



# A L.O.V.E. Letter

From Local Outreach Volunteer Educators



www.lovementors.org

Spring 2010

## Participating Schools & Community Centers

**Elementary Schools:** Bartow, Bethesda Home for Boys, East Broad, Gadsden, Garrison, Georgetown, Gould, Haven, Heard, Islands, Isle of hope, Low, Notre Dame Academy, Port Wentworth, Southwest, Spencer, West Chatham, White Bluff

**Middle Schools:** Bethesda Home for Boys, DeRenne, Hubert

**High Schools:** Savannah

### Community Centers:

- Aldersgate United Methodist Church/ Performance Initiatives Center
- Salvation Army Center
- Savannah Baptist Center

### L.O.V.E. Sponsors

Asbury United Methodist Church  
Congregation Mickve Israel  
Isle of Hope United Methodist Church  
Messiah Lutheran Church  
St. James Catholic Church  
St. Peter's Episcopal Church  
Savannah Christian Church  
Skidaway Island Baptist Church  
Skidaway Island United Methodist Church  
Speedwell United Methodist Church  
Trinity United Methodist Church (Pooler)  
White Bluff United Methodist Church  
Kiwanis Club of Skidaway Island  
Rotary Club of Skidaway Island  
Gulfstream Aerospace Corporation  
Wal-Mart Corporation

### L.O.V.E. Officers

Chairwoman—Joyce Glenn  
Vice Chairwoman—Ann Tremaine  
Secretary—Marby Varley  
Treasurer—Dave Dawson  
Training—Catherine Ruhl and Sherri Brecker  
Recruitment—Wilma Tysee  
Senior Site Coordinators—Marion Hofstein, Ginny Pierce and Julie Clary  
Past Chairwoman—Alice Wright  
Chair Emeritus—Fred Loe

## Chairman Chatter—

At last spring is here. Hope you are getting to enjoy this nice weather after a long winter. With spring comes CRTs. I am sure your schools will be busy getting the students ready.

There are a couple of items I want to pass along. Mark your calendars for a reception to honor our founder Fred Loe. Date: May 3, 2010, time: 4:00pm, Place St. Peter's Episcopal Church. It has been Fred's vision and hard work which has allowed L.O.V.E. Mentors to become the outstanding organization it is today. We hope to see you there.

The other key happening is our nominating committee headed by Ann Tremaine is looking for a few good people. We are all busy with many worthwhile causes. Consider this when thinking about helping. The L.O.V.E. Board is what ties the organization together for mentors, students and the schools. L.O.V.E. provides training, assigns mentors to schools, provides materials. If a problem should arise, we are there to support you. If you are willing to help, let Ann know ([atremaine@bellsouth.net](mailto:atremaine@bellsouth.net)).

Thank you for thinking about helping.

*Joyce Glenn*  
Chairman

## Board Briefs—

March 15<sup>th</sup> Board meeting.

Wall-Mart money still needs to be spent. Will check on how we can spend the money.

End of the year gathering. It was decided to have a reception to honor Fred Loe.

There is still a need to update our mentor list.

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Nominating Committee: The committee consists of Chair Ann Tremaine, Norma Beck, Maryanne O'Malley, Ginny Pierce, and Marby Varley.

Training: Sherrie Brecker will be putting together workshops for non-readers. This training will begin in the fall. Training for Read Naturally will be offered as the backbone of the program.

Accepted the resignation of Julie Clary due to her husband's illness.

**MEET THE MENTORS**  
**by**  
**Carolyn Szlasa**

**Ginny Pierce** is a dedicated mentor and our Site Coordinator at Garrison. Below, Ginny kindly shares two letters that have touched her heart.

Ginny provided a birthday cake and balloon for a third grade boy she was mentoring. She later received this note from his mother.....

*Mrs. Pierce,*

*Thank you. Thank you for taking the time to truly care about my son. Thanks for the gifts, cupcakes and the card. It really meant a lot to him. You are a wonderful person.*

*"God Bless You."*

*Thanks again.*

This note is from a third grade student.....

*Dear Miss Ginny:*

*Roses are red*

*Violets are Blue*

*You are a great teacher*

*And I love you.*

*I worked with you*

*For two whole years*

*It has been great*

*And now I'm in tears.*

**Meet Tom Rood.....**

Tom moved to Savannah in 1999 from Clinton, New Jersey and has been a busy man since arriving. He is a past president of the Kiwanis Club of Skidaway, is very involved in the Junior Achievement program at Hesse Elementary School, is a volunteer for Savannah's Habitat for Humanity and is currently president of Skidaway Island's Coastal Conservation Association Club.

Friends of Tom's were involved with the L.O.V.E. program and he had heard about their mentoring

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experiences. One day, a friend convinced him to come along to his tutoring session at Spencer Elementary to see first-hand what this program is all about. Tom agreed to the visit and is now in his second year mentoring at Spencer.

Tom is currently mentoring two second grade children, a boy and a girl. He says, "All of the children I have been involved with have been challenging in the sense that they are in need and have had problems not only in school, but some have had home issues they are dealing with as well. The kids are all appreciative of the help I provide and the time I give them. I can see it in their eyes when I am with them. I see improvement on a week to week basis and that reinforces to me that I'm on the right track. As they become comfortable with me, trust begins to develop. I try to provide lots of positive feed-back and I can see them begin to believe more in themselves."

"The kids look forward to our sessions. I have structured, productive study time with them, but at the end of our sessions, we play a card game such as WAR which uses their math skills or we play tic tac toe to develop thinking not just about the current move they are making, but future moves". His students enjoy the games and frequently ask Tom, upon arrival, if there will be time for a game at the end of their session.

Tom tutors the children in both reading and math, but his primary focus has been reading. "My feeling is, if they are behind in reading it's going to hurt them in all their subjects, including math. Reading is the key." This year Tom has provided the children with their own journals. During their lesson, they record words with which they are having difficulty. Tom laughingly says, "In the back of the journal we keep a running tally of tic tac toe wins, by date."

When Tom talks about the children he is mentoring, you sense that he is truly caring and that he feels his efforts are amply rewarded.

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## **L.O.V.E. RECRUITING MESSAGE**

*In the quiet hours when we are alone and there is nobody to tell us what fine fellows we are, we come sometimes upon a moment in which we wonder, not how much money we are earning, nor how famous we have become, but what good we are doing.*

A.A. Milne

Time and again, when asked, "How did you become a mentor?" the answer invariably seems to be, that they were introduced to the L.O.V.E. program by a friend. There are no better ambassadors for this worthwhile endeavor than those who are currently mentoring in our Savannah schools.

We all want a healthy community, a peaceful place where people live and work together in harmony. We all have ideas about how to make that happen. The big question is, who will make that happen? Volunteers can. The time you invest in the lives of these children every week is an investment not only in the children, but in our community. The more connected to a community our children feel, the more likely they are to take responsibility for the community and feel pride and a sense of commitment.

Recruiting is almost always a challenge; talking to dozens or even hundreds of people may only result in a few recruits. The decision to volunteer comes in stages. A person thinks about becoming a volunteer and then an event transforms the general thought into action. The spark is often something very simple: someone they know asks them to volunteer in a specific role. We are asking that you keep L.O.V.E. at the forefront of your mind when socializing with friends. If someone seems at all interested, invite them to accompany you to a mentoring session.

Volunteering one's time to L.O.V.E. is more than teaching reading and math; it is teaching important life skills that benefit us all. Thank you for your commitment to the children of Savannah and for your efforts to recruit future their future mentors.

Best Regards,

*Carolyn Szlaska*  
Publicity