



TUTORS FOR KIDS, INC.

June - July 2019

Excited Children Eager to Learn
Celebrating 10 Years of Tutoring Children



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.

School Starts – This year our three counties are starting school on the same day – Monday, August 12. So mark your calendars. Teachers are back on Monday, August 5.

Returning Tutors – What does this mean for you? If you are returning to the same teacher contact your teacher during the week of August 5 (or before). Arrange a day, time, and subject matter. Also how many class periods you will be tutoring (i.e. one period, two periods, all morning or afternoon, the entire day, multiple days.) Once you have made these arrangements, email your School Tutor Coordinator (STC) with this information.

Why inform your STC? We need to enter this information into our database. Each year our funders who provide money for our book program want to know statistical information: how many tutors do we have; how many class periods do they tutor; how many students do they tutor each week, etc.

Please give us this information. Our book program relies on it.

New Tutors – What should you do? Your School Tutor Coordinator (STC) has or soon will be contacting you. There are two actions you must take.

1. You must apply to the county where you intend to volunteer. For Lake and Sumter this is an online process and once approved it is good for three years. Here are the website links to Lake and Sumter volunteer sections.

In Marion County you apply each year on a paper application form which will be sent to you by your STC. You must re-apply every year.

2. You must complete a new tutor orientation session before you can be assigned to a school. There are several orientation sessions to choose from. (see the list of dates below). You will be contacted in early August asking you to select a date. A week or so before your scheduled session you will receive the New Tutor Orientation documents for you to print out and bring to your session.

How many tutors do we need? – We need many, many new tutors so that every student that needs help will get it. Last year we started the year with a little over 500 tutors. But each year we lose a few tutors due to sickness, family situations, or just the need to take a break. So the bottom line is that we need 100 new tutors just to start the year.

Ask your friends to help. They may be parents or grandparents. They already know how children learn. The only difference is

that many of our students have no one at home to help. There are many more children who could benefit from a tutor's help. So, if friends or neighbors are interested have them call our central phone number at [352-568-5843](tel:352-568-5843) or visit our web site at www.tutorsforkidsinc.org

New Tutor Applications are Now Being Accepted – We are accepting applications from individuals who want to tutor for the 2019 – 2020 school year. We keep them on a list for the fall and will contact them in August to arrange their tutor training. So please continue to spread the word. You know that the need in the fall will be greater than it is now. So if you are interested our phone at [352-568-5843](tel:352-568-5843) or visit our web site at www.tutorsforkidsinc.org

New Tutor Orientation dates - The new tutor orientation sessions will be held at the Belvedere Library off SR 466 at the traffic light across the highway from CVS drug store.

Here are the dates:

- Thursday, 9/12/19 - 1 – 4 PM
- Tuesday, 9/24/19 - 9:30 AM – 12:30 PM
- Thursday, 10/3/19 - 1 – 4 PM
- Tuesday, 10/22/19 - 9:30 AM – 12:30 PM
- Tuesday, 10/22/19 - 9:30 AM – 12:30 PM
- Thursday, 11/7/19 - 1 – 4 PM
- Tuesday, 11/19/19 - 9:30 AM – 12:30 PM
- Thursday, 12/5/19 - 1 – 4 PM
- Mid-January Date TBD

Featured School of the Month – This year we will feature one of our schools each month in our newsletter. This month our school is Beverly Shores Elementary in Leesburg. We are in our fifth year at this school. It is one of our most needy schools. It is almost a 100% Title One school.

A recent article by Lauren Ritchie in the Orlando Sentinel Newspaper sums up the Beverly Shores story (excerpted here).

“Beverly Shores Elementary needs help from this community before school opens in August.

Over the years, Leesburg schools in general have posted lousy scores on tests that kids across the county, state and nation all take. Some reasons are that they are plagued by absenteeism, parents aren't involved, teachers come and leave after the first year and poverty has a grip on the families.

Yes, poverty does affect learning. A parent making \$10 an hour has more to worry about than creating a Norman Rockwell moment reading with their offspring at bedtime. The scramble to survive means children don't get things that more stable families can provide. Think: Library visits, a trip to the zoo, learning to swim and most important of all, reading time with mom or dad.

In Leesburg, 22 percent of the population lives in poverty and the median income is only \$36,700. More than 90 percent of Beverly Shores' kids would be eligible for free or reduced lunches except that the district already gives lunch free to all children because family incomes are so low in Lake County."

[Here is a link to the whole article. It paints an accurate picture of the many challenges facing Beverly Shores. It also profiles the new Principal and Superintendent who hope to do something about it.](#)

To view the article hold the Cntl + Enter key and click on link <http://www.orlandosentinel.com/opinion/os-op-lauren-ritchie-failing-school-needs-help-20190708-6pb5yetnnnbwvigasj24kqph54-story.html>

Talking Books Program 2019 - 2020 - We are expanding the talking books program, using "The Paw Patrol" series. Last year's pilot program was a huge success in kindergarten classes at Rimes Early Learning Center. The books come in a carrying case with a 'hi tech' tablet voice reader that actually reads the story in each book to our young students.

Seed money for the pilot program came from Doctor Thi Tran of Village Dermatology who donated over \$3,300 to start the pilot program.

The reason for this program is that educators have learned that children from poorer homes do not receive the same 'face time' with parent(s) who, in ideal circumstances, would be ready to read with their young children. Parents may be working two or three jobs just trying to survive. They do not have the energy or time for an evening of reading. (see the links to the article above about Beverly Shores).

We want to expand the talking books program to 350 sets for use in the kindergartens of our three counties. The cost will be \$7,500. We are hoping that some of our professionals such as doctors, dentists, lawyers, etc. will make 'tax deductible' contributions to this project. The students of today could be their employees of tomorrow. We know that they all want their future employees to be able to read and write well.

[Support our Supporters](#)

Carousel - Our webmaster and database guru, Tim Casey, is directing Carousel. It is the second [musical](#) written in 1945 by the team of [Richard Rodgers](#) (music) and [Oscar Hammerstein II](#).

The Villages Pops Chorus – Upcoming concerts (all at North Lake Presbyterian Church):

- July 29 – 3:00 and 6:00 – "Love My Music"
- October 22 – 6:00 – "Give a Hoot 6"

- December 2 – 3:00 and 6:00 – "That's What Christmas Means to Me"

REPEAT - HELP WANTED - Do you have organizational skills but may not want to tutor? Our organization has over 500 volunteers in 12 schools, and "it takes a village" to keep things going "behind the scenes." So, each month, here is a list of help Tutors for Kids needs to maintain its strong presence in the schools. We will train and support you.

Think about your skills, dedication, and time – these are critical roles in our organization!! If you can help in one of the following positions, email to: tutors@tutors4kids.org

1. **Board of Directors** – We need for three individuals to join our Board. Our Board meets four times per year for a two-hour term. Our organization is all volunteer. Each Board member oversees one of the sub-committees of the Board.
2. **School Tutor Coordinators** (STCs) are needed at: Beverly Shores, Wildwood Elementary (grades 4-5). You will work with the tutors at the school.
3. **Email Support for our main email address** - We receive about 15 emails a day and need someone who can respond to emails and forward them to the appropriate people.
4. **Write and Send Our Monthly Newsletter** - Two or three volunteers to develop, write, and send our monthly newsletter. Our newsletter is emailed to over 1,200 tutors, friends, and organizations.

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2019 Book Grant for Lake and Sumter Counties from:



2018 and 2019 Book Grants for Tutors for Kids from:



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