



TUTORS FOR KIDS, INC.

**A 501(c)(3) nonprofit community-based organization of volunteers
who support the local educational process.**

February 2017 Newsletter

Excited Children Eager to Learn

Our Children – Learners Today - Leaders Tomorrow



Our Mission: Meeting student educational needs as defined by the teacher through suitable and trained volunteer tutors in the local, tri-county Title 1 public schools as determined by the Board of Directors.

Books in the Schools – Good News – Three schools now have your books in storage: Villages, Leesburg, Wildwood Elementary. Each of them has a sufficient quantity and variety to fill your “books for the bag” needs for the remainder of the year.

Soon to follow will be Beverly Shores, Belleview Santos, and Fruitland Park – watch your monthly newsletter for updates.

We have not been able to order books since early November. Our supplier, First Book, is changing their website and ordering process – and we expect to be able to order more books by the middle of March. Stay tuned!!

New Tutors – As a result of the article in the Daily Sun – and, of course, wonderful “word of mouth,” we have had a number of people offer to help in our schools. At this point in the year, we are targeting them to start tutoring in the fall – and will offer several training sessions in August and September.

Thank you for “spreading the word.”

Tutors for Kids Club Meetings

Looking forward, we are happy to announce upcoming meetings:

March 1 meeting will open our eyes about the testing that our students experience. Ash Ugur, Assistant Principal at Wildwood Elementary School, will share with you info about the testing, the challenges, and the preparation that the schools and students do. THEN, we will give you a chance to actually experience the test (on paper and with the answers).

Join us on March 1 – **Sterling Heights Rec Center – 3:00 p.m.**

On **April 5**, two principals will join us to talk about their schools and students – and the challenges they face – and how we, as tutors help their team. Heather Gelb, principal of Leesburg Elementary, and Heather Guest, principal of Harbour View Elementary will be our guests. Mark your calendar – we want to fill the room!!

Location and details will be announced in March newsletter.

The **Belleview Library** location for club meetings will be cancelled for the remainder of the year – and we will try to schedule another day and time going into the next year (away from Monday holidays – which caused us to cancel the last three meetings).

Partnering with Public Allies – Ava Ortiz has joined Tutors for Kids as our intern from Public Allies. You may hear from her regarding things about Tutors for Kids. She is the “real deal” – so please respond to calls or emails – as you would from your STCs, etc.

Fall Social and Awards Program – Many tutors have asked if Tutors for Kids will ever have a social. The answer is YES. The Board of Directors also wants to include a recognitions aspect to the social. Some of our donors have been very generous year after year and the

Board would like to recognize them as well as our tutors who have been working with our children year after year.

So, the answer is “**YES,**” but we need **HELP** in organizing such an event. If you’d like to have some fun, then this project is for you. Gatherings of this type usually take 8 – 10 volunteers. So if you or friends like to plan socials, we need your help. After all, we do need to have fun along with our tutoring. The tentative date is fall 2017.

During the Summer – Yes, after school closes in May/June, learning still continues. Most of the counties offer summer school for four to six weeks. So, IF you would like to continue the great work you are doing with your students, feel free to volunteer. What we know now is that Beverly Shores (in Leesburg) will be one location.

Board of Directors –

As we said in our last newsletter our Board of Directors has been meeting monthly. Tutors for Kids now have over 420 tutors in twelve schools tutoring about 2,000 students per week. To guarantee a long-term support system, the Board is working on several projects to develop a strategic plan for the future. This is an important and sustaining task.

The Board manages the tutor program, the book program, the technology and database development programs, the training program, the fund raising/grant program, the speakers program, and the public relations/communication program. There are 7 different sub-committees. You can see that the size of the Tutors for Kids program needs structural support.

You can HELP! Many people you know may not want to tutor, but have skills that could be used to support our program. We need Board members, trainers for new tutors, interviewers for new tutor applicants, public speakers, help in grant writing and technology help - especially for updating our website and Facebook connection (we have two volunteers for website/Facebook but could use at least two more).

Supporting our Supporters

Villages Pops Chorus – Those tutors who attended the February 8 concert took a trip down memory lane as the very talented musicians and singers entertained the sold-out audience to songs from the Hootenanny songbook. What a delightful evening!!

Hold down your control key and click below for an article about the concert and a sample of the great music:

<http://www.villages-news.com/give-hoot-hootenanny-shows-villagers-strong-appetite-folk-music/>

And the “icing on the cake” of the evening was the presentation of a check for \$3,500 to Tutors for Kids. What a wonderfully generous group of supporters.

So, for more wonderful music, support the Villages Pops Chorus at their next concert – March 27 – “Celebrate Good Times” at North Lake

Presbyterian Church – at 3:00 and 6:00 p.m. Tickets are available at Villages Box Offices.

Articles of Interest

Jesus Christ Superstar – KC Productions has announced: Jesus Christ Superstar will be held at the Savannah Center April 10 – 13, 2017 from 4 – 7 p.m., featuring our Tutors for Kids webmaster and database developer, Tim Casey. Tickets and information at:

www.superstarvillages.com

Rotary Club Noon – Thanks to Jerry Brillante, Tutors for Kids was invited to participate in the Rotary's Contractor Showcase and Lifestyle Show – February 18 – at the Wildwood Community Center. Hundreds of attendees learned about local vendors and services – and Tutors for Kids talked with 50-60 people – and offered a challenge: "Are You Smarter than a 3rd or 4th Grader?" (This is a reading exercise and math problem – with the answers, of course).

Donations – Since the January newsletter, Tutors for Kids received over \$4,200 in donations from individuals and organizations plus one-half of our United Way grant. Thank you!!!

Bulletin Board – School Help Wanted

These schools need more tutors:

Belleview Elementary - More tutors – contact Laura Kammer for details - 352-633-6069. (See link in email with this newsletter for STC contact info.)

Beverly Shores - Tutors needed for Kindergarten/Pre K - contact Sue McHale for details - 352-307-1756.

Leesburg Elementary - Kindergarten, kindergarten, kindergarten – contact Mary Kashner for details - 352-775-4538.

Village Elementary Grade 3 tutor, reading, Wednesdays 10 – 10:45

These schools need School Tutor Coordinators and Book Coordinators

Belleview Santos Two School Book Coordinators.

Beverly Shores Two School Book Coordinators

Fruitland Park – One School Tutor Coordinator for Grades 3-5

Wildwood – One School Tutor Coordinator for Grade 2

(See link in email accompanying this newsletter for STC contact info.)

Supporting Tutors for Kids

Amazon Smile Foundation – If you buy from Amazon, Tutors for Kids benefits as you purchase. We get a small amount when you access Amazon through this link below.

<http://smile.amazon.com/ch/45-4815598>

School Tutor Coordinators (STCs): The link for your School Tutor Coordinators (STCs) is in the email accompanying this newsletter. NOTE: There is a dot (.) between the first and last name of each tutor coordinator followed by @tutorsforkidsinc.org.

PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE – If you receive an email or phone call please, respond immediately. Remember each STC is responsible for working with 20–25 tutors so duplicate calls or emails consume a significant amount of time. They are also volunteers.

School Book Coordinators (SBCs): The link for your School Tutor Coordinators (STCs) will be included with the February newsletter.

Helpful Tutoring Tips

Many folks ask how I get my students to "earn" a book each month. Here are some suggestions for your toolbox:

Awarding stickers for:

- Accomplishments, achievements, or tutoring sessions well done.
- Homework, attendance, and/or class participation.
- Reading and telling you about the book they "earned."

The Daily Sun newspaper has been very generous with bringing publicity to Tutors for Kids – and Monday, February 13, was no exception. Reporter, Drexler James, did a great story about literacy achievement in Florida schools – and gave great credit to the work that Tutors for Kids contributes – featuring Stanton Weirsdale tutor, Dorothy Von Brook. If you missed the article, here is a link – enjoy!! Hold down your control key and click below.

http://www.thevillagesdailysun.com/news/villages/article_af18eb70-f1ac-11e6-844a-87fb48aaa261.html

These two links will bring a smile to your face – as two very successful teachers interact with their students. Hold down your control key and click below.

Mr. Bonner – 2nd grade teacher - <https://youtu.be/iN6gKAFewZ8>

Mr. Barry White - <https://youtu.be/BUQIARSN3ag>

Watch this abbreviated TED talk about "What do Teachers Make?"

<http://faithtap.com/2486/taylor-mali-what-does-a-teacher-make/>

Some Inspiration about What we Do

One day a man was walking along the shoreline. He noticed that overnight many seashells and starfish had washed up on the shore.

In the distance, he saw a small girl methodically pick up the starfish from the shore and toss them back into the waves.

As he approached with curiosity, he asked the girl, "Why are you throwing those starfish in the water?" She answered, "If they are left on the beach, the sun will dry them out and they will die. So I'm throwing them back into the ocean because I want them to live."

The man was very impressed with the child's thoughtfulness. But he said, "There must be millions of starfish along the beach. How can you possibly expect to make a difference?" The girl pondered the man's words for a moment and then slowly leaned over, reached down, carefully picked up another starfish, and threw it gently into the waves. She turned to the man and smiles, "You may be right," she said, "but I made a difference for that one!"

Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful committed citizens can change the world. It is indeed the only thing that ever has. Margaret Mead.

Tutors for Kids

Frank Russo or Carolyn Ruhe - 352-245-9709

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2016 Book Grant for Lake and Sumter from:



United Way
of Lake & Sumter Counties

2016 Book Grant for Tutors for Kids from:

