



# TUTORS FOR KIDS, INC.

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

*May 2017 Newsletter*

**Excited Children Eager to Learn**

**Our Children – Learners Today - Leaders Tomorrow**



***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.***

**The Year has Ended** – You have said “Good Bye” to your students and teachers. You have given out your final books to your class and you too are on vacation.

**Tutors we Thank You** - The Tutors for Kids Board of Directors thanks you for all that you have done during the 2016 - 2017 school year. Many of you have received special thanks from your students and from some of the schools at their volunteer breakfast events. Remember you are part of a team of 425+ tutors who weekly go into 350+ class timeslots and work with 2,000 students each week.

**School Tutor Coordinators (STCs) we Thank You** – Your patience and persistence have made for a successful program. You have been asked to do a great variety of tasks. This year you have managed a number of volunteers at your schools. Managing is not an easy task. It requires many skills. Additionally you have been asked to help build our database tutor tracking system which we desperately needed to replace many confusing spread sheets. You have done this despite struggles with ‘new technology’. Finally you have been the ambassadors of good will representing Tutors for Kids and also problem solvers at your various schools.

**School Book Coordinators (SBCs) we Thank You** – You started in January by moving books into 7 schools who donated storage space. Thousands of books left our garage for their new home in one of your schools. You organized everything and set up shop in your school. Additionally you learned the new computer book ordering system from our supplier ‘First Book’. You also learned patience as you tried to work with your tutors in picking up ‘books for their bag’ and ‘books for the break’. You were book reviewers, book store managers, and bridges between teachers, tutors, and books.

**Our Board of Directors – Carolyn and Frank Thank You** – You have taken up the challenge of making sure that Tutors for Kids is around for a long time. No one knows better than you how much work and planning goes into developing an all-volunteer successful organization. You have spent many hours in planning our present and future not to mention continuing your great work as tutors.

Until now very few know who our Board of Directors are. So we will introduce them now. Some are your neighbors. You may know them. They are in alphabetical order: Rhonda Casey, Loyola Garcia, Eileen Honohan, Hank Leavitt, Lynn Leavitt, Glen Moyer, Sharon Pierce, Don Romano, Carolyn Ruhe, Frank Russo, and our new member Shirley Potts. The Board has had monthly input from our consultant Peter Moeller who has successfully kept us on track in defining our mission with all the

tasks that go with it as well as helping us to set forth our strategic plan for the future.

**Next Year has Begun** – What should you expect during the school year of 2017 – 2018. Here are some plans in the works:

1. Increase the number of tutors in our schools especially the schools that score poorly on their State final tests.
2. A new Book Database to help us track our book distribution and our new ordering system. A special thank you goes to the developer of our tutor and Book databases, Tim Casey.
3. More outreach to parents of students at each school’s special events for families. We will be there with books and tips for helping students read.
4. A new Club meeting place for Tutors for Kids. In the past we have had two club meetings per month. One for villagers at Sterling Heights; and one for non-villagers at the Belleview Library. Now there is one club meeting for both groups thanks to St Timothy’s Catholic Church on SR 27 – 441 near the Villages Hospital. The meeting will be held on the second Tuesday of each month starting at 3 PM. Details will follow.
5. A new training site for new tutors or current tutors looking to refresh their skills. The training sessions will be held at the Bev Library

## **Tutors for Kids Club Meetings**

Looking forward, we are happy to announce upcoming meeting:

Villagers Club - on May 3, please join us at **Sterling Heights Rec Center** – from **3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.** Details to be announced.

The **Belleview Library** location for club meetings will be cancelled for the remainder of the year. Sorry!

**Fall Social and Awards Program** – Many tutors have asked if Tutors for Kids will ever have a social. The answer is YES. We would like to recognize our donors and long-serving tutors who have been very generous year after year with their financial support and time.

So, the answer is “**YES**,”! 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 early December 2017.**

**During the Summer** – Yes, after school closes, 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. David O'Dwyer, one of our tutors at Leesburg, has stepped up and volunteered to coordinate. Please let us know if you are interested and we will pass this information along to David.

**Chess Tutors for the Summer** – Jim Sikora has started an after-school chess club at Wildwood Elementary and wants to expand to Beverly Shores Elementary. In addition, he wants to offer a summer program – two hours once a week for six weeks. All you need is a knowledge of chess to help. You do not have to be a chess expert, as he is teaching chess basics. A rudimentary understanding of the game is necessary, and you can learn as you go. Call or email Jim: 352-350-2628 - jidisi@comcast.net

**Science in the Fall** – At Fruitland Park Elementary School, Randy Horn has organized a hands-on science program for all 2<sup>nd</sup> graders – and would like your help in the fall. He gives students a science problem to solve – collaboratively – and to explain and discuss their solution. It sounds like so much fun. IF you can help (or know of someone), contact Randy directly: 256-577-3748 - rkhorn@una.edu

**Board of Directors** – Our Board of Directors is building the structure to insure that Tutors for Kids will be around for a long time. The Board manages seven different sub-committees. Our Tutors for Kids program with 425 tutors in 12 schools serving 2,000 students per week needs a strong management structure.

You can HELP! Many people you know may have skills that could be used to support our program. We need Board members, trainers for new tutors, and 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).

### **Volunteer Appreciation Breakfast**

The following schools will announced their volunteer appreciation celebrations:

**Belleview-Santos Elementary** - Friday April 21, 2017 from 8 – 9 AM in the Library Media Center.

**Wildwood Elementary** - Monday May 8 at 9:00 AM in the Wildwood Elementary Media Center. Please RSVP by May 1, by calling the office at 852-748-8858

**Harbour View Elementary** - May 16th at 9am in the Media Center

**Leesburg Elementary** – May 8 – 9:00 in the Cafeteria

**Stanton Weirsdale** had their volunteer breakfast on Friday April 21

### **Supporting our Supporters**

**Thank you** to all who came to the various events that many of our generous donors sponsored during the past year. We would not exist without their financial support.

**Villages Pops Chorus** announces upcoming concerts: July 31, Hooray for Hollywood; October 24, Give a Hoot 2, December 4, We Wish You the Merriest. As always, the chorus promises a fun and delightful evening.

**The Mel Brooks Musical Young Frankenstein**: October 15-17 at the Savannah Center – directed by Tim Casey, our webmaster and database developer!!

**Donations** – Since the March newsletter, Tutors for Kids received over \$1,932 in donations from individuals and organizations. Thank you!!!

### **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>

### **Bulletin Board – School Help Wanted**

These schools need **School Tutor Coordinators (STCs)** and **School Book Coordinators (SBCs)**.

**Belleview Santos** - Two School Book Coordinators.

**Beverly Shores** - One School Book Coordinators

**Fruitland Park** – One School Tutor Coordinator

**Villages** – Two School Book Coordinators

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

**School Tutor Coordinators (STCs) - What do they do?** We are in need of STCs at several schools. (See above-Bulletin Board). STCs are a vital part of Tutors for Kids . . .What do they do?

- 1) Ensure that new tutor applicants complete their county's volunteer application (track the date submitted).
- 2) Solicit the new tutor's availability of day(s), time(s), grade(s), and subject(s) & enter into database.
- 3) Follow up with the school to determine the tutors' approvals which can be tracked in the database.
- 4) Answer any questions about the school from the new tutor applicant.
- 5) If needed and requested, arrange for a new tutor to "shadow" an existing, experienced tutor.
- 6) Receive requests from teachers with specific day(s), time(s), subject(s) for tutoring help & enter into database.
- 7) Provide School Book Coordinators with information on tutors.

Initial time commitment is about 2-3 hours per week at the beginning of the school year (August through October). The rest of the school year is approximately one hour per week. June and July are 'quiet times'. There may be two meetings per year for STCs, after the initial training.

**School Book Coordinators (SBCs) - What do they do?** We are also in need of SBCs at several of the schools. They are a vital part of having books at your schools . . . What do they do?

- 1) Work with the school to get a secure & safe place to store books.
- 2) Stock storage space with adequate number of books to accommodate the number of tutors & students in the school.
- 3) Arrange for volunteers to "open" book room at designated times for tutors to obtain & sign out books.
- 4) Communicate with tutors about availability of books.
- 5) Oversee inventory and reorder books when needed
- 6) Work with computerized inventory (when available) to track receipts, disbursements, and reordering books.
- 7) Attend meetings occasionally.
- 8) Provide feedback to TFK.

Initial time commitment is (as above in the SBC description) about 2 hours per week at the beginning of the school year (August through October). The rest of the school year is approximately 1 hour per week. June and July are 'quiet times'. There may be two meetings per year for SBCs, after the initial database training.

### **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."

## Recognizing our Students

This poem was read by a 5th grade student at Stanton Weirsdale at their volunteer appreciation breakfast. It says a lot about what you do!!

### WHY I VOLUNTEER

It's not for the money, nor for the 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

### **Tutors for Kids**

**Frank Russo or Carolyn Ruhe - 352-245-9709**

**Web: [www.tutorsforkidsinc.org](http://www.tutorsforkidsinc.org)**

**Email: [tutorsforkids@att.net](mailto:tutorsforkids@att.net)**

**2016 Book Grant for Lake and Sumter from:**



United Way  
of Lake & Sumter Counties

**2016 Book Grant for Tutors for Kids from:**

