



TUTORS FOR KIDS, INC.

April, 2018

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.

End of the 2017 – 2018 School Year – Wow! It is almost the end of the school year! It has gone by much too quickly. This completes our ninth year of tutoring.

Here are some highlights from the past year.

- We added over 100 new tutors.
- Tutors worked with almost 2,500 students each week.
- In the schools that give us a progress report on tutored students, principals documented the growth made by the students versus students not being tutored. The results showed significant progress.
- We again reached our book goals. Many tutored students earned a book a month and any classroom with a tutor received at least two books per student.
- Thanks to several grants from United Way, Duke Energy, Friends of the Sumter Library, Dollar General, other foundation grants, and many generous individuals we were able to give out 17,000 books, improve and expand our database, etc. We stayed on budget and have a small surplus to start next year.

Thank you to all who made it possible.

Schedule to Pickup Books There is still time to pick up books. The children need reading material for the long summer. Without books they will regress. Check with your School Book Coordinators to see the times at your school when the book room will be open.

Note: for the five schools that do not have book rooms (yet) come to Frank and Carolyn's garage. The absolute last day is Tuesday, May 1, from 3:00 – 5:00. Doors closed after that!!

Tutors Five Plus Years of Service – On Tuesday, April 10, at St Timothy's Main Hall, Tutors for Kids awarded certificates of appreciation and gave thanks to over 70 tutors who have 5+ years of tutoring in our program. This is a great tribute to the dedications of our tutors who are answering a real need of the students to 'catch up' in their studies.

School Volunteer Appreciation Day – Schools want to thank you for your help during the past year. You may have been contacted by your school regarding the dates and times. Here are the three schools that we know about:

Belleview Santos	Monday, April 30 - 8:00
Leesburg Elementary	Tuesday, May 15 - 9:15, Cafeteria
Wildwood Elementary	Monday, May 7 - 9:00 Media Center

Great Web Sites for Tutoring Information:

For reading or language arts tutors, ReadWorks.org is a great resource for learning and reading materials. If your teacher isn't as "hands on" as you'd like, you may find that printing your own worksheets is a great alternative. This way, you can keep your student on track with his/her grade level. To access the information, you will have to click on the Find Content link below the blue I'm an Educator and I'm a Student buttons. If you would like weekly emails sending you resource materials, you will need to sign up as an educator and enter in the info with the red asterisk marks next to it. As an educator is the best way to use this website. There is no cost, and they do not bother you.

When you click Find Content, you will be able to narrow down the articles by grade level, Lexile number, and literary aids (questions after the text or less complex alternatives). This is a great way to customize your tutoring sessions to fit the needs of your student. Plus the information is super interesting!

The Website is Readworks.org It will:

- Help your students practice with standard-aligned questions
- Uses multiple choice and written answer questions sets to train students in test taking.
- Supports students' understanding of: text structure, vocabulary, inference, main idea or theme, and much more. (by Jessie Jean-Baptiste).

For STC's and SBC's:

The Facebook groups for the SBC's and STC's is up and running. So far, we have covered volunteer management, keeping up the book room, and other practices we feel can help with your roles as STC's and SBC's. We also use these groups to gauge where you may need support in your roles - whether in the database or in the book room. It's a great space to direct any questions, comments, or concerns, because we're able to see the issue in real time. Both groups are completely private and posts can only be viewed by the members in them.

In an effort to promote discussion, we'd like to ask you to share any successes or hardships you've faced in your roles. This is crucial in directing the organization to adopt practices that will keep us sustained. In any case, we thank you for the time and effort you have invested into not only Tutors for Kids, but also your community. (by Jessie Jean-Baptiste).

Social Media for Tutors - Hi tutors! Take a break from your internet browser with the cute cat videos or maybe yummy recipes. Then feel free to check out our Facebook page! We do

our best to include articles in our posts that will benefit your tutoring experience. It's also a great place to keep up with our events and get a glimpse of the Tutors for Kids community. We have posts featuring tutors that go above and beyond in what they do for their students so it's a great source of inspiration as well as information. And feel free to share any the practices and stories you feel have a greater impact on the students.

Some of our posts include: Tips on tutoring children with ADHD, tailoring your tutoring style to best suit your students' learning capabilities, building a learning foundation for students that lasts long past your sessions with them and many more! (by Jessie Jean-Baptiste).

Sorry to repeat ourselves - BUT What about next year? – We hope you want to tutor again next year. If so, talk with your teacher regarding the grade, day, subject, and time. Hopefully you and your teacher will work together again. AND, PLEASE, PLEASE, advise your School Tutor Coordinator (STC) about your plans, even if you want to change teachers or schools. It is critical that you tell your STC. They spend many hours tracking this information to be sure you are assigned. AND, our funders ask for statistics as a condition of funding for your books!!

GOOD NEWS!! If you are approved in Lake or Sumter counties, your approval is valid for three years. BUT you may receive an email asking to verify or update your information.

In Marion County, you submit an application each year. You STC must know your plans so s/he can email you the application as soon as it is available, usually early August 1.

Again - repeating re School Tutor Coordinators - Have you considered becoming a School Tutor Coordinator? Are you wondering what is actually involved in this volunteer position? Here is the job in a nutshell – guide tutor applicants through the County approval process, match approved tutors to teacher requests using a computer-based program, maintain ongoing email communication with tutors and teachers and serve as a mentor to assigned tutors. The time commitment varies with the beginning of the school year requiring the most time as tutors are placed in classrooms and minimal time required throughout the year to maintain communication with tutors. Would you like more details? Ask your current STC, look for Rhonda Casey at the next meeting or call Tutors for Kids at 352-568-5843. (by Rhonda Casey)

The Tutors for Kids Facebook Page is live and in action! We're expanding our horizons and taking on Social Media. With the way times are changing, it's become more and more important for organizations like ours to be on Social Media.

General Guidelines When Posting: All posts should **exclude** any identifying features such as: the student's name, teacher's name, and school's name. Questions? Contact Jessie at jessie.jean-baptiste@tutorsforkidsinc.org

Setting up a Facebook Account - NOTE: **If you do not have a Facebook account**, the link below is a YouTube video that describes the steps necessary to make a Facebook account.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wkVf8BIE8rI>

Facebook for STCs and SBCs – By now every STC and SBC should have received an invitation from Facebook to join the new STC Group in their email. If you have questions or are unsure regarding this email, contact Jessie Jean-Baptiste at:

jessie.jean-baptiste@tutorsforkidsinc.org

Instructions for the STC – SBC login can be found in the February newsletter.

Donations – Since our last newsletter, we have received \$9791 from supporters (including United Way 2nd quarter grant) and friends.

Amazon Smile – **ALERT!!** Remember, when you shop at Amazon – and log in using the TfK link, we receive a small portion of your purchase. Use this link:
<http://smile.amazon.com/ch/45-4815598>

352-568-5843

Web: www.tutorsforkidsinc.org

Email: tutorsforkids@att.net

2017 and 2018 Book Grant for Lake and Sumter Counties from:



United Way
of Lake & Sumter Counties

2017 and 2018 Book Grants for Tutors for Kids from:



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