



TUTORS FOR KIDS, INC.

September, 2017

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

Excited Children Eager to Learn

Our Children – Learners Today - Leaders Tomorrow



Tutors for Kids, Inc. is a 501(c) (3) nonprofit community-based organization of volunteers who support the local educational process. 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.

Meet and Greet – September for "Tutors for Kids" participants created some unanticipated problems that included canceling most of our regular schedules for tutoring and some tutor meetings; including our fall "Meet and Greet" meeting scheduled for September 13 (thank you, Irma). This meeting accomplishes a number of things. Perhaps most importantly, it brings together seasoned tutors and approximately 60 newly-trained tutors, who are just getting their feet wet, where they can ask questions or give answers, and generally have an interesting afternoon.

A speaker at this meeting was to have been a representative of Lake and Sumter United Way, who has been our significant partner and has provided grant money for our book and database program in Lake and Sumter Counties.

Some of our new tutor applicants won't be trained before the meeting in October, since we have received many good applications (as well as many requests from area schools) – but that's OK. Most of these men and women are eagerly waiting for their training session so that they will be able to begin tutoring. Training should be completed by the middle of October so we can all get started - - - to everyone's delight. A few of the schools should have educational "smoke" coming out of classrooms a couple of days a week when the tutoring schedule is in full force. What a great group of volunteers!! (*Sharon Pierce*)

Meet and Greet Rescheduled - The re-scheduled "Meet and Greet" meeting is now **Tuesday, October 10**, at St. Timothy Church (on 441/27, close to the Villages Hospital), starting at 3 p.m. We hope most of the tutors will join us and get an update on the schools participating, introduce yourself (especially to those who tutoring at the same school), and some basic information on what the TFK Board has been doing over the past few months.

St. Timothy's is generously letting us use their facility on the second Tuesdays during the school year (3:00). As we expands, there was a need for a larger area where we can invite all tutors to meetings as often as feasible throughout the year. This larger meeting place should help to keep our expanding organization on the same foothold and continue the open dialogue, including questions and even possible changes as we see the need.

We encourage you to attend. We want a great 'turn-out' to greet United Way - and meet each other on Tuesday October 10 at St. Timothy's at 3 p.m. AND, we will have a small gift for each attendee (you have to come to receive it)!! (*Sharon Pierce*)

IMPORTANT FOR ALL New and Returning TUTORS - As always, your School Tutor Coordinators (STCs) need to know certain information about both new and returning tutors. They will be able to get any needed information to you, as well as provide help with questions or needed changes in times or days if the teacher's schedule requires a change because of special programs, etc.

Help your STC by confirming that you are volunteering with a certain teacher, your grade, the subject or subjects you assist with, the day (or days) you tutor, and the time a.m. or p.m., and the hours in the classroom.

Of course, you must, meet or talk with the teacher first in order to pass on the information needed. In addition, if you have questions about expectations, set up, or anything that the STC can help you with, don't hesitate to check with him/her. The teacher may also check with the STC, as this may be the first time he or she may have requested a tutor.

Board of Directors – Our TFK Board has continued to meet monthly to develop a written plan for "Tutors for Kids" to guarantee that our program will be viable for many years. Since TFK began as a dedicated, but small organization, approximately nine years ago, Carolyn Ruhe and Frank Russo have led the organization and watched it grow. For most of the time Carolyn and Frank have carried the full load: branching out and adding new schools, an expanded training program, application for tax-free status, grants applied for and received to allow us to give books to the children in our schools - - - and so many other tasks were all part of Carolyn and Frank's duties - - - with only occasional help. They did a superb job, one that the Board realized was truly awesome! As we started to meet last school year, we realized that they needed to slow down and get some rest. There were special needs for everything that we looked at; with so much being accomplished, the compiled responsibilities needed to be divided between 12 to 15 people, who would then have individuals under them further dividing the work to be done.

Peter Moeller, an outstanding consultant, works with the Board and keeps us concentrating on defining our mission and the tasks that go with it. We hope to complete this task by school year's end and to be able to present to you a strategic plan for TFK's future. Suggestions are always welcomed by tutors who see first-hand the best way to make progress with these students. (*Sharon Pierce*)

Tutoring - Tutoring success is measured in helping students see that they can do the assignments their teacher gives them and by showing them ways to actually do their school work - whether by drawing pictures to get an answer, looking for specific facts to solve a problem, by reading and thinking through the how, when, what, why of a particular question, or by looking at past experience and connecting the points.

Learning entails finding the method that is best for finding an answer; whatever clicks in the student's mind or turns on that lightbulb and sets him or her about realizing exactly what is questioned and how to find that answer. Success gets a hi-fi every time there is achievement! And praise is the extra frosting these children so enjoy. (*Sharon Pierce*)

We have a new phone number. – Tutors for Kids has been using Carolyn and Frank's home phone number for the last few years. We have a new central phone number - **352-568-5843**. Please keep this

number. If you know of someone who wants to join our program, direct him/her to use this new number.

Training Dates - Training dates have been scheduled to ALL the new folks, but if you feel you want a refresher you can make that choice. If you want to attend, just RSVP to: tutorsforkids@att.net. Location: Belvedere Library (a Sumter County Library, right off Rt. 466 in the Villages, near CVS).

NOTE: Library opens at 9:00 but it will take us 15 minutes to set up. So we will start at 9:15 on Friday sessions. Upcoming dates & times:

Thursday, October 12 - 1:00 – 5:00
Friday, October 20 - 9:15 – 1:15
Thursday, November 9 - 1:00 – 5:00
Thursday, December 14 – 1:00 – 5:00
Thursday, January 11 – 1:00 – 5:00
Thursday, February 8 – 1:00 – 5:00

STC Needed (Stanton Weirsdale) – Due to “retirement,” we have an opening for an STC at Stanton Weirsdale. Possibly another at school will also need an STC. **RESPONSIBILITIES** of STCs are linked in the cover letter to this email with this newsletter.

School Book Coordinators (SBCs) Needed – Belleview Santos, Beverly Shores, Fruitland Park, Leesburg, Villages, and Wildwood have generously lent us space to store the books you give to your students – and to make it more convenient for you to get your books. AND, we need a few volunteers to keep this important part of our program moving. **School SBCs are needed at** Belleview Santos, Villages, Wildwood Elementary (a lead SBC for Wildwood) – and Belleview.

So, if you love books, this is a chance to review and order books – and help get them into the hands of young readers. **RESPONSIBILITIES** of SBCs are linked in the cover letter to this email with this newsletter.

If you are interested in helping as an STC or a SBC, please email Frank or Carolyn, or come see them personally if you would like to see their “Happy Dance” as you tell them. The STCs and SBCs are definitely our “Angels”

Welcome Jessie as our TfK Intern – After Irma passed through, Jessie Jean-Baptists joined TfK as our intern from Public Allies (a division of Americorps). She is a student (in the evening and online) at Valencia College in Orlando where she studies political communication. She is available to help STCs, SBCs, and tutors. You can meet Jessie at the October 10 Meet and Greet!! Welcome, Jessie!!

Chess at Wildwood Elementary School – TfK is proud that several tutors have joined Jim Sikora for his after-school chess club, with 19 children (including 10 girls). Jim is always looking for adult coaches – so if you can help (or know someone who can), Call or email Jim: 352-350-2628 - jdisi@comcast.net

For your Calendar

Many of these events are sponsored by generous partners of Tutors for Kids – and a fun experience – remember, “It takes a village.”

October 5 9:00 a.m. (for Leesburg tutors) – volunteer breakfast (and tutor/teacher assignments will be made).

October 7, 8:00 – 10:00 a.m. at Applebee’s Restaurant (on Route 441) – Rotary Club, Noon – pancake breakfast - \$7 at the door

October 10, 3:00 at St. Timothy’s Church – TfK Meet and Greet

October 15–17 at the Savannah Center - The Mel Brooks Musical Young Frankenstein – directed by Tim Casey, our webmaster and database developer (tickets at Villages Entertainment)

October 24 at Johnny Rockets Restaurant, fund raiser, sponsored by Knights of Columbus, Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Council 13300, St Vincent de Paul Church **benefitting Tutors for Kids** (coupon needed to have 20% of your bill donated to Knights – attached to cover email)

October 24 at North Lake Presbyterian Church - Give a Hoot 2 by The Villages Pops Chorus Folksingers. This the second hootenanny – **and benefitting Tutors for Kids** (tickets at Villages Entertainment)

October 26 at Saddlebrook Golf Course – golf tournament sponsored by Knights of Columbus, Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Council 13300, St Vincent de Paul Church **benefitting Tutors for Kids** (almost sold out)

November 13 at Amerikanos Grille (Spanish Springs) fund raiser, sponsored by Knights of Columbus, Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Council 13300, St Vincent de Paul Church **benefitting Tutors for Kids** (coupon needed to have portion of your bill donated to Knights – will be sent with upcoming newsletter)

November 14 3:00 at St. Timothy’s Church – TfK monthly meeting – topic announced in upcoming newsletter

December 4 at North Lake Presbyterian Church – “We Wish You the Merriest,” a holiday concert by The Villages Pops Chorus (tickets at Villages Entertainment on October 12)

December 11 at Amerikanos Grille (Spanish Springs) fund raiser, sponsored by Knights of Columbus, Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Council 13300, St Vincent de Paul Church **benefitting Tutors for Kids** (coupon needed to have portion of your bill donated to Knights – will be sent with upcoming newsletter)

December 12 3:00 at St. Timothy’s Church – TfK monthly meeting – holiday celebration – details announced in upcoming newsletter

Donations – Dollar General Literacy Foundation awarded TfK a \$3,000 grant for our tutoring and book program. And, an additional \$340 from individuals – some in memory of tutor, Tom Johnson.

Articles of Interest

Copy and paste the link into your browser to access.

Teacher Welcomes Students To School With A Song
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QWGckMO8Ebo>

Watch "The power of yet ..." (repeated – interesting!!)
<https://youtu.be/J-swZaKN2lc>

Tutors for Kids

352-568-5843

Web: www.tutorsforkidsinc.org

Email: tutorsforkids@att.net

2017 Book Grant for Lake and Sumter Counties from:



United Way
of Lake & Sumter Counties

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