

APRIL, 2016

# A L.O.V.E. Letter



From Local Outreach Volunteer Educators  
Serving Savannah-Chatham Public School Students Since 1995  
[www.LoveMentors.org](http://www.LoveMentors.org)



*Last Day of School  
is May 20!*

*Many schools have end-of-year activities during the last week, so please check with your school to see what is the best day to finish your mentoring activities.*

**You are LOVE**



A MESSAGE FROM BOARD CHAIR KAREN LINDHOLM

## Mentors Matter

Happy Spring everybody! Believe it or not we only have about six more weeks of school and we have a chance to pull those up who might not pass.

## Spotlight on SCCPSS Monthly Training

The guest speaker at the February training was Jim Vandermay, who has done extensive research on bullying prevention. The Michigan social worker and author of two books on bullying presented an overview on bullying.

Definition of bullying: "A bully is a person who hurts, frightens, or traumatizes those who are smaller or weaker." Bullies criticize, push, shove, call someone stupid or too smart, intimidate, and frighten. They bully to have control, to keep or gain social status, and have lack of empathy for others. As a mentor if you think your student might be bullied the first step can be to listen (get the story) and help your student work out a solution. If you're suspicious that something's going on at home, as mandated reporters we're required to report it to the counselor. Rob Vandermay, the Board of Ed's literacy specialist who helps us plan the training, says the following:

"I think Mentors should begin a relationship (or at least introduce themselves) with the counselor at the site who is more equipped to deal with social issues. Concerns involving academic issues can be addressed to the teacher."

Thanks for all you do.

## *Tips for Mentors*

One of our career teachers suggested this link as a great resource for both reading and math help. Check it out! <http://freeology.com/graphicorgs/page8.php>

**Kids need LOVE and L.O.V.E. needs YOU!**

## *LOVE Event Honors Georgia Teacher of the Year Mr. Ernie Lee*



Georgia Teacher of the Year Ernie Lee

Eighty of you gathered at SIUMC in February to hear Ernie Lee and Akeem West share their stories of teaching and the importance of mentoring.

### *Ernie Lee*

When Ernie Lee walked away from a 20-year law career in 2010 and set out to maximize his impact on the community, he had no idea that he'd go on to become Georgia's 2016 Teacher of the Year. He now teaches in Windsor Forest High School and he credits his success in the classroom to the personal interaction he keeps with his students—always greeting them by name as they enter his classroom and listening closely when they speak. “They know that I care and that I’ll go to bat for them and they respond.” He told the audience that mentors are a vital part of supporting students and giving them the confidence to succeed.

It is a long, difficult path to be selected as Teacher of the Year. Ernie will spend this year working with teacher groups, speaking all over Georgia, and visiting the White House.

### *Akeem West*

Mr. Akeem West, who worked in the Landings Fitness Center, aspires to be a motivational speaker. He told his story how as a young man he hated school until he had the luck to have a mentor who showed him “how to be a man.” As a result he not only graduated from university, but is now on his way to getting his Doctorate in Psychology. He was a big brother to many young men and started Overachievers, a group dedicated to pull excellence out of every young person whether in school, church, jail, or out in the community.



Akeem West & Nancy Boyd



Bailey Cronin, Stacie Pottenger  
& Hillary Linton

We were honored to have as guests Spencer Elementary teachers Stacie Pottenger and Hillary Linton, who supervise the LOVE program at that site. These 3rd grade teachers were very grateful to be given two of the WalMart gift cards from the very generous attendees that won them in the LOVE drawing. They used them to purchase student school uniforms, staplers and paint supplies needed to complete a social studies project.

## Spencer Celebrates Spring with a Breakfast for Students, Parents & LOVE Mentors



A great time was had by all when LOVE mentors invited mentees and their parents for a breakfast party in the media center. It was a wonderful opportunity for kids to see family and mentors come together in their



honor. We were all treated to true Southern hospitality with a delicious breakfast of scrambled eggs, bacon, sausage and grits prepared



by Diane Jackson. A generous array of sweet rolls, breads and other treats were provided by the mentors. It was a relaxed and fun way to interact with kids, parents and select school staff.



*LOVE Founder Fred B. Loe, Jr.  
October 6, 1925 - January 7, 2016*

Fred Loe touched the lives of thousands of Savannah school children when he founded the LOVE mentorship program in 2003. A former resident of Skidaway Island for two decades, he died January 7 in Houston, Texas. A memorial service was held March 12 at the Skidaway Island United Methodist Church. Those who attended the service heard pastor Jim Giddens tell many stories about Fred's passion for his program and commended him for this outstanding ministry. Members of the board were pleased to meet family members and express their thanks for all of his efforts. Fred will be remembered by all who knew him for his fierce intellect and his determination to be a force for good. LOVE is especially grateful to all those who have donated to LOVE in Fred's honor.

**Kids need LOVE and L.O.V.E. needs YOU!**



## *Kudos to LOVE mentors! You really do make a difference!*

A message to mentor Ginny Pierce from a 3rd grade teacher at Hesse. Well done, Ginny!

--I just wanted to let you know that Elijah took the SRI reading test today, and he surpassed the grade level benchmark for proficiency. The end-of-third-grade goal is a score of 545, and Elijah scored 599. He increased 206 points since the beginning of the year. I am so incredibly proud of him, and I am beyond thankful for all that you do to help him.

### **Because of You**

By Kalli Dakos

There are children

Living sad, stormy lives,

Who had moments of

Pure happiness,

Pure childhood,

because of you!

There are students

Reading

And

Writing

With joy,

For the first time,

because of you!

There are children,

Realizing

At least for a moment,

That they ARE pure gold,

because of you!

There are students,

Dusting off

Their forgotten dreams,

And thinking once more

About the stars,

because of you!

### *The Bow Tie Boys*

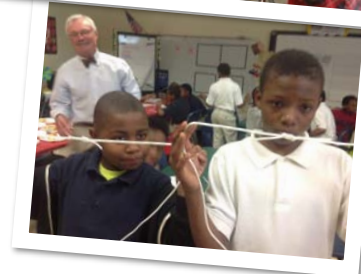
Mentor Bill Monroe collaborated with the science teacher at Gadsden to set up The Boys' Bow Tie Club to focus on leadership skills for top performing boys in the 3-5th grades.



The goal is to inspire boys to strive for excellence to lead successful, healthy and confident lives. Each boy must be recommended by his teacher and his parent must fill out an application.

The group meets at least twice a month in the afternoon. At least 15 boys attend the meetings which cover a variety of topics and use a fun, experience-based curriculum which creatively integrates life skills while promoting a healthy life style.

Recently the meeting was conducted by Mr. Jeff Storer who taught the boys how to tie sailing knots, told them about sailing about the world and other interesting sailing stories.



**Kids need LOVE and L.O.V.E. needs YOU!**

## News

### **Know Anyone Who Would Make a Great LOVE Mentor?**

Contact Don Gerosa  
gerosads@comcast.net or 912.598.8156

### **LOVE Positions to Be Filled**

LOVE is a flourishing organization with many talented people and we need more of your involvement on the board and committees. Please let us know of your talent, experience and willingness to serve in any of the following positions:

- The Vice Chair: Succeeds the chair and is responsible for Site Directors. Presently we have been operating without a vice chair
- Secretary: Takes position this May at annual meeting of the board
- Mentor Recruiting: Takes position this May at annual meeting of the board. Responsible for communicating with and developing ways ideas to recruit new mentors
- Board members at-large; Publicity, Mentor Support, Trainer, Events and Hospitality

Contact Karen at Lindholm23@comcast.net or 912.598.8883

### **Welcome New Mentors!**

We are lucky to have an enthusiastic group of 14 new mentors joining us this Spring.

Ray Robinson  
Elizabeth Cote  
Mary Rogers  
John Adair  
Linda Ferguson  
Barbara Stuck  
Charley and Arlene Keaton  
Kimberly McAllister  
Samantha Lambert  
Janet Laycock  
Carol Black  
Alec McCosh  
Jayne Rogers

Please welcome them and share your stories, insights and helpful hints.

### **LOVE Site Coordinators**

**East Broad:** Pat Cox  
**Gadsden:** Bill Monroe  
**Georgetown:** Available  
**Gould:** Ann Tremaine  
**Haven:** Emilie Miller  
**Isle of Hope:** Betsy Hines  
**Low:** Ginny Pierce  
**Pulaski:** Ginny Donaldson  
**Spencer:** Nancy Boyd  
**Windsor Forest:**  
Ginny Pierce, Interim

### **LOVE Background**

Founded in 1995, L.O.V.E. Mentors is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization working in partnership with the Savannah-Chatham County Public Schools. We are an all-volunteer organization and welcome adult volunteers from the Chatham County community without regard to age, gender, physical ability, race or religious affiliation. 100% of donations is devoted to effective implementation of our programs, including scholarships to summer camps. For more information, visit [LoveMentors.org](http://LoveMentors.org).



Send us your quotes + pictures!  
Carol Fallon [ckf42@aol.com](mailto:ckf42@aol.com)

**You are changing a life, simply by caring**