



TUTORS FOR KIDS, INC.

April 2020

**Excited Children Eager to Learn
Celebrating 11 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.

Warm Greetings to the Tutors for Kids Community

We hope that you are faring well under these necessary restrictions that have certainly thwarted our ability to help the children of Lake, Marion and Sumter counties. We, like you, are waiting "not so patiently" to get back into the classrooms across our area.

We will miss being able to gather on April 22nd for our celebration of your extraordinary volunteerism.

Please know that we are grateful for your dedication to the students and look forward to the time when we can return to the classrooms and when we can meet again as a group. Until then, please consult the websites of your assigned school district for their latest information.

Thank you from the Tutors for Kids' Board of Directors – Sandy Behenna, Elaine Buffen, Rhonda Casey, Martha Friedman, Eileen Honohan, Hank Leavitt, Sandy Lynch, Glen Moyer, Bob Navarre, Shirley Potts, Carolyn Ruhe, Frank Russo.

April Tutor Meeting Cancelled – Following State and local guidelines we have cancelled our Tutor meeting originally scheduled for Wednesday, April 22, at the Lake Miona Recreation Center. We thank you for all your wonderful work during this abbreviated school year.

Hello - STCs – At this time we usually ask you to email your tutors to determine their plans for next year. Because of the uncertainty about school, people's schedules, and next August-September, please do not do an email right now. So, we are in a holding pattern.

It would be great if you sent an email to all your tutors thanking them for all they did this year and for their patience during this time of 'pandemic'.

SBCs - What to do About the Books - a Message from Sandy Lynch – If schools do not reopen, it does not look

like we have a way to give our children books. The mechanics are impossible to work out.

So, in September we are thinking about giving the children in each class where we tutor - a book to make up for our inability to give them in May. SBCs if you are buying books, I would suggest you have them delivered to your home. I have no idea when we may be able to take physical inventory. Do not worry about it. I personally am not going to try until the end of August. I plan to order enough books for a September distribution, as I would have for a May one. I will continue to let you know if First Book or Books by the Bushel, has any great sales.

Because we Cannot Eat Out, Here are Some Suggestions About How to Help.

No movies! No shopping! No restaurants! We all know the feeling. It affects each one of us each day.

One of our tutors didn't think of herself. She was thinking of others. She and her husband ate out a lot. Their favorite restaurants were closed or only offered limited take-out. Many of the restaurants only maintained a skeleton crew to service the few who called for 'take-out. What about all the other staff, most unemployed.

Our tutor got creative. They spent almost \$100 per week eating out. So why not spend \$100 per week buying take-out for those who could never afford to get take-out. This would hopefully help to provide more jobs at the restaurants.

Now who can you help? There are plenty of places in our own back yard. Our tutor settled on a group home for young women who had no home but who did have babies with them. They were trying to complete their education. There were twelve new mothers plus two staff.

Well imagine how \$100 worth of pizzas can brighten the day of these new mothers. There are plenty of others who would love a pizza party. Something to think about?

Tutors for Kids Endowment – As you know from last month's newsletter, an endowment fund has been established for Tutors for Kids.

We have received a question about a couple's life insurance policies which were purchased many years ago to insure their two sons' future. Both sons are very financially secure, so their question was: "Is there any way to give these policies to the Tutor Endowment?"

Our first thought on this question is to talk to your 'tax advisor'.

Usually the easiest way to make a gift of life insurance is to contact your life insurance provider. They may send you a beneficiary designation form from the insurer and you could include Tutors for Kids Inc as the beneficiary.

Featured School – Thus far, we have featured Beverly Shores (July), Belleview (August), Belleview Santos (September), Fruitland Park (October), Harbour View (November), Leesburg (February), and Villages Elementary (March).

This Month's Featured Schools

Virtual Learning – Our three of our counties have closed schools at least through May 1. Each county has established some form of "distance learning" for students who are at home. Accomplishing this is different in each county.

Marion County is continuing education for over 143,000 students. Material is presented by teachers over the students' computers online. There is a 'hot line' for computer support as well as other contact opportunities with staff. Marion County is also plugging into other websites to offer additional classes such as math, science, social studies, etc.

If a student does not have internet at home, there is a way to get either 'free' or 'low cost' internet. Soon Marion County will be bringing 'parking lot' Wi-Fi to help students. However, this will require a student to be driven to the parking lot of a school.

Lake County is implementing its version of 'distance learning' for all students. They will have students log in to their school accounts and will use lessons from I-Ready for both Reading and Math.

If students do not have a laptop at home the plan is to provide students with a Chrome Book. Also, there will be some free Wi-Fi and low cost Wi-Fi available.

Sumter County – The County website talks about 'distance learning' and other programs being developed. We are urged to access the web site in the coming days for updates.

School websites have learning packages available from I-Ready and Ready. These packages are based on what students already use in class. The curriculum contains lessons in reading and math.

Board of Directors Meeting Update - The next Tutors for Kids Board of Directors meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 19, at 3:00. Due to the uncertainty created by the 'virus,' the meeting may be conducted by teleconference or video-conference.

Obviously one of several key topics will be on the agenda involving the school closings, our tutors, the books we give out and any special programs that we are involved with for example "Paw Patrol".

January's Strategic Planning Meeting was charged with making sure the future of Tutors for Kids is secure. The Board over the last two years has been pursuing this goal. They have decided to continue as an all-volunteer organization with its present goals of:

- Volunteering in public schools with a high concentration of Title One students,
- Tutoring children one-on-one (wherever possible),
- Giving students free books or other reading material.

Paw Patrol Update – Unfortunately as the 'virus' continues it may be affecting the re-opening of school. In the May newsletter we will present an alternative for tutors who are involved in the Paw Patrol program.

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2020 Book Grant for Lake and Sumter Counties from:



2019-2020 Book Grants for Tutors for Kids from:



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