

# ***TUTORS FOR KIDS, INC.***

## *Annual Report - 2013*



 **Changing our World by Educating Kids**  
Helping Kids Move Forward

**TUTORS FOR KIDS, INC.**  
Volunteers in our community schools

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**Mission** - Tutors for Kids, Inc. is a 501(c) (3) nonprofit community-based organization of volunteers who support the local educational process through direct classroom tutoring in reading, math, writing, and science as well as family support and activities that enhance the educational environment leading to scholastic achievement.

**Background** – The program originated in the 2009-2010 school year as a group of dedicated volunteer tutors. During 2012, the program adopted the name - Tutors for Kids, Inc. - and was officially formed as a corporation in the state of Florida in March, 2012. Tutors for Kids, Inc. became an official 501(c)(3) nonprofit public charity with a determination letter dated May 16, 2012, from the IRS.

Our original group of volunteers in 2009 numbered six – during 2013, the numbers grew over to 175. Starting with one school in 2009, we expanded to nine schools in 2013-14 – six in South Marion County, Florida, one in Sumter County, Florida, and two in Lake County, Florida:

- Belleview Santos Elementary, Belleview, Florida
- Belleview Elementary, Belleview, Florida
- Fruitland Park Elementary, Fruitland Park, Florida
- Harbour View Elementary, Summerfield, Florida
- Legacy Elementary, Ocala, Florida
- Marion Oaks Elementary, Ocala, Florida
- Stanton Weirsdale Elementary, Weirsdale
- Villages Elementary, Lady Lake, Florida
- Wildwood Elementary, Wildwood, Florida

**Board of Directors** – The Board of Directors meets two times each year to review the program and finances. The 2013-2014 board consists of nine of the original members.

**School Outreach** – Tutors for Kids, Inc. recognized the need for tutoring was greater than the schools in which we were involved in previous years. In addition, a new school was opened in Marion

County – Legacy Elementary. During the 2013-2014 year, we added three additional schools: Legacy, Villages, and Fruitland Park.

**Publicity and Recruiting** – Tutors for Kids continues to gain exposure through several sources:

- Newspaper publicity (the Daily Sun, The Voice, the Cornerstone, The Villages recreation news, The Village Crier, and the Ocala Star Banner)
- Online publicity (villages-news.com and Tutors for Kids website)
- “Word of mouth” (this proves to be an ongoing source of additional tutors)
- Speaking to clubs, organizations, and groups, all of which brought new tutors and additional funding:

**January 23** – Trinity Lutheran, Ladies Group

**February 4** – The Sisterhood at Temple Shalom

**February 7** – Tri-County Optimists

**February 27** – The Stonecrest Activities Fair

**May 23** – Hadassah Group

**June 25** – Women’s Auxiliary of the Jewish American War Veterans

**September 16** – West Hemingway Social Club

**October 2** – Rutgers Club of the Villages

**October 4** – Women of the World at Top of the World, Ocala

**November 5** – Rotary Club of the Villages

**Recognition** – Annually, Stanton Weirsdale recognizes and celebrates the contributions made by the many organizations to their school during the year. In May, Tutors for Kids was honored to be part of this prestigious recognition.

**Orientation, Training, Support, and Communication for Tutors** – During the summer of 2013, a team of volunteer tutors revised and enhanced the training manual used for orientation and training of new tutors. During August, September, and October, four volunteer leaders conducted 12 training and orientation sessions for tutors before they started in schools.

In addition, the Media Specialist at **Wildwood Elementary School** provided two specific training and introduction sessions for their AR (Accelerated Reader) program. Over 30 tutors attended.

Tutors for Kids produces a monthly e-newsletter, sent to all tutors, teachers, principals, board members, and other interested supporters. Copies are available on the website: [www.tutorsforkidsinc.org](http://www.tutorsforkidsinc.org)

With over 150 volunteers residing in The Villages (and the need for meeting space to accommodate attendees), it was necessary to form a formal “club” in The Villages. Dan Miller and Lauren Sharp took the lead to organize the club and obtain meeting space. The inaugural meeting was on Wednesday,

August 7, at which approximately 50 residents attended. Monthly meetings are on the first Wednesday of each month – and feature training sessions, speakers, and open discussions.

**School Statistics** – As of December 2013

Schools	Teachers	Tutors	Timeslots
Belleview Elementary	9	14	26
Belleview Santos Elementary	19	33	57
Fruitland Park Elementary		6	
Harbour View Elementary	14	17	26
Legacy Elementary	1	1	1
Villages Elementary at Lady Lake	14	21	48
Marion Oaks Elementary	10	10	19
Wildwood Elementary	29	38	86
Stanton Weirsdale Elementary	19	19	22

Totals 115 159 285

**Special Requests from Schools and Other Programs** – Several of our schools, and others, requested special assistance from Tutors for Kids, and volunteer tutors were able to fill these requests:

For the third year, **Belleview Santos** identified the lowest 25 percent of readers in Grades 3, 4, and 5. Weekly, students in each of these grades spent an hour in the media center (library) working on literacy projects. Tutors for Kids assigned tutors to the media center during these times, and the identified students received one-on-one reading tutoring. Four tutors each work three hours weekly with these students. In addition, tutors were assigned to the classrooms so that these students also received additional help.

**Belleview Santos** also requested special assistance with Grade 3 writing skills. The principal wants to enhance students writing skills during the third grade so that they will be better prepared to take Grade 4 FCAT writing tests. Three tutors are filling four time slots.

For the second year, **Belleview Santos** conducted a “Pastries with Parents” morning program on November 13. Before school opens for the day, parents and students arrive together to select a book and breakfast. They then sit together while the student reads to the parent(s). Tutors for Kids donated several hundred books to this event that attracted over 400 participants.

Each February, **Harbour View** commemorates the 100<sup>th</sup> day of school with all of their Kindergarten students with special activities and reading projects. Each class comes to the Media Center where 8-10 readers read 100 books to groups of children. The books are then placed on a table so that students can see them all – and are then challenged to read 100 books before the end of the school year. On February 1, Tutors for Kids provided some of the readers – and donated a book for each of the 130 Kindergarteners.

**Wildwood** requested special assistance in their Media Center to enhance their AR (Accelerated Reader) program. Tutors for Kids provided three dedicated tutors on two days to work with designated students.

Each December, the **Villages** organizes a “Book Walk” (similar to a cake walk) for their primary grade students as an encouragement for students and their parents to select and read books for them to own. Tutors for Kids donated over 100 books to this event.

Each December, The Villages Girl Scout Alumnae Silver Trefoils collects new books and pajamas for children in need. The book becomes a prized possession of the children and adds to their “rituals of childhood.” The program collected 3,800 pairs of pajamas and 5,500 books – to which Tutors for Kids contributed over 100 books.

**The Book Program** – Since early 2010, we have been participating with First Book, a nonprofit based in Washington D.C., that connects book publishers and community organizations to provide access to new books for children in need. To date, First Book has distributed more than 100 million books and educational resources to programs and schools serving children from low-income families throughout the United States and Canada.

A 14-month study by First Book of 2,564 students found that the books from First Book:

- **Improves interest in reading.** Students demonstrating a 'high interest' in reading nearly tripled after receiving books from First Book.
- **Increases children's desire to learn.** 69% of program administrators found books from First Book were "very important" in children's decisions to read more and improve their reading skills.
- **Increases reading at home.** More than 70% of children reported increased home literacy activities after receiving books from First Book.

The books distributed to organizations are free; we pay only 45 or 65 cents per book for shipping. The 10,000 books received by Tutors for Kids during 2013 have a retail value of over \$80,000.

Tutors use the books to reward children for achievement and progress in their work – as well they give every child in each classroom where they work at least two books throughout the year. Since 2010, our program has received almost 20,000 books and has distributed over 15,000 to the students in our schools and other programs.



*Belleview Santos 3<sup>rd</sup> grader receives a book from Tutors for Kids*

**Book Bowl** – The Marion County Book Bowl is an annual reading competition in which students in Grades 3, 4, and 5 from each school read 15 books and compete by answering detailed questions about the books. Our founders, Carolyn Ruhe and Frank Russo, served as impartial judges and a Tutors for Kids “friend,” Dona Hams served as moderator at the final of the competition on Friday, May 3.

Through the generosity of a kind donor, Tutors for Kids was proud to sponsor reward gifts to a Book Bowl team from one of the schools in which our tutors work IF the team won the Book Bowl. In 2013, Belleview Santos’ team was the final champion, and each team member received his/her own personal portable DVD player and a selection of DVDs from Tutors for Kids.

**Financial Statistics** – The primary source of revenue for Tutors for Kids is donations by individuals, clubs, organizations, and foundations. In August 2013, Tutors for Kids was awarded a \$2,000 grant from Dollar General. In addition, two private foundations donated \$500 each for the book program.

The only expense charged against this revenue is the shipping costs of the books received from First Book. All other expenses are donated as “in-kind.”

Beginning Balance	\$ 4,149.51
Donations	<u>7,878.66</u>
Total Received	\$12,028.17
Book Shipping Costs	<u><del>\$(5,006.00)</del></u>
Cash Balance 12/31/2013	<u><u>\$ 7,022.17</u></u>

In-Kind Donations - Considering the retail value of the books as in-kind donations, the approximate net value of the 10,000 books received during 2013 is \$80,000. Other operating expenditures amounting to \$1,251.55 were contributed as in-kind donations.



*Tutors for Kids Reading Tutor, Brian Farley*

### **Feedback from Tutors, Teachers, Students and Schools**

“Linda Broeder and I distributed books this afternoon to Mrs. Davis' second grade class at Belleview Elementary. What an amazing experience! You'd have thought the children had each just won the lottery! They were SO excited, especially when we told them that the books were theirs to keep.” Cindy Williams, Tutor, Belleview Elementary

“My tutors are wonderful. Thank you so much for doing this program. My students are getting so much extra support because of them.” Nina Nadeau, Teacher, Belleview Elementary

“Thank you for sending this newsletter to teachers as well! It is amazing to read how much you are doing for not only my community in Belleview but the surrounding areas as well. Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!” Amanda Patton, Teacher, Belleview Elementary

“We have really enjoyed working with your team. It has brought our students a great deal of confidence and joy in addition to the critical academic support that they needed. We really appreciate all that you folks bring to our school.” David Bordenkircher, Principal, The Villages Elementary of Lady Lake



*Math Tutor Frank Fezza*

“Many thanks for the lovely books for the students and all the hard work and tutoring.” Jamie Lagher, Teacher, Harbour View Elementary



*Tutors for Kids Reading Tutor,  
David Hegarty*

*Tutors for Kids Reading Tutor, Joan  
LaClair*

“I want to send my sincerest gratitude to your organization. In only 2 weeks of having your tutors work with my students, I have seen marked improvement in their attitudes, understanding, and grades. My students have specifically told me how much they enjoy the tutors and how much it has helped them.

“I am so grateful to have the opportunity to have such effective and passionate volunteers and can’t tell you how important this is to me. You are amazing!” Tami Karaba, Teacher, The Villages Elementary

“Thank YOU for consistently working with our teachers and caring about our kids! We really appreciate your help!” Patricia Hornsby, Principal, Marion Oaks Elementary

“I wanted to just thank you for ALL that you have done to help my kids. They absolutely LOVE working with you and I feel like you are making a big impact on them, not just academically, but also with their confidence levels” Angela Stein, Teacher, Marion Oaks Elementary

“Thank you for the books. I like to read and it is very nice of you to give us books.” Student at The Villages Elementary School

“A Big Thank You from Ms. Andrie White’s 2nd Grade Class. My volunteer was Mrs. Sharon Hudak. She work really well and hard with my students. They really enjoyed her. We would also like to Thank you for all the books you donated. The kids really enjoyed the interactive pages with the stickers and everything. This is a wonderful program!” Andrie White, Teacher, Wildwood Elementary

“Thank you so much for the communication. The students and I are really enjoying Mrs. Wann, Mrs. Sharpe, and Mrs. Potts. They are all wonderful ladies and will do anything to see a child succeed. I think they feel comfortable in our class now and the kids can’t wait to see them arrive.” Cheryl McKinney, Teacher, Wildwood Elementary

“I want to thank you so much for the support. It is great getting so many bodies in here. I was very nervous at the beginning of the year when I looked at my low kids. It feels so good to see that we will have plenty of help!!!  
THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK YOU!!! Brittany Money, Teacher, Wildwood Elementary

“Thank you for are books. They are very awesome. Thank you for takeing your time to help us learn.” Student,  
The Villages Elementary

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