



Savannah - Chatham County
Local. Outreach. Volunteer. Educators.

L.O.V.E.
MENTORS

Helping
Children
Learn

www.lovementors.org

October, 2019

MESSAGE FROM THE LEADERSHIP TEAM



Laura Wehrle
Officer & School Liaison

Welcome back to all our wonderful returning mentors and a warm welcome to all those joining us for the first time! This edition focuses on sharing how L.O.V.E. continues to build a platform to make every mentor - student experience the best it can be. Doing that takes trained and supported mentors, diverse leaders with manageable duties, creative partnership with SCCPSS and financial support. Each of these is specifically addressed in this issue.



Relative to leadership positions, L.O.V.E. has shifted to a team-based approach so that each role is more manageable and has more than one person to share the effort. This makes serving in a leadership capacity more flexible and easier to balance with all the other wonderful activities we have in our lives. You can see this reflected in the list of L.O.V.E. Leaders on the last page.

Just as we have worked to make it easier to serve in leadership positions, we want to be sure we are doing all we can to provide all the resources our mentors might use to be successful with their unique students. We want to make mentoring the easiest and most rewarding experience of your year! This year we will be heavily focused on training. This will encompass everything from making more and better materials available to you to organizing them by student levels and areas of need for quick access. We will endeavor to capture all the wonderful ideas and approaches our experienced mentors have found to be most effective and share those with all mentors. We ask your help in identifying and prioritizing any gaps we should fill. Susan Horne joins Catherine Ruhl this year to lead our training efforts; we are in wonderful hands. Please watch your inbox as an entire Training Tips kickoff package should arrive next month!

As you read the articles, if you have any great ideas please share those with us. If you are interested in serving in any role, big or small, please consider joining one of our teams. We have more folks than ever helping out and finding it is very flexible. We would love to utilize your talents.

L.O.V.E. is starting our 24th year - stronger and larger than we have ever been. Together we can accomplish even more!

Thank you so much for your time, your energy and most of all your LOVE for Savannah's children. You change the trajectory of their day, their week, their year and even their lives with your LOVE.

Best,

Laura

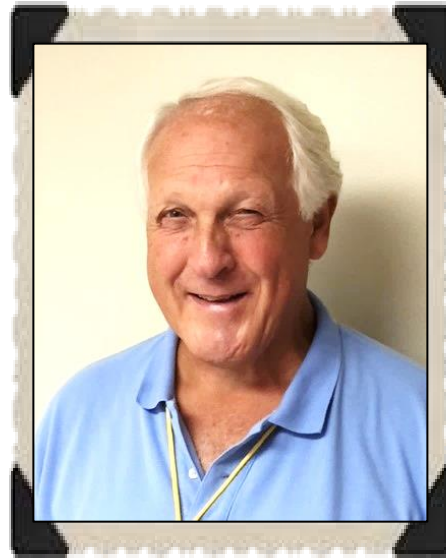
Laura Wehrle
Officer & School Liaison

WELCOME NEW MENTORS

We had a strong turnout for the September 16 Orientation and Information meeting. Our initial count was 20 of the 22 who attended are now in the capable care of our Site Directors. It looks like we are starting this year with about 170 mentors -- enough new

mentors to replenish the ranks and continue our growth. There are several additional recruiting opportunities

through the middle of October. Our schools have identified more students than ever before needing mentors, so please let your friends and neighbors know. We would love to welcome them to the team.



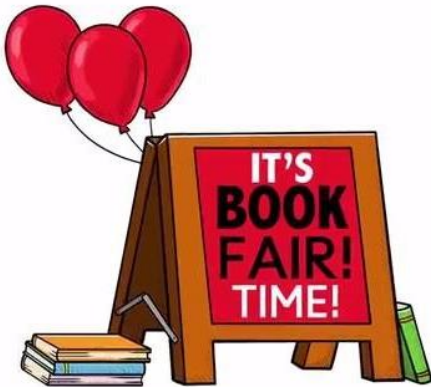
Dan Malachuk
Recruiting Director

BOOK FAIR AND SPECIAL SPEAKER

OCTOBER 28

3:30 p.m.

Skidaway Island United Methodist Church



This is your chance to select books for your students. We provide new books and they are free to our mentors. There is a wide variety from the earliest reader to chapter books. Many of our students do not have books at home and they are excited to receive a book of their very own. You have the opportunity to have the child read the book with you and then take it home to enjoy again.

Our Special Speaker is Melissa Evans, the Title I Family and Community Relations Specialist at Juliette Gordon Low Elementary School. She will speak at 4:00 and explain exactly what the Title I program is and what services they provide to students and their families. She will give us more insight into the student population that we work with so that we can be as effective as possible.

THE EARLY LEARNING CENTER

By Susan Woods and Debbie Sens

LO.V.E. has an exciting new program this year with the opening of the Formey Early Learning Center (ELC). The ELC replaces the former East Broad Elementary. Kindergarten and pre-kindergarten from three different schools have been combined to form a school exclusive to K and Pre-K. There are currently eleven kindergarten and 8 pre-kindergarten classes. In addition to our standard one-on-one academic and general coaching at the kindergarten level, there will also be a new component added for the pre-K classes. Volunteers will be storytelling in the classrooms on a monthly basis to get the children excited about books and reading! This will also build school and student awareness for what a L.O.V.E. mentor is in this new environment. The stories will be told using puppets, drama, props, Velcro boards and other methods to hold the children's interest.



Debbie Sens and Susan Woods, L.O.V.E. Co-Site Directors, are both retired kindergarten teachers with more than 50 years combined experience. They will provide periodic, special mentor training for both pre-K and K; all storytelling props and supplies are also available for the mentors. L.O.V.E. would like to have a mentor presence in each kindergarten classroom to help this new SCCPSS initiative succeed.

We are seeking three more mentors for this school year to reach this goal.

Please tell your friends and neighbors about this opportunity. If you would like to participate in addition to your current students, please consider this opportunity!



UPDATED LETTERS FROM MENTORS TO TEACHERS



The letter mentors send to the classroom teacher at the beginning of the year has been updated to emphasize to teachers the importance of communicating with the mentor. It asks teachers to give the mentor an idea of what will be most beneficial to the student and give feedback to the mentor during the school year. It will be signed by a designated school staff member. Please ensure that it gets to the classroom teacher.

HELP L.O.V.E. THROUGH AMAZON SMILE

LO.V.E. has been fortunate in past years to receive significant financial support from our local Skidaway Island churches. While they still remain financial supporters of the L.O.V.E. program, they have decided to redirect most of their contributions to the more immediate needs of their congregations.



The Board is discussing many options for additional funding. One idea is to utilize Amazon's charitable giving program called AmazonSmile. How it works - Identify us as your preferred charity in your Amazon Account and go to smile.amazon.com from any device to shop. You shop the same products, prices and shipping features Amazon offers and Amazon will donate 0.5% of the sale from their profits to L.O.V.E.

To get set up:

You can link your Amazon account to "Local Outreach Volunteer Educators" (our legal name) in one of two ways:

1.) Use this direct link: <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/20-3627792>. You will enter your Amazon account email and confirm you wish to make us your preferred charity.

OR

2.) Sign in to your Amazon account and under your account preferences you can elect to "change you preferred charity". You will find us under our legal name "Local Outreach Volunteer Educators" in Savannah GA.

To shop:

Always start your Amazon shopping from the smile.amazon.com page - this simply tells Amazon to make us the beneficiary. Otherwise Amazon keeps all the proceeds!

So please link us up as your preferred charity and bookmark smile.amazon.com. Tell your friends, family and neighbors. Anyone can direct their purchases to benefit L.O.V.E.

TIPS FOR TUTORS

Beware! Kids are full of germs. Doctors say this may be a bad flu year. It is highly recommended that your L.O.V.E. mentor bag carries a supply of sanitizing items for your student and for you. Use them generously.



DID YOU SEE THE NEW WEBSITE? www.lovementors.org



The newly designed website is up and running and is full of information for mentors and for those who are interested in learning more about us with the idea of becoming a mentor.

Take a look.





L.O.V.E. believes that improving a child's education is the foundation for improving quality of life. Classroom teachers have little opportunity to work one-on-one with students. L.O.V.E. provides this benefit to students.

L.O.V.E. Leadership Team For 2019 - 2020

School Liaison-SCCPS Laura Wehrle, Officer
 Mentor Recruiting and Assimilation Dan Malachuk, Officer
 Reporting Secretary Sam Lambert, Officer
 Mentor Resources and Training Ginny Pierce
 Treasurer Kevin Dutton, Officer
 Publicity and Events Carol Fallon and Denis Healy
 Camp Directors Callie Ryan and Carol Black
 Training Co-Chairs Susan Horne and Catherine Ruhl
 Director Emeritus Karen Lindholm
 At Large Bill Monroe
 Administrative Support Mike O'Neill and Roy Samras
 Publication Design M. Louise Walters, The Leadership Center

Schools

At the current time, L.O.V.E. Mentors serves 9 Title I schools in Savannah.

SCHOOLS	L.O.V.E. SITE DIRECTOR
Andrea B. Williams	Nancy Boyd Mary Sommer, assistant SD
East Broad/ELC at HE Formey	Debbie Sens Susan Woods
Gadsden	Jan Smart John Brandewie
Haven	Kevin Dutton Susan Horne, assistant SD
Hodge	Nancy Ambler
Isle of Hope	Betsy Hines
Low	Ginny Pierce Jane Martin, assistant SD
Pulaski	Ginny Donaldson Jill Corbin, assistant SD
Windsor Forest	Sue Burns



**Thank You For
Helping Children Learn**