



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

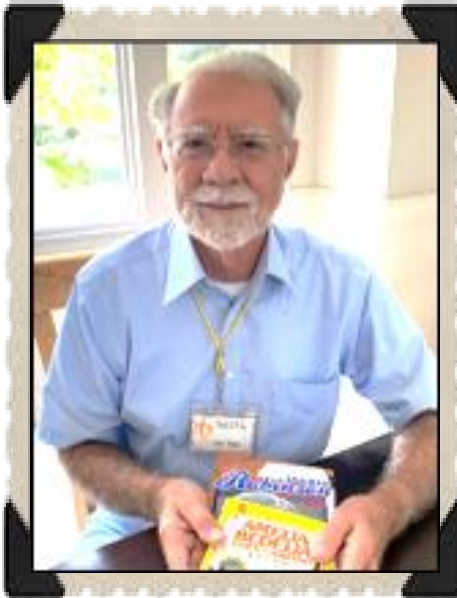
L.O.V.E.
MENTORS

Helping
Children
Learn

www.lovementors.org

January, 2024

Message From The Leadership Team



Roy Samras, Chairman
Board of Trustees

By: Roy Samras
Chairman of the Board of Trustees

Happy New Year to all our L.O.V.E Mentors and friends. I hope you had a safe and joyous holiday season.

A number of mentors have emphasized how nice it is to be back in the classroom. Speaking for myself, it is a thrill to again meet and work with my student in person, to see his eyes light up when he sees me at the classroom door, to get the spontaneous hugs, and to hear the happy chatter anticipating our reading together or games to be played. Observing this reinforces the notion that we indeed change children's lives.

I want to acknowledge the dedicated effort by our "Growing L.O.V.E. Mentors" committee, led by Linny Dillard and Bill Monroe, in recruiting new mentors.



We had a successful round of recruiting in the summer and fall, but are still working to get back to the pre-Covid numbers of mentors on our rolls. The need is great for more mentors to work with our young students to bring them up to grade level in reading and math. Again, I make the appeal—

If you know of friends or acquaintances who may be interested in becoming mentors or supporting our work in other ways, please refer them to our website or to me, or other members of our Leadership Team.

In November I met the new Superintendent of SCCPSS, Denise Watts. I wanted to make contacts within the School District for questions that might arise regarding curricula, school security and mentor access, special programs and training we may participate in, feedback on our effectiveness, interfacing with individual schools, and expansion into more schools. Superintendent Watts was very helpful in providing names and other pertinent information. Utilizing these contacts will be helpful as we strive to improve and expand our services to the children of Savannah.

I encourage you to provide any feedback and ideas you would like to provide L.O.V.E. Mentors to improve our services to both our students and our mentors.

Thank you all for your dedication and support. You should all be very proud of the work you do for our young people and for our community. Have a happy, stimulating and satisfying year.

Roy

New L.O.V.E. Board Position: Bill Monroe, Director of Operations



Bill Monroe

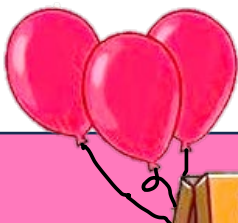
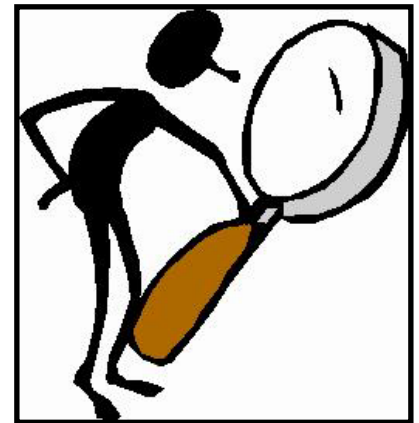
As we grow the L.O.V.E. population of mentors and schools served, we want to be sure that we focus on our most important resource, you—the mentor. To increase our effectiveness, we have established the position of Director of Operations. Bill Monroe, a longtime mentor and Site Director will assume this position. We believe this increased focus will allow us to share ideas, teaching methods and training needs as we go into the future. As always, the individual Site Directors play the key role in making sure we meet the needs of both the schools and our mentors and it is important that we give them all the resources they need to be successful. We hope this new position will allow you to continue to serve the children of Chatham County into the future.

Looking For Site Directors

The Site Director at each school plays a key role in organizing our L.O.V.E. activities around the particular needs and requirements of the school. The SD (Site Director) makes sure that schedules are set, people are trained and that we maximize our teaching time at the school. In a sense they are the first line managers of L.O.V.E.

We have a real need for more SDs. We would like to expand our service to more schools but need people to serve as the SDs. We envision that new SDs may take over for existing people who can open a new school or start a school themselves - with plenty of help from existing board members. Often, we start a school with just a few people and grow the

team over time. If this is something you might be interested in, please talk to your present SD or contact Bill Monroe at billmonroe45@gmail.com. or Roy Samras at roysamras@gmail.com.



BOOK FAIR and MENTOR HUDDLE

Monday, February 19

4:00 p.m.

Skidaway Island Methodist Church

Don't miss this chance to pick up free new books to read with your students and to sit down with your fellow mentors at your school to exchange ideas.

Summer Camp Plans

By: Carol Black



Carol Black

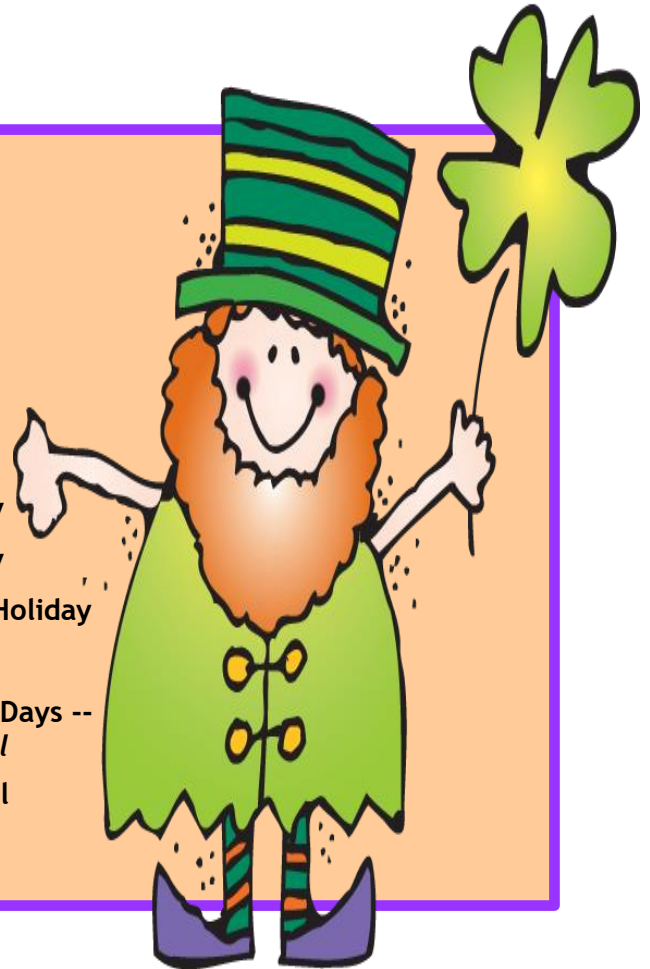
With the start of the second half of the school year we once again look ahead to summer. Every summer L.O.V.E. gives scholarships for our students to attend summer camp. We partner with two camps that run all summer and all day. They are **Frank Callen Boys and Girls Club** and **West Broad YMCA**. This school year we will send the invitation for a camp scholarship home with our students after spring break. Carol Black is the camp coordinator for L.O.V.E. and she will provide additional information to mentors in March.



UPCOMING HOLIDAYS

Check your school calendar for days schools will be closed and days testing will take place when students will not be available to work with their mentor.

- Monday, February 19 Staff Planning Day
- Friday, March 15 Staff Planning Day
- Monday, March 18..... St. Patrick's Day Holiday
- Friday, March 29–Friday, April 5 ... Spring Vacation
- April & May Frequent Testing Days --
Check Your School
- Wednesday, May 22..... Last Day Of School





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 2023 - 2024

Chair of the Board of Trustees Roy Samras, Officer
 Vice Chair, Board of Trustees..... Open
 Mentor Recruiting and Assimilation..... Linny Dillard, Officer
 Reporting Secretary.....Trish Potts, Officer
 TreasurerKevin Dutton, Officer
 Director of Operations.....Bill Monroe

Mentor Training..... Catherine Ruhl
 Publicity and EventsCarol Fallon
 Camp CoordinatorCarol Black
 Training Co-Chair Catherine Ruhl
 Chair Emeritus Laura Wehrle
 Publication Design..... Dr. M. Louise Walters, The Leadership Center

Schools

At the current time, L.O.V.E. Mentors serves 8 Title I schools in the SCCPSS.

SCHOOLS	L.O.V.E. SITE DIRECTOR
Andrea B. Williams.....	Carol Fallon and Tom Rood
Gadsden.....	Bill Monroe
Haven	Kevin Dutton
Hodge.....	Bill Monroe
Isle of Hope.....	Ken Jones
Low	Ginny Pierce
Pulaski.....	Ginny Donaldson and Jill Corbin
Windsor Forest	Sue Burns



**Thank You For
Helping Children Learn**