



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

L.O.V.E.
MENTORS

Helping
Children
Learn

www.lovementors.org

Summer, 2022

2022! WHAT A YEAR IT HAS BEEN FOR L.O.V.E.

By: Bill Monroe

When we began 2022, we had no idea if L.O.V.E. would be able to resume our traditional mentoring in the Title 1 schools of Chatham County. We met that challenge in 3 ways.

1. Virtual Mentoring Project

We learned that in person mentoring was still not possible and developed a plan to work with students virtually. We had had some success doing this the year before and had learned some valuable lessons. We partnered with *Loop It Up*, an organization which ran an after-school program at many schools we worked with. We focused on one school and began with 18 L.O.V.E. mentors working with students at Low Elementary School via ZOOM every Monday evening. The process was more challenging than we hoped, BUT it got us back working with “the kids we love.” The program was in place from the first week in January until spring break in mid-March. Despite the challenges we faced with virtual mentoring, it was clear that the children loved the time we spent with them and that the help we were providing was desperately needed.



The 18 LOVE mentors who participated in the virtual mentoring program were:

Tom Rood, Scott Lauback, Barbara Carty, Mary Sommer, Carol Fallon, Judy Moore, Beverly Oliver, Marianne Claysmith, Mary Ellen Caggiano, Peggy Hilleary, Deborah Loughney, Carol Abercrombie, Margaret Hecht, Connie Schopfer, Ginny Pierce, Kathleen Jacobs, Diane Ryan, & Bill Monroe.

2. Spring In School Mentoring

Low, Pulaski, Gadsden, Butler, and Williams invited us back into the school to mentor. While we couldn't start until the last week of March, it did allow face-to-face, one-on-one mentoring for the first time since Covid began. We only spent six or seven weeks with the children, and it was obvious that the learning gap we have worked to reduce over the years has widened with the impact of Covid.



The following mentors responded to the call to return to the school;

Ginny Pierce, Tim Andrews, Gina Snyder, Teresa Stovall, Jill Corbin, Roy Samras, Ginny Donaldson, Sheila O'Connor, Crisley McCarson, Judy DeShea, Chuck Fonner, Beverly Oliver, Bill Monroe, Eric Gilster, Marianne Claysmith, Donna Zentmayer, Bobby Cannon, Kevin Dutton, & Laura Knarr.

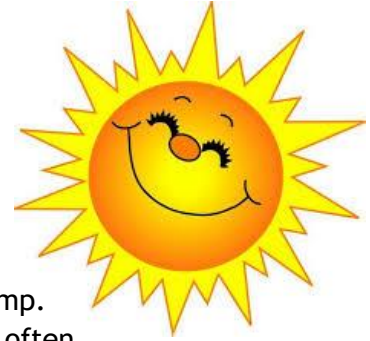
3. LOOP IT UP Partnership

We continued our partnership with *Loop It Up* by providing them with over 400 books to help them with their Spring literacy program. Since they work in the same schools we support, this allowed us to have a joint impact. We hope that this partnership will help us reach more children during the summer months and into next year.

See you all in school in the fall.

L.O.V.E. CONTINUES TO SUPPORT SUMMER CAMPS

By: Carol Black



This summer L.O.V.E. continues to award scholarships to children to attend summer camp. We do this because we acknowledge children often regress in academic skills over the summer months. As we have done the last two years of the pandemic, we have turned to two of our long-term partners: **Frank Callen Boys and Girls Club** and **West Broad Street YMCA**. Both camps are full day and provide at least one meal a day. They also provide classes in reading and math as well as fun activities.

L.O.V.E. has donated funds to allow for 44 scholarships to campers at Frank Callen as well as funds for 10 scholarships at West Broad.

In addition to scholarships, the board approved money to assist the camps in hiring staff that could help in camp operations. We are also exploring mentoring opportunities for L.O.V.E. mentors at the camps.

SAVE YOUR UNUSED L.O.V.E. BOOKS

If you still have a collection of L.O.V.E. books, please hold on to them. We will collect them in the Fall and put them in the Fall Book Fair.

Thanks!



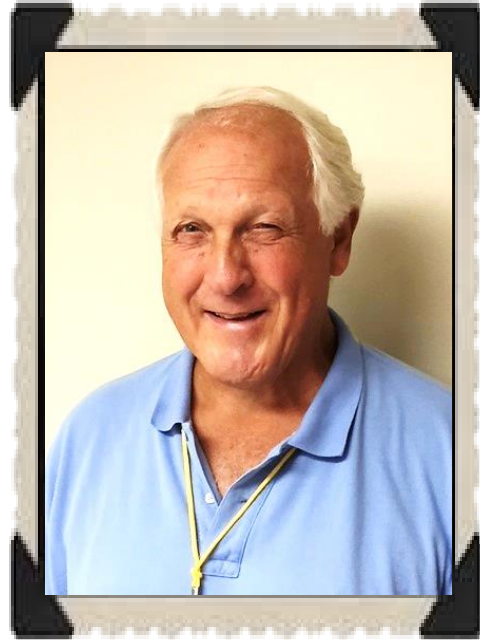
MENTOR RECRUITING FOR 2022

By: Dan Malachuk

Mentor Recruiting & Assimilation

The L.O.V.E. Board and Site Directors look forward to collaborating on how to assure we can field strong teams of mentors when school begins. The schools will be ready for us after a few weeks of their start-up work -- sorting out class assignments and then assessing student needs: who will most benefit from a L.O.V.E. mentor? School by school, we begin to know that answer just after Labor Day.

In anticipation, Site Directors will be reaching out to their mentors to confirm who is returning and determining their day, time and grade preferences. In addition to normal attrition, we will also likely have some mentors whose personal circumstances require additional caution due to Covid, perhaps delaying their return until later in the school year.



In short, we need to rebuild our ranks. Traditionally, our new mentors have come to us through promotional outreach that creates awareness of the need and the opportunity. So, we will call upon those organizations that have helped us before: various Landings groups, especially New Neighbors and Land Lovers; our strong Rotary and Kiwanis clubs; the faith communities, including the four churches on the island as well as others in the region. In addition, our mentors often refer friends' and acquaintances. As prospects are identified, our recruiting team will reach out to them for one-to-one conversations.

On Monday, September 12 there will be a L.O.V.E. Mentor Information and Orientation workshop for potential new mentors at Skidaway Island United Methodist Church.

Mentoring Makes a Difference



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

School Liaison-SCCPS Peggy Hillary
Mentor Recruiting and Assimilation..... Dan Malachuk, Officer
Recording Secretary Roy Samras, Officer
Treasurer Kevin Dutton, Officer
Mentor Resources and Training..... Ginny Pierce
Publicity and Events Carol Fallon and Denis Healy
Camp Coordinator Carol Black
Training Chair Catherine Ruhl
At Large Bill Monroe
Administrative Support..... Mike O'Neill
Technical / Web Site Liaison Samantha Lambert
Publication Design..... Dr. M. Louise Walters, The Leadership Center



**Thank You For
Helping Children Learn**