

TUTORS FOR KIDS, INC.

Annual Report – 2024



Excited Children Eager to Learn

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Mission

Tutors for Kids, Inc. is a nonprofit organization dedicated to strengthening education in our communities by providing trained volunteer tutors to support students in Title 1 public schools. We partner with teachers and schools to improve learning, build skills, and inspire lifelong achievement.

Background

The concept of volunteer tutoring originated in the 2009-2010 school year with a group of six dedicated volunteers. 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. 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 in one school and by February 2020, the numbers grew to over 500 in 12 schools. But Covid-19 struck and reduced our numbers to less than 100 tutors.

We started rebuilding our tutor volunteers at the beginning of the school year 2023- 24. We added a new school, Oak Park Middle School in Leesburg. We now tutored in 13 schools during the 2024 school year – four in South Marion County, Florida, three in Sumter County, Florida, and six in Lake County, Florida:

- Belleview Santos Elementary, Belleview, Florida
- Belleview Elementary, Belleview, Florida
- Beverly Shores Elementary, Leesburg, Florida
- Fruitland Park Elementary, Fruitland Park, Florida
- Harbour View Elementary, Summerfield, Florida
- Leesburg Elementary, Leesburg, Florida
- Oak Park Middle School Leesburg Florida
- Rimes Early Learning and Literacy Center, Leesburg, Florida
- Stanton Weirsdale Elementary, Weirsdale. Florida
- Villages Elementary, Lady Lake, Florida
- Wildwood Elementary, Wildwood, Florida
- Wildwood Intermediate School, Wildwood, Florida
- Wildwood Middle School, Wildwood, Florida
-

Board of Directors

The 12-member volunteer Board of Directors is the governing body that monitors the program and finances and plans for the sustainability of the organization.

Publicity and Recruiting

Tutors for Kids continues to gain exposure through several sources:

- Newspaper publicity (the Daily Sun, 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 a very successful ongoing source of additional tutors)
- Speaking to clubs, organizations, and groups, all of

which bring new tutors and additional funding

Orientation, Training, Support, and Communication for Tutors

During the fall of 2023-2024 and in January 2024, Tutors for Kids conducted **9** orientation sessions for **142** new tutors before they started in schools

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.tutors4kids.org

After the COVID-19 pandemic, the bi-monthly meetings have been restarted. The purpose of the meetings is to enhance volunteers' skills and knowledge, Tutors for Kids offered substantive topics in the monthly newsletter.

Special Events and Other Programs

Stanton Weirsdale Kindergarteners - Dr. Suess Books – Tutor, Dorothy Von Brook convinced the Knights of Columbus Council 14222, to support an initiative to give all kindergarteners at Stanton Weirsdale Elementary School a Dr. Suess book on his birthday in March. During the fall of 2019, the Council generously donated \$500 to purchase books – which were given out in March 2024.



**Dorothy with Kindergarten Students
Dr. Suess birthday at Stanton Weirsdale**

The Book Program

Since early 2010, Tutors for Kids has been participating with First Book, a nonprofit based in Washington D.C., and Scholastic Books that connect book publishers and community organizations to provide access to new books for children in need.

Why Kids Need Books taken from First Book's website

- Books impact everything from psychological well-being to academic performance, but kids in need don't have that advantage.
- Books and resources are critical. Access to adequate resources is one of the greatest contributors to educational inequality in the United States.
- Just the presence of books in the home improves educational outcomes.

- Books and resources have been shown to have a positive relationship with interest in reading, academic and writing performance, and language development.
- Despite all this, books and resources are scarce for kids in need—meaning they are at a disadvantage from the start. Research has identified vast ‘book deserts’ concentrated in low-income communities across the U.S.
- Poverty is reshaping education. 51% of students across the nation’s public schools are low income; coming to school without even their basic needs met and under extreme stress.
- Public schools do not have the funding necessary to address the need. 23 states spend less on public education than they did a decade ago.

The Impact

Tutors for Kids gives books to the children at schools where we tutor. Books transform the lives of children in need by making brand-new, high-quality books available to the educators and children who need them most.

The books distributed by Tutors for Kids free of charge and are from organizations like First Books, Scholastic Books and other organizations. Books can cost between \$3.00 and \$5.00 per book. We have several volunteers who scour different websites looking for books to buy for our students.

Recently Tutors for Kids has given out almost 15,000 books per year. Due to the high cost of books, the Board of Directors voted to make a change in our Book Program. The Books for the Bag part of our monthly program has been suspended.

Tutors give every child in each classroom where they work at least two new books throughout the year. Since 2010, our program has received over 150,000 books and has distributed

them to the students in our schools and other programs.

The Schools who partner with our Book Program

Most of our schools have given space within their buildings to store our books – thus enabling tutors to easily obtain books for their students. Our Tutors for Kids School Book Coordinators (SBCs) regularly order books to add to the inventory – so that there are adequate supplies when tutors give the twice-a-year distribution to all students in their classrooms.



Book Room at Wildwood Elementary School

Community Supporters

Duke Energy



For several years, the Duke Energy Foundation has partnered

with Tutors for Kids to support reading enhancement and family outreach in five Marion County schools: Belleview Santos, Belleview, Harboure View, Stanton Weirsdale, and Marion Oaks as well as several Wildwood schools in Sumter County.

These are pictures of the string bags that Duke has donated for students to carry their donated books.



Receiving the check at Belleview Elementary along with picture of Reading Star Cinch Bags – with students

From left to right: Suzan Cresto, Frank Russo, Carolyn Ruhe, and Dorothy Pernu of Duke Energy and students

Rotary Club, Noon



The Rotary Club Noon in the Villages continues to generously support Tutors for Kids with a check for \$1,000 in March 2024. Rotarians believe in giving back to the community and volunteering is an integral part of their membership. Tutors for Kids is honored to count several members of Rotary Club Noon

as tutors and to receive donations to support the book program.



Left to right: Carolyn Ruhe, Jerry Brillante, Frank Russo

Villages Pops Chorus



The Villages Pops Chorus is a 150+ member choir in The Villages, under the direction of Bill Davis. The Chorus presents three concerts each year – and other special concerts. Tutors for Kids has been one of the recipients of several special Hootenanny concerts in past years for a total of over \$10,000. The generosity of these dedicated talented singers is unsurpassed.

Friends of the Villages Library



The FOVL is an all-volunteer nonprofit organization with nearly 170 volunteers at the Belvedere & Pinellas Branches of The Villages Public Library. Since 2003, the FOVL has returned over \$350,000 to the Community. In support of the Tutors for Kids book program at Wildwood Elementary and Intermediate Schools, the FOVL has donated thousands of dollars to our book program. Tutors for Kids is honored to be recognized by this wonderful volunteer organization.



Dr. Thi Tran, Villages Dermatology and Cosmetic Surgery

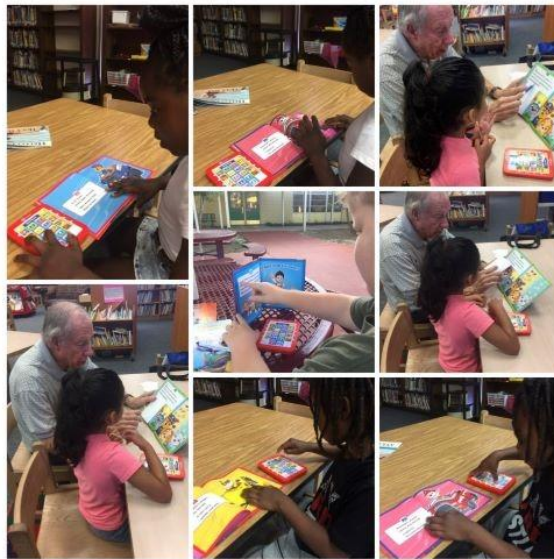


– Dr. Tran has supported Tutors for Kids for several years with annual donations. Dr. Tran challenged Tutors for Kids to initiate a “talking book” program for students who have limited adult presence in the home to read with, or to, them. He recommended

and challenged tutors for Kids to secure matching funds from other professionals in the greater area.

Tutors for Kids organized a pilot program for kindergarten students at Rimes Early Learning and Literacy Center with the talking books.

The following year the talking books were purchased to expand the program to kindergarten students in another school.



Knights of Columbus Councils – Since 2016, two Knights of Columbus councils – No. 13300 and No. 14222 – have supported Tutors for Kids. They combined donations total over \$6,000. One of their gifts is instrumental in an annual celebration of Dr. Seuss's birthday with books for kindergarten students at Stanton Weirsdale.

reading levels which exceeded those students who were not tutored. The students not tutored had their scores 'flat-lined' throughout the year.

In addition, principals praise and commend the volunteer tutors for their dedication to both the students and the school. Their observation is that the one-on-one attention to students is so valuable in encouraging students to focus on their work, feel good about their work, and to value the interaction that happens each week. These intrinsic benefits are impossible to measure statistically, but are observed by teachers, principals, parents, and tutors.



Marquee in Front of School

Why Do Volunteers Volunteer?

It's not for money or fame,
It's not for any personal gain.
It's just for the love of fellow man
It's just to lend a helping hand,

It's just to give a little of self.
That's something you can't buy with wealth.
It's not for the medals won with pride
It's just for the feeling deep inside,
It's that reward deep in your heart
It's the feeling you have been a part
Of helping others far and near
That makes you be a volunteer
Anonymous



Third Graders and their Year-End Books at Wildwood Elementary



Fourth Graders Learn about Pilgrims

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Learners Today . . . Leaders Tomorrow