



# TUTORS FOR KIDS, INC.

August 2019

**Excited Children Eager to Learn**  
**Starting the 11th year 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.*

## TUTORS FOR KIDS KICKS OFF THE NEW SCHOOL YEAR

Mark your calendar for Wednesday, September 18, for our Tutors for Kids “kickoff” meeting – 3:00 p.m. -Lake Miona Recreation Center. This is an open event - Villagers and non-Villagers are welcomed.

- You will hear “What we do” and “How we do it”
- You will hear from returning tutors and their experiences/
- You will hear what the next steps are for new tutors and returning tutors.
- You will have an opportunity to talk to our volunteers about questions you may have.

A Student is Looking for You – School started on August 12. That means that your STCs will have requests for teachers in early September. It takes a few weeks for teachers to evaluate their students to see who really needs a tutor.

In the meantime, Principals at all our schools have asked for additional tutors. Adding up their requests we realize that we will need 100+ new tutors so that all the students needing help will have a tutor assigned to them.

So again this year, we ask you to reach out to neighbors and friends. Tell them that you are tutoring and what it involves.

If your neighborhood has socials, we are happy to come to speak. Just call our central number (352-568-5843) and let them know the details and we can have one or more of our volunteers come to your neighborhood gathering.

In August we had a number of new tutor referrals, and we still need 48 new tutors to reach our goal of 100.

Where are Our Greatest Needs? – During the summer, the Daily Sun generously ran several news stories and reported several schools that have an urgent need for more help - meaning tutors. Below are six schools that urgently need us..

In **Lake County**, there are three schools requesting help - **Beverly Shores, Leesburg, and Rimes Early Learning Center** - all Leesburg, a short drive from the southern section of the Villages. In each school we want to double the number of tutors.

In **Marion County**, there are three schools requesting help - **Belleview, Belleview Santos, and Marion Oaks** - all a short drive from the central and northern sections of the Villages. To make an impact we want to double our tutors in these schools.

Tutor Orientation Dates - New tutor orientation is starting in September at the Belvedere Library off SR 466 (at CVS, turn at the light). If you are a new tutor, you selected one of these dates when you talk with our phone team. They are from three to four hours on these dates:

- Thursday, September 12 - 1 – 4 PM
- Tuesday, September 24 - 9:30 AM – 12:30 PM
- Thursday, October 3 - 1 – 4 PM
- Tuesday, October 22 - 9:30 AM – 12:30 PM
- Thursday, November 7 - 1 – 4 PM
- Tuesday, November 19 - 9:30 AM – 12:30 PM
- Thursday, December 5 - 1 – 4 PM
- January - TBD

## Lake County Tutors – Do You Need to be Re-approved? –

Lake County volunteer approvals are valid for three years. You must check to see when you need to re-new. The website for Lake County is: <http://www.lake.k12.fl.us/> Follow the columns marked as “volunteer” and you will be able to check your application history and when it expires.

## Sumter County Tutors – Do You Need to be Re-approved?

Sumter County Volunteer approvals are for three years. You must check to see when you come up for re-newel. The website for Sumter County is: <http://www.sumter.k12.fl.us> Go to the screen called “**Be a School Volunteer**” Click on “**Volunteer Application**” and follow the directions.

Marion County Required Annual Approval - Marion County requires that you apply each year with a paper application form that you can get from your STC.

*Chess at Wildwood is not a Tutors for Kids activity, but what a wonderful activity Jim Sikora and friends have developed – so read on for more info. . .*

Chess Club at WWE and WWMHS - For the fourth year, after-school chess tutoring continues at the Wildwood Elementary and Middle schools. Chess coaches are needed to help with this successful program. Chess4Kids provides free tutoring and needs coaches and funds to continue.

You need not be a chess expert to help teach our children. A basic knowledge is fine, and you learn as you go.

Won't you please help? Contact: Jim Sikora, USCF Certified Chess Coach Phone: 352-350-2628 - Email:

[jjidisi@comcast.net](mailto:jjidisi@comcast.net)

**Grants and Donations** – During the summer, generous donors and grantors have brought us funds to support our tutoring and book program - - - We send gracious thanks and appreciation to all!!

- Tutors, friends, and supporters
- United Way, Amazon Smile, Villages Masonic Lodge, Villages Democratic Club, Capital One, Duke Energy, The Preserve/Pine Hill Ladies' Luncheon
- In loving memory of Bill Uber and John Garcia

This year we will feature one of our schools each month.

**Bellevue Elementary** – This month our school is Bellevue Elementary - located close to Bellevue Center. We are in our seventh year at this school. It is one of our most needy schools. It is almost a 100% Title One School. It is. It can be reached by going north on SR 27/441. Or coming north on SR 301 turning right onto SR 484 and following this route past the Bellevue library to the school on the right.

The Principal's name is Dr. Stacey Reece. She is in her third year and has managed to stabilize the academic direction of the school. But the school has very high number of Title One students. So, the students face many of the difficulties of living at or below the poverty line.

The students really want help and desperately need tutoring. But we have a small number of tutors at the school that we need to **DOUBLE** - if we are to make a difference. There are positions open at every grade.

If you have any questions you can contact our School Tutor Coordinator, Suzan Cresto. Her email address is [suzan.cresto@tutorsforkidsinc.org](mailto:suzan.cresto@tutorsforkidsinc.org)

**Talking Books Program 2019 - 2020** - We want to expand 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 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.

### **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](#) – November 14 and 15 at the Savannah Center.

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

- 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](mailto:tutors@tutors4kids.org)

1. **School Tutor Coordinators** (STCs) are needed at: Leesburg and Belleview Santos
2. **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.
3. **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.
4. **Computer Systems Help** - We need several skilled computer people to help some of our School Tutors Coordinators in the database. We will train you.

**Amazon Smile** – Does Smile help? Yes, yes, yes. When you shop using the link below you will be taken to Amazon by way of Tutors for Kids. You do not pay any more, but we do get a small donation for everything you purchase. Thank you

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

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352-568-5843

Web: [www.tutorsforkidsinc.org](http://www.tutorsforkidsinc.org) Email: [tutors@tutors4kids.org](mailto:tutors@tutors4kids.org)

**2019 Book Grant for Lake and Sumter Counties from:**



**2019-2020 Book Grants for Tutors for Kids from:**



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