



54 Diamond Causeway  
Savannah, GA 31411  
912-598-8940

# A L.O.V.E. LETTER

FROM LOCAL OUTREACH VOLUNTEER EDUCATORS

FALL 2006

#### SPONSORS:

Messiah Lutheran  
St. James Catholic  
St. Peter's Episcopal  
Skidaway Island Baptist  
Skidaway Island Presbyterian  
Skidaway Is. United Methodist  
Trinity United Methodist  
St. Francis Episcopal  
Savannah Christian Church  
Temple Mickve Israel

#### LOVE BOARD:

Chair: Wilma Tysse  
Chair Emeritus: Fred Loe  
Vice Chair: Alice Wright  
Communications Coord.:  
Martha Brown  
Info. Systems Coordinator:  
John Tysse  
Project Coordinator:  
David Dawson  
PR Coord.: Landon Smith  
Recruitment & placement  
Coord.: Joe McGowan  
Training Coordinator.:  
Catherine Ruhl  
Treasurer: John Kloss  
Training: Sherri Brecker,  
Sandy Heiser  
Rotary Liaison: John  
Billingsley  
Site Coordinators:  
Ruthie Clark — Low Elem.  
Pat Cooper — Gould Elem.  
Maureen Kouvel, John Gandy  
— Baptist Center  
Marian Hofstein—Haven El.  
Frank King — Hubert Mid.  
Bill Monroe — Gadsden Elem  
Ginny Pierce — Garrison El.  
Dennis Roth—Derenne Mid.  
Cindy Telljohan —  
Salvation Army Ctr.  
Alice Wright — Spencer El.  
Ruth Foster — Islands El.  
John Schoenecker —  
Southwest El.

## A Letter from the Chair

By Wilma Tysse, Chair

This surely has been an active fall for LOVE. It started off on a high with Dr. Lockamy's visit to our August board meeting and has only grown in intensity.

Fred Loe initiated a letter campaign from our sponsors to 66 local churches and synagogues. We invited them to join us as a sponsor and provide mentors for more at-risk children here in Savannah. LOVE Board Members have been out having meetings and attending services to promote LOVE. Two new sponsors have joined LOVE: St. Francis of the Islands Episcopal Church and Trinity United Methodist Church. We are continuing to follow-up on other possible new sponsors.

A big thank you to both Landon Smith and Martha Brown for the LOVE articles in the Savannah Morning News, The TWATL and The Landings Journal. All three articles provided us with calls and new volunteers. In fact, we have trained 25 new mentors in addition to those from the new sponsors. Thanks, Mike Miller, who mentors at Gadsden, and is going to work on PR with Landon and Martha.

Our LOVE Site Coordinators and Alice Wright, Vice Chair, deserve big applause. They did a fabulous job getting mentors back into the schools smoothly and have continued good communication with their schools. The only delays we experienced were due to new school personnel needing more time to identify our students. Please appreciate the job our site coordinators do for LOVE. They truly are the backbone of our organization and without them it would be impossible for LOVE to continue growing.

We hear LOVE mentors say this is the most rewarding volunteer job they have ever had. I could not agree more, but it is not the easiest. We need to have patience and not get discouraged. Try to remember that learning has plateaus or even temporary back steps. Even if little reading progress is made, you yourself are a role model, a caring adult and have such an important relationship with these children. Don't forget that with any endeavor it takes time and practice to be our best.

Remember also that all of you are LOVE's best recruiters. Please tell your friends and neighbors what you do for LOVE and how they too can help these wonderful children by just giving 3 hours a week.

Thanking you for all you do and wishing you a blessed and wonderful Holiday Season.

Wilma Tysse

**FOR THE AT RISK CHILDREN OF SAVANNAH**

# Good Manners Make Life More Pleasant by Fred Loe

Teaching life and social skills is and has always been a very important part of L.O.V.E.'s purpose. We consider these skills to be an essential part of a child's education. They take many forms beginning simply with good manners. Etiquette and polite behavior are signs of respect for others.

According to *Ladies' Home Journal*, "Teachers with thirty years or more experience say that today's child is, in general, much less respectful and much less mannerly than the typical child of a generation ago. Unfortunately, unless children learn respect for others, beginning with adults, they can never learn to respect themselves."

In previous issues of *The L.O.V.E. Letter* and in sessions with children, we have covered subjects such as how to shake hands and greet someone, how to introduce someone to a person or group, how to seat a lady at the table or in an automobile, showing respect for each other by use of Mrs., Mr., Miss and Master; and setting a table -serving guests and being served. We have taught life skills with props like a road atlas, play money, and complete place settings with dishes and utensils. The more practical we make it the better.

Right now let's add "**telephone etiquette**" to our list of subjects. The cell phone complicates this subject, but first let's think about calls to and from a residential phone.

## Answering the Phone: (Have paper and pencil handy)

The proper way to answer the phone is "hello." If someone other than the head of the house answers and is asked, "May I speak to Mr. Smith please?", the response should be, "One moment please. I will get him for you." If the head of the household is not available the response should be, "I am sorry, Mr. Smith is not available at this time. May I take a message?"

## Making Telephone Calls:

Courtesy is expected when using the telephone. Think about what time it is before making a call. You would not want to call when there is a possibility that the person may be asleep, or it is a normal meal time. Give your name when the telephone is answered, before asking for the person you are calling. Dial carefully in good lighting to avoid dialing the wrong number.

## Telephone Tips:

- Let the phone ring a reasonable number of times.
- If you dial a wrong number, apologize and hang up.
- When you call someone at a workplace, make your call informative and short.
- Keep your voice at its natural volume and pitch.
- Hang up the phone gently.



## Cell Phone Etiquette:

- Do not subject others to your cell phone conversation. Excuse yourself and find a location for a private conversation
- Do not have an annoying ringer on your phone
- Turn off your cell phone while attending public performances
- Do not wear the earpiece when not on the phone
- Speak at your normal volume and pitch
- Do not use the cell phone to try to impress others

Every year we have new students and must start over with life skills. Remember that, as mentors, teaching life skills is an important part of our job description.

# SUPT. LOCKAMY VISITS LOVE BOARD AUG. 24th

-Martha Kane Brown



## HIGHLIGHTS of that remarkable meeting:

Dr. L.: \* I call them MY students (all 35,000)

\*We must change the image of public education

\*Have a "One Room Schoolhouse" after school program

(80 waiting in line for this in Norfolk)

\*Do not give students easy way out (though we can't save all)

\*A "Junior University" after school program

\*"Acceleration" programs...NOT "remediation"

\*Grow National Merit Scholars from 5th grade on

\*My goal is to engage the community (like LOVE)

\*For some, private school

\*I tell Tom Bonnell (SCD) we're not competing

\*I have grandchildren in both public and private

\*Among my non-negotiables: working PTA's (non cookie baking); Uniforms

\*A Supt.'s "Council of Students"

\*Open All school doors (some now closed)

\*Grow leadership: 1/3 new school principals this year

\*Student suspension: Stay up when out via Centers for Learning

\*Teach writing across the curriculum

\*Have "Parent University"

\*Designated "Supt.'s Scholars" (See Sav. Morning News 9/9)

\*Complete algebra by 8th grade

\*College Prep Diplomas: If they go and not prepared, we'll pay

\*Eliminate social promotion

\*Career "technical" schools, NOT "vocational"

\*My last job is Savannah...then retire to Czech Republic (continue work with gypsies)

\*Biggest challenge in Savannah??? Changing minds

Marian Hofstein: When Oglethorpe left GA, he said, "Don't change anything until I get back." "(much laughter)

# After School Program at Baptist Center Revamped

by Martha Kane Brown

Over the summer, the after school program at the Baptist Center enjoyed a major renovation. Behind this were L.O.V.E. site coordinator Maureen Kouvel and Michelle Kendrick, the Missionary Assistant to the Center's Reverend Dwayne Baker.

Two years ago, Fred Loe, L.O.V.E. founder, connected with the Reverend Baker to work on its after school program. It was not an easy road. There was little continuity in the existing program. Personnel changes at the Center and a change in the Community in Education position only added to the confusion. However, with much prayer, dedication and determination, says Kouvel, the program today is progressing nicely. "Many happy children are being tutored."

This summer Kouvel and Kendrick devised a system to identify and track 30 students over several years. Children are tutored on the average of three times a week in half hour periods by L.O.V.E. tutors, currently nine. Rewards are given for regular attendance. Field trips provide motivation and learning, while an awards ceremony marks each report period hailing progress in students' grades.

No stranger to education, Maureen Kouvel saw thirty years in public school education as teacher, guidance counselor and administrator. Born and bred in New Jersey, her career was in Middletown, the city which suffered 36 deaths on Nine Eleven in Manhattan. With a master's degree, she went on to the "citadel of learning," Columbia University, to attend Ph.D. courses.

Today, she not only is site coordinator at the Baptist Center but a tutor at Spencer School. This coming year two of her nature photographs will highlight Audubon's 2007 calendar. For 15 years The Landings has been first a second home to Jack and Maureen Kouvel; then four years ago, they made Jessamine Lane their permanent abode. Through a window she points this reporter to the flowered back yard. "My 'Secret Garden,'" says she. "There is not enough time for all the things I want to do."



Children enjoy a summer field trip!

# NEW SPONSORS ADOPT SCHOOLS

Savannah Christian Church joined LOVE as a sponsor this past summer and adopted Southwest Elementary School. John Schoenecker is the LOVE Site Coordinator. Please welcome the following new mentors at Southwest Elementary School: Desiree Adams, Pamela Bebon, Sylvia Emerick, Jennifer Fanning, Michael Gulick, Denise Ahern, Valerie Ray, Jim Megathlin, Ernesto Bautista, Andrea Pluff, Michael Tomerson, Phyllis Tomerson, Jaison Kurian, Katina Marathe and John Matthews.

St. Francis of the Islands Episcopal Church joined LOVE and adopted Islands Elementary School that is located on Whitemarsh Island. Our new LOVE Site Coordinator is Ruth Foster. Please welcome the following new mentors at Islands Elementary School: Jim Shumard, Amber Murray, Darris Plumb, Harry Boyd, Karen Gibson, Louise Anderson, Luann Whitlow, Mary Ellen Butler, Ritajane Eichelzer and Ruth Foster.

Trinity United Methodist Church of Pooler has also joined us and adopted West Chatham Elementary School. The program will start at the school in January.

## WELCOME MORE NEW MENTORS

The following new mentors have joined LOVE and are at our existing elementary or middle schools and after-school programs. Please welcome: Eric Beba, Patty Boggs, Jackie Brasher, Sally Burns, Val Calamari, Joan DiGiorgio, Elly Gardner, Dorothy Kirschner, Murray Kirschner, Karen Lindholm, Christine Lizon, Cathy McKeever, Jerry McManus, Louise Peterson, Rik Rekowski, Patsy Robinson, Mary Sprague, Kay Sweat, Barby Townsend, Karen Utzinger, Al Walsh, Joyce Walsh, Margaret Whitley, Jan Wright and Elizabeth Zipperer. We are so happy to have you on board and working with these wonderful children.





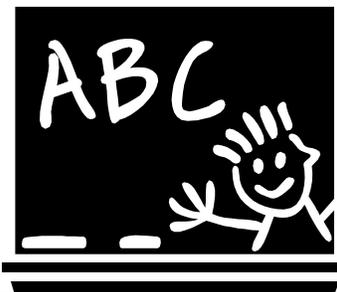
## MENTORS

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### Important Dates to Remember! Put these on your calendar now!

- Dec 20-Jan 3** SCHOOL VACATION
- Jan 12** LOVE Board Meeting 4PM
- Feb 16 & 19** NO SCHOOL
- Mar 16 & 23** NO SCHOOL
- April 2-8** SCHOOL VACATION



## TRAINING CORNER

LOVE trainers, Catherine Ruhl and Sherri Brecker will be visiting LOVE schools starting in January. They plan to hold small informal Q & A sessions. So prepare your questions, share your stories and bring them to the get-together.

Thanks Ladies, this is a great idea. Your LOVE Site Coordinator will let you know the schedule.