16, 2012, from the IRS.

Our original group of volunteers in 2009 numbered six – during 2014, the numbers grew over to 200. Starting with one school in 2009, we tutored in nine schools during the 2014-15 school year – six in South Marion County, Florida, one in Sumter County, Florida, and two in Lake County, Florida:

- Belleview Santos Elementary, Belleview, Florida
- Belleview Elementary, Belleview, Florida
- Fruitland Park Elementary, Fruitland Park, Florida
- Harbour View Elementary, Summerfield, Florida
- Legacy Elementary, Ocala, Florida
- Marion Oaks Elementary, Ocala, Florida
- Stanton Weirsdale Elementary, Weirsdale
- Villages Elementary, Lady Lake, Florida
- Wildwood Elementary, Wildwood, Florida

**Board of Directors** – The Board of Directors meets two times each year to review the program and finances. The 2014 board consists of eight of the original members.

**Publicity and Recruiting** – Tutors for Kids continues to gain exposure through several sources:

- Newspaper publicity (the Daily Sun, The Voice, the Cornerstone, The Villages recreation news, The Village Crier, and the Ocala Star Banner, Great Living Magazine)
- Online publicity (villages-news.com and Tutors for Kids website)
- “Word of mouth” (this proves to be an ongoing source of additional tutors)
- Speaking to clubs, organizations, and groups, all of which brought new tutors and additional funding:

**April 8** – Retired Educators Club in the Villages

**September 22** – The Active Aging Expo in the Villages

**November 3** – New Covenant Church

**November 11** – Rotary Club in the Villages

**Recognition** – Tutors for Kids was recognized by two counties for outstanding volunteerism: Sumter County for Outstanding Service to School; Marion County the Henry Duda winner for outstanding volunteer service. And, at its annual volunteer recognition celebration, Stanton Weirsdale Elementary acknowledged and rewarded the contributions of the volunteer tutors.



Sumter County School Board Award

**Orientation, Training, Support, and Communication for Tutors** – With the increase in the numbers of volunteers, Tutors for Kids conducted six training and orientation sessions for tutors before they started in schools.

In addition, the Media Specialist at **Wildwood Elementary School** provided two specific training and introduction sessions for their AR (Accelerated Reader) program. Over 30 tutors attended.

Tutors for Kids produces a monthly e-newsletter, sent to all tutors, teachers, principals, board members, and other interested supporters. Copies are available on the website: [www.tutorsforkidsinc.org](http://www.tutorsforkidsinc.org)

The Tutors for Kids Club in the Villages held monthly meetings during the school year. Monthly meetings are on the first Wednesday of each month – and feature training sessions workshops, speakers, and open discussions.

**School Statistics** – As of December 2014

Schools	Teachers	Tutors	Timeslots
Bellevue Elementary	17	17	25
Bellevue Santos Elementary	13	18	25
Fruitland Park Elementary	11	19	27
Harbour View Elementary	19	18	35
Legacy Elementary	1	1	1
Villages Elementary at Lady Lake	21	29	55
Marion Oaks Elementary	5	6	6
Wildwood Elementary	32	98	140
Stanton Weirsdale Elementary	14	25	26
Totals	133	231	340

**Special Requests from Schools and Other Programs** – Several of our schools, and others, requested special assistance from Tutors for Kids, and volunteer tutors were able to fill these requests:

**Wildwood** requested special assistance in their Media Center to enhance their AR (Accelerated Reader) program. Tutors for Kids provided 23 dedicated tutors during the course of the week to coach designated students with reading and their AR tests.

Each December, The **Villages Girl Scout Alumnae Silver Trefoils** collects new books and pajamas for children in need. The book becomes a prized possession of the children and adds to their “rituals of childhood.” The program collected 3,800 pairs of pajamas and 5,500 books – to which Tutors for Kids contributed over 100 books.

The **Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Marion County** does a comprehensive program of assistance for a Dallas, Florida, trailer community. They teach English to Spanish-speaking mothers who live there. There are two classes, one a beginner’s class, and the other is a more advanced class. There are members who teach these classes and members who baby-sit the pre-school children in a separate trailer. We teach in trailer homes of two residents there. The books that were donated by the Tutors

for Kids are being used in the classes every week to reinforce the regular teaching program. They are extremely helpful and the students really love them. Their children read them as well.

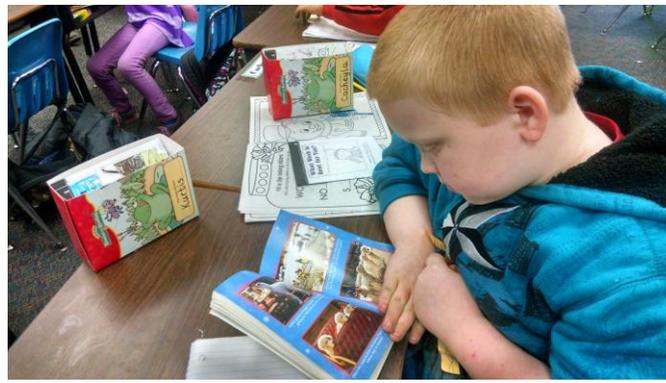
**The Book Program** – Since early 2010, we have been participating with First Book, a nonprofit based in Washington D.C., that connects book publishers and community organizations to provide access to new books for children in need. To date, First Book has distributed more than 100 million books and educational resources to programs and schools serving children from low-income families throughout the United States and Canada.

A 14-month study by First Book of 2,564 students found that the books from First Book:

- **Improves interest in reading.** Students demonstrating a 'high interest' in reading nearly tripled after receiving books from First Book.
- **Increases children's desire to learn.** 69% of program administrators found books from First Book were "very important" in children's decisions to read more and improve their reading skills.
- **Increases reading at home.** More than 70% of children reported increased home literacy activities after receiving books from First Book.

The books distributed to organizations are free; we pay only 45 or 65 cents per book for shipping. The 11,000 books received by Tutors for Kids during 2014 have a retail value of over \$85,000.

Tutors use the books to reward children for achievement and progress in their work – as well they give every child in each classroom where they work at least two books throughout the year. Since 2010, our program has received over 30,000 books and has distributed them to the students in our schools and other programs.



Stanton Weirsdale Student with Book from Tutors for Kids

**Book Bowl** – The Marion County Book Bowl is an annual reading competition in which students in Grades 3, 4, and 5 from each school read 15 books and compete by answering detailed questions about the books. Constance Cordingley, a tutor and school captain, served as a judge for the Book Bowl on May 18.

**Financial Statistics** – The primary source of revenue for Tutors for Kids is donations by individuals, clubs, organizations, and foundations. In August 2014, for a second year, Tutors for Kids was awarded a \$2,000 grant from Dollar General. In addition, two private foundations donated \$1,500 for the book program.

The only expense charged against this revenue is the shipping costs of the books received from First Book. All other expenses are donated as “in-kind.”

Beginning Balance	\$ 7,022.17
Donations	<u>9,082.22</u>
Total Received	\$16,104.39
Book Shipping Costs	<u><del>\$(5,933.46)</del></u>
Cash Balance 12/31/2013	<u>\$10,179.93</u>

In-Kind Donations - Considering the retail value of the books as in-kind donations, the approximate net value of the 11,000 books received during 2014 is \$85,000. Other operating expenditures of approximately \$1,500 were contributed as in-kind donations.



*Tutors for Kids Reading Tutor, Brian Farley*

**Feedback from Tutors, Teachers, Students and Schools**

“We have really enjoyed working with your team. It has brought our students a great deal of confidence and joy in addition to the critical academic support that they needed. We really appreciate all your folks bring to our school.” David Bordenkircher, Principal of Villages Elementary School

“Thank you for providing books to every student in Mrs. Kaminski's class! I wish you could have seen the faces of her students today when we presented each one of them with their gift. Beverly and I wrapped each book in wrapping paper and ribbon. We tied a couple of fun pencils and a little pack of smarties candies to each gift. When the students were at the library, we brought the books to the classroom. When they returned we told them how much we liked them all and while we cannot work with each one of them, we wanted all to have a gift. They sat quietly in their seats as we called each student up by name, shook their hand and presented them with their gift. The students clapped for their classmates. When everyone had their gift they opened their presents - oh my - what a feeling of joy and excitement in the air.” Shelley Signoff, Tutor at Wildwood Elementary School

“I just want to thank you and the team for all your effort in locating and securing tutors for my students and me.

I am especially appreciative of the man you sent for my little boy. He is a great match for him. It will probably take all year and then some but I believe together we can turn this little guy into the perfect gentleman. He is a precious boy who just hasn't had the guidance he has needed for too long. They are doing great as a team so far.

I am not trying to show partiality because all the other tutors are fantastic too. Each one comes in ready to do all that I ask and the kids just love them all.” Cheryl McKinney, Teacher at Wildwood Elementary School





*Math Tutor Frank Fezza*



*Tutors for Kids Reading Tutor,  
David Hegarty*



*Tutors for Kids Reading Tutor, Joan  
LaClair*

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