



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

**L.O.V.E.
M E N T O R S**

Helping
Children
Learn

www.lovementors.org

October, 2018

Message From The Leadership Team



Laura Wehrle
Officer & School Liaison

Fall is an exciting time of year as we reconnect with students from the past year and begin working with new children.

Two of the most frequently asked questions are:

- Am I making any difference?
- Am I teaching the right way?

Yes! You are making a significant difference. Just by being there each week and giving your student that special one on one attention, you tell him or her that s/he matters and is important. You model commitment, trust and respect. That is invaluable to everyone's self-worth.

There is no right way to "teach." We have 30-45 minutes each week with a student. Realistically there is only so much academic progress that can be achieved in that timeframe. Sometimes we get lucky and everything clicks in place for the student. But not always. Your impact might never be measured by a score change. If you can ignite a curious mind, equate fun with learning, or generate interest in the world beyond the few miles between home and school, you have given your student something far more important. There is no test that can measure what is inside the children that you put there -- the knowledge they were LOVED. They carry that for the rest of their lives.

Key objectives for this year based on mentor feedback:

1. Getting an earlier start

Thanks to no hurricane and lots of coordination between the schools and site directors, we have our earliest start for return mentors continuing with the same students. We knew there would be some challenges given classroom rebalancing based on final enrollment, but we wanted to maximize our time with the kids.

2. Training

We have two new initiatives to provide more resources and creative ideas:

- **Mentor Buddies.** We will be pairing veteran and new(er) mentors to create a resource in addition to the Site Director. If you are interested in serving as a Buddy please let your Site Director know.
- **Training Team.** Catherine Ruhl and Suzanne Hurd are leading the effort to develop our training tools. Topics will range from educational (phonics, using Read Naturally...) to tactics/games for when restlessness sets in. Rather than just hold one time "classes," we will be building this as a perpetual library that mentors can access on demand via our website as specific needs arise. We plan to build a robust resource area. Please send us your topic suggestions and questions, so that we best prioritize our efforts.

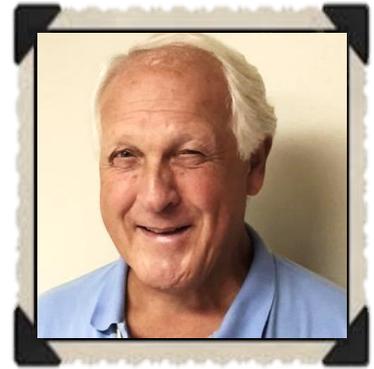
Laura

Laura Wehrle
Officer & School Liaison

Welcome New Mentors

25 New Mentors Join Us For The Fall, 2018

On September 10, the L.O.V.E. Information and Orientation meeting attracted nearly thirty potential new mentors. Twenty-five have submitted their volunteer forms; several others are still thinking it over. Despite our warning about the challenges they might face and the importance of being faithful to showing up every week, only a few walked away.



Dan Malachuk
Recruiting Director

Each new mentor has been allocated to a Site Director to work on scheduling and specific student assignments. If a new mentor desires, the Site Director will also pair them with an experienced mentor to help with the transition to their role and to the unique arrangements at their school.

New Volunteers learn about L.O.V.E. from friends and from the several articles that are carried by *TWATL* and *The Landings Journal*. We are also grateful for the publicity we receive via church newsletters on Skidaway and downtown. The faith communities let their congregations know that L.O.V.E. provides a special opportunity for one-to-one work -- Helping Children Learn.

Sesame Street Comes To L.O.V.E.

Book Fair & Special Speaker Event

Monday, October 29 at 3:30 p.m. at SIUMC

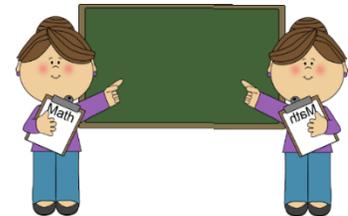


You will not want to miss this very special event featuring Fran Brill Kelly puppeteer on Sesame Street. She will talk to us about how Sesame Street worked to fulfill their mission of helping minority children learn without knowing they were learning. She will share how they sought to engage children with fun, laughter and caring. She will begin speaking at 4:00.

The Book Fair begins at 3:30 and gives all mentors the opportunity to select books for their students. Once the students read the book, they may take the book home as their very own. For many children this may be the only book they have.

Introducing Our New Training Co-Chairs

Catherine Ruhl and Suzanne Hurd are both career classroom teachers who will share their experience and proven methods that help children learn. They will be providing strategies and methods which will be posted on the L.O.V.E. website and also by special blast emails. If you are looking for help in a particular area or have a suggestion of what you would like to see included in the training material, please send an email to them at: lovementorsinc@gmail.com.



New Mentor Buddies

L.O.V.E. started a program this year to help new mentors feel at ease in their role. Site Directors will pair new mentors with experienced mentors who can answer their questions and make suggestions about techniques and strategies they might try. Site Directors are always available to help all mentors in their school.



Looking For More Mentors

This past year, 160 L.O.V.E. mentors helped over 300 students. The program was a great success and the schools have asked for even more mentors this year. Last Spring we set up a table at the Village Family Fun Day to spread the word. In September we participated in the Landlovers Opening Reception to reach potential mentors. The most successful recruiting tool we have is You—the Mentors. Please talk to your friends and encourage them to consider joining you as a mentor.

Family Fun Day



Landlovers Reception



Introducing Our New Camp Co-Directors

Welcome to Callie Ryan and Carol Black who will take up leadership of this very successful program. They will be contacting the camp leaders in each school to set the plan for Summer Camp 2019.

2018 L.O.V.E. Summer Camp

This summer, students from each of the 10 L.O.V.E. schools attended camp. Of the 107 attendees, 54 attended the entire summer. Gadsden sent the most students with 21 and Isle of Hope and Hodge each sent nine.



Thanks to you, a child was able to go to L.O.V.E. Camp and experience the excitement of looking for a shooting star in the night sky over Tybee. Just think how a young girl must have felt as she overcame her fear and learned how to swim at L.O.V.E. Camp. Another camper proudly brought home an original sculpture created under the watchful eye of an instructor at the Savannah Art Camp. Yes, thanks to you, the parents of 107 children were able to start their day knowing their camp bound children would be safe, having fun learning and growing.

We are most thankful for all those who devoted time, talent and resources to make the camp experience a success. The

Camp Coordinators at each school managed the registration process and enabled such a high level of participation. Many sponsors donated resources that made camp possible.

And thanks to you, our mentors, who care for the children throughout the year and who encourage them and their parents to consider L.O.V.E. Summer Camp as a wonderful opportunity for their children. THANK YOU!!

Bill

Bill Monroe
Camp Director Ex-Officio



to

BILL MONROE

Who has headed up the L.O.V.E. camp program for the past 12 years.

We give a special big thank you!

He has done an extraordinary job growing this program and making summer a special time for so many children.

Remember The Yellow Letters

Mentors should establish communication with teachers and parents by sending Yellow Letters. For new mentors the letters are in the Mentor Binder, and for returning mentors the Site Director will give them to mentors. One letter is for the classroom teacher and the other two are for the parents (one to keep and one to be returned to you). Each letter explains who you are, when you will be mentoring each week and how to contact you. Parent letters go home via the homework folder.

PLEASE FILL OUT THE LETTERS AND PASS THEM TO THE CLASSROOM TEACHER.

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L.O.V.E. MENTORS
Helping Children Learn

Dear _____

My name is _____ who has been selected to mentor your student _____, the L.O.V.E. Mentor

I will be here on _____ to work with this student for 45-60 minutes each week. I welcome your input as to what will be most supportive for this child. I will try to speak with you for a minute when I come to the classroom to pick up the student. You can also reach me by email: _____

I look forward to partnering with you to help this student have a successful year.

L.O.V.E. Mentor _____

All Mentors Are Mandatory Reporters



IMPORTANT

What Does This Mean?

If a child says something, or if you see some physical evidence that suggests the child might be in trouble, you **MUST** report this to the principal or counselor. Do not ask the child any further questions about the situation, just tell them this is information you should report to the appropriate person. The professional staff will handle it from there.

Do not, under any circumstances, try to intervene.

We Are On Facebook!

Our new Facebook page is up and running. Take a look and give us a LIKE!

<https://www.facebook.com/Love-Mentors-Savannah-490586461310160/>





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 2018 - 2019

School Liaison-SCCPS	Laura Wehrle, Officer
Mentor Recruiting & Assimilation	Dan Malachuk, Officer
Reporting Secretary.....	Sam Lambert, Officer
Treasurer	Kevin Dutton, Officer
Mentor Resources & Training	Ginny Pierce
Publicity & Events	Carol Fallon
Camp Coordinators.....	Carol Black & Callie Ryan
Training Co-Chairs.....	Suzanne Hurd & Catherine Ruhl
Director Emeritus	Karen Lindholm
At Large	Bill Monroe

Schools

At the current time, L.O.V.E. Mentors serves 10 Title I schools in the SCCPSS.

SCHOOLS	L.O.V.E. SITE DIRECTOR
Andrea B. Williams	Nancy Boyd
East Broad	Pat Cox
Gadsden.....	Jan Smart
Gould	Kathy Vaile
Haven	Holly Kenreich
Hodge	Barb Stuck
Isle of Hope	Betsy Hines
Low	Ginny Pierce
Pulaski	Ginny Donaldson
Windsor Forest	Karen Lindholm

**Thank You For
Helping Children Learn**

